



# LIFE OF CHRIST 7

## The Compassion of Christ



# Matthew 12:15-21

- Tender expression foretelling the gentleness and compassion of Jesus
- The bruise reed is the oppressed and sinner who Jesus will not destroy if he seeks help and forgiveness
- Smoking flax is the wick of the lamp that Jesus would not snuff out but will replenish it

# Jesus' compassion for the needy is worthy of exploration

- Compassion comes from Latin word "*passio*" meaning "to suffer, and prefix "com" means "along with"
- W.E. Vine's "to have pity, a feeling of distress through the ills of others, to have mercy and to show kindness."
- The needy "denotes those who have a need of something"

# Compassion for the Sick

- During the time of mourning the death of John the Baptist he healed many (Matthew 14:14)
- He healed the blind (Matthew 20:30)
- He raised the dead (Luke 7:11-16)
- Miracles of healing caused many to believe (John 3:2)

# Compassion for Sinners

- Matthew 1:21
- Pharisees complained about his compassion to sinners (Matthew 9:12,13)
- Jesus' compassion moved him to see the lost sheep of Israel (Matthew 9: 36)
- Jesus prayed for more workers to come (Matthew 9: 38)

# Compassion for the Downtrodden

- Jesus' heart went out to the poor and oppressed (Mark 14:7)
- Jesus had compassion for the multitudes who followed him for days so he fed them (Matthew 15:32)
- Jesus thus gave example and command for the church to continue his compassion for the poor and needy (Acts 20:35)
- Yet it is not without conditions (II Thessalonians 3:10; I Timothy 5:16)

# Jesus taught compassion is not an option


- Compassion toward one another (Matthew 18:23-35)
- “Who is my neighbor” (Luke 10:25-37)
- There is to be compassion for any who are lost (Luke 15:31)

# Jesus expects us to be compassionate

- As His disciples we should be like Jesus (John 13:12-17)
- “If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet, ye also ought to wash one another’s feet.” (John 13:14)
- If we want to be Christ-like, we must be like Christ.

# Compassion in Action Today

- Jesus' hand of compassion is extended through the church (1 John 3:17)
- Paul was reminded to do the same (Galatians 2:10)
- It is gratifying to see the church today responding in mighty ways to disasters sometimes being the first on the scene.

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- One of the earliest problems of the church involved benevolence toward the poor needy widows (Acts 6:1-7)
  - The blessing of compassion has been seen in physical matters but it is most needed in spiritual matters.
  - Matthew 9:36 shows the compassion spiritually that Jesus had for the lost sheep of Israel.
  - Our compassion leads us to the lost as well as those who have fallen in error.