

The Compassion of Christ
Ps.86:11-17; Matt.9:32-38

Communion

0.0 Introduction

- 0.1 Compassion involves inner/emotional feeling *and* affirming behavior
- 0.2 Perhaps you remember especially compassionate/thoughtful people in your life
- 0.3 Jesus personified all of this

1.0 Jesus' Perceptions

- 1.1 He considered them "harassed & helpless, like sheep w/o shepherd" (Matt.9:36)
- 1.2 Looking outward, and thoughtfully – only some will do this
- 1.3 Considered himself called to do these things

2.0 Jesus' Practices

- 2.1 Toward the ill & infirm (Matt.9:35, 14:14, etc.) & those demonized (Lk.8:2)
- 2.2 Toward women (e.g. Lk.10:39)
- 2.3 Toward children (e.g. Matt.19:14) and those vulnerable (Matt.25:40)
- 2.4 Toward grieving families (e.g. Lk.7:13)
- 2.5 Toward the socially excluded (e.g. lepers, Mk.1:41; tax collectors, Lk.19:1-10)
- 2.6 Toward criminals (e.g. Lk.23:42)
- 2.7 Toward "sinners" (e.g. Jn.8:1-11) – and all who need restoration

3.0 Jesus' Pattern

- 3.1 He stepped out of heaven's safety and into daily mess of life
- 3.2 He came to 'seek...save...serve...and not to be served' (Matt.18:11; 20:28; Jn.12:26)
- 3.3 Anec: BE in 1982, returning to home church and asking 'How can I help?'
- 3.4 Helping does not mean enabling unhealthy behaviors
- 3.5 Helping does mean redeeming & restoring – as Lord's Supper remembers & promotes

4.0 Importance of This for Us Today

- 4.1 Imagine a fellowship filled with people habitually asking, "How can I be of help?"
- 4.2 My personal appreciation for two anniversaries this weekend
- 4.3 May you be able to say you know Jesus' compassion firsthand

Next week (June 12) – When God Spoke With God
Gen.1:26-27; Ps.110:1-7; Jn.17:1-5

Upcoming (June 19) – Why Such Differences?
II Tim.3:16-17; I Cor.2:16