

1. (For a couple of weeks—including Friend Day—I will use sermon time to examine a couple of more practical aspects about others and how we can become more sensitive to those outside of God’s covenant and those around us in need of help, acceptance, grace and love. One crucial part of this equation is simple) Compassion (defined it is *“sympathetic pity and concern for the suffering and misfortunes of others.”* But there is more to it than that. I like these expanded thoughts on it: *“Compassion can be defined in many ways, but its essence is a basic kindness, with a deep awareness of the suffering of oneself and of other living things, coupled with the wish and effort to relieve it.”* And *“Compassion, as opposed to pity, allows us to see ourselves in others and tugs at our heart until we find a way to prevent or relieve the other’s suffering.”* And *“Compassion is supposed to hurt. If you can’t feel the pain of those around you, it is you who has the problem - not them.”* I chose the last quote specifically bc I know sometimes I am the problem. I am not by nature compassionate, but as part of the call of God to be transformed is to embrace the compassion of Christ—which was evident in his ministru)
2. “When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.”—Matthew 9:36 (this is just one of many such biblical references. It is how Christ saw the others—it moved him to heal, feed, touch, love, and serve the others. This is what compassion does and why it is so vital”
3. (So we are instructed) Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.”—Colossians 3:12; 1 Peter 3:8 (notice the use of the word “clothe”—very significant; means compassion should be embedded within our very identity; a defining traits that we wear and share)
4. What Compassion Looks Like
 - a. (starts with understanding that) We were once the others (this is the you were slaves in Egypt type of thing or as the NT says—such were some of you in 1 Corinthians 6:11. It gives us perspective and generates the ability to be)
 - b. Moved by the other’s plight (this is empathy—the supposed to hurt part—in which we feel for others in need like Christ when he saw the crowds and this helps us)
 - c. Not pass judgment (how often is scripture are we taught this? Rather we are to accept each other without passing judgment—not doing so is a barrier to a compassionate response to others)
 - d. Act as Christ did (he fed, he healed, he died on the cross moved by compassion—while we cannot do all of those things—the point of compassion is to act—to do something—like the Good Samaritan for instance—true compassion compels us to do something)
 - e. (Because we must remember) It is not about me (this is the don’t think of yourself too highly warning in the Bible; compassion is all about the others and if we maintain a self-focus it will be difficult to be compassionate)
5. (Many of you know the story of Oskar Schindler due to the movie, *Schindler’s List*. He was German industrialist during WWII who save thousands of Jewish lives. I think this video clip from that movies demonstrates what compassion look like) **PLAY VIDEO**
6. (Of course the cross demonstrated what compassion looks like even more so) “Jesus Wept—Do We?”