

# “Christ-Like Compassion”

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Text: Matthew 9:35,36.

Theme: Teach members to be more compassionate.

## Introduction:

1. Season for arm-chair quarterbacks.
  - a. Spiritual arm-chair quarterbacks.
  - b. Jesus calls us out of our religious arm chairs and commands us to get on the playing field.
    - 1) Matthew 9:35,36.
    - 2) James 1:27.
  - c. From spectator to player in area of love-
    - 1) John 13:16; 14:15; 13:34; 15:13.
    - 2) No problem! I love God, Jesus, family, friends, even the world.
    - 3) Quote “It is no chore for me to love the world. My only real problem is my neighbor next door.”
2. We've done the easy part of love.
  - a. We've accepted the idea that loving family, being friendly at church and giving our money fulfills responsibility to love.
  - b. That is Priest and Levite kind of love.
  - c. That's easy love—not Christ-like love—not compassion.
3. At judgment God will expect more than easy love.
  - a. Matthew 23:31-46.
  - b. James tells us that pure religion is more than easy love - James 1:27.
  - c. Acceptable love is more than easy love - it's compassion - I John 13:14-18.

**Discussion:**

- I. Christ's Compassion.
  - A. He lived it.
    1. Matthew 9:35-36 - compassion for the shepherdless.
    2. Matthew 4:14&15 - Compassion for the hungry multitudes. Matthew 4:14;15:32.
    3. Matthew 20 - Compassion for the blind, v. 34.
    4. Mark 1:41 - Compassion for a leper.
    5. Luke 7:13 - Compassion for a grieving widow.
  - B. He taught it.
    1. Matthew 18:27- King had compassion on bankrupt servant.
    2. Luke 10:25-37 - Samaritan had compassion on Jewish victim.
    3. Luke 15 - Father had compassion on wayward son - Luke 15:20.
  - C. He expects it.
    1. Of his disciples.
    2. John 13:12-17.
    3. All who would be Christ-like.
- II. Compassion's conclusions.
  - A. Compassion is required to be truly Christ-like.
  - B. To grow spiritually.
  - C. To reach out with the gospel.
  - D. To give as we ought.
- III. Concrete compassion.
  - A. Some ideas for showing compassion.
    1. Eyes and Ears program-.
      - a. Notice the needs of the people on your block.
      - b. Follow up or pass on to someone who will.
    2. Follow up on the police chaplain work.
      - a. Help families in crisis.
      - b. They need friends, meals, visits.
    3. Hospital outreach.
      - a. Project Commonwealth Hospital (hospital has three wings - visit made by three people or two couples).
      - b. Use cards or small gifts.
    4. Get involved with visits to the nursing home.

5. Increase involvement in the children's home.
  - a. Congregational fellowship there.
  - b. List of weekend parents.
  - c. Special projects.
  - d. Youth group host activity for children.

**Conclusion:**

1. Dare to be like Jesus.
2. Dare to be compassionate.

**Invitation:**