



"The Compassion of Christ"
Small Groups Notes
Rev. Dr. Jeremy Mahood
April 23 2017

In this study we will examine the concept of compassion as it relates to spiritual growth in our lives. Everyone has a preferred method of viewing their world, the lens through which they examine, explore and relate to others around them.

What lens do you see the world through? In other words, what biases do you bring to life? For example, do you see the world as people are out to get you? People are out for themselves, that they are dangerous? Or all people are wonderful and kind? When you look at people around you what internal filter do you see the through?

1. READ Colossians 1:12.
 - a. What is the first thing we are told to clothe ourselves with?
 - b. What do you think the writer means by 'clothing yourself'?
2. READ the following definitions of compassion. What part of these definitions stands out to you and why?

"Compassion is an emotion that is a sense of shared suffering, most often combined with a desire to alleviate or reduce the suffering of another; to show special kindness to those who suffer."

"It means to feel with others, enter into their circumstances, be one with them in their feelings, their pain, their hurt or joy and their excitement, but to be with them and enter into their framework."

"Entering into the feelings of others."

3. READ Psalm 103:13; Psalm 116:5; Psalm 145:9.
 - a. What character trait of God is expressed here?
 - b. Why do you think it is important that God is compassionate?
4. Here are three stories of Christ's compassion: Luke 7:11-13; Mark 5:1-20; Mark 1:40-41.
 - a. What changed in the lives of these people because of Christ?
 - b. How do you think they felt about their future because of his compassion?
 - c. What would have happened to them if Christ had not intervened?
5. Can you think of some stories (parables) Jesus told that demonstrate compassion in action?

6. READ Colossians 3:1-13.
 - a. What is the key principle expressed in verses 3-4.
 - b. What character traits, attitudes and actions are we to abandon as believers in verses 5-9?
 - c. What are we to do in verse 10? What is being renewed?
 - d. What is the key idea in verse 11?
 - e. What attitude are we to exhibit in verse 12?
 - f. What is the result of this renewed attitude in verse 13?

7. READ 1 Peter 2:17 and Romans 2:11.
 - a. How do you see compassion fitting into these verses?

8. Here is a quote from Sunday's message. What do you think it means and how could this relate to compassion or lack of it?

"Persons appear to us according to the light we throw upon them from our own minds."
-Laura Ingalls Wilder, author (1867-1957)

9. READ Philippians 2:2-8.
 - a. Focusing on verses 6-8, how do we see God's compassion expressed here?
 - b. Why do you feel it was important for Jesus to experience humanity?
 - c. Do you think his experience of humanity gave him more compassion? Why or why not?
 - d. If God entered into humanity in the form of Jesus Christ, how could that be an example for us to enter into the humanity of the people around us?
 - e. How would it change us if we 'entered into' their humanity?

10. Contemplating what we have learned, how should our lives be lived if we genuinely want to see the people around us changed by Jesus Christ?

11. In what ways do you see living a life of compassion as living a life that is "dead to self?"

12. Discuss this big idea from Sunday:

COMPASSION CHANGES ME, AS IT CHANGES THOSE AROUND ME

13. What encourage and practical support could we give to each other to learn to be more compassionate?

14. FOR DISCUSSION IF YOU HAVE TIME:
 - a. How would you see living a life of compassion and also setting healthy boundaries?
 - b. How do boundaries and compassion co-exist?
 - c. Can you give an example of Jesus?

EXCITING REPORT:

Thank you to those who were able to give towards the **EASTER Offering**. Together we received close to \$10,000.00. This will help us provide for Plunge in the park baptism on Sunday, June 25th, as well as feed the community of Attawapiskat on June 1st and support our mission trip to the Dominican Republic the beginning of May. Thanks again for your help in building the kingdom of God!

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. The BIG THANK YOU is next Sunday, April 30th. As pastors and staff we are so looking forward to thanking the multiple teams and individuals who serve through All Nations Church. Stay after the service for some refreshments and encouragement!
2. COMMUNICATION WORKSHOPS Mondays at 7-9 p.m. May 1,8,15 in the Great Room. Presented by Jill Neely, Certified Imago Therapist, the participants will learn the Imago Dialogue technique for communication (a positive alternative to arguing, yelling, reactivity, outburst or the silent treatment). People are asked to come as "twosomes" – couples, siblings, friends, co-workers, parent/child. Minimum age is 16. Please sign up at the Welcome Centre – participation limited to 15 twosomes.
3. PAUL YOUNG, author of "The Shack" will be at All Nations Church on Wednesday May 3rd, 7 p.m. Music Group "Krystaal" will open for Paul. Tickets are \$10 and should be purchased in advance...at the Giving Centre on Sundays or at the church office during the week. (Cash is best).
4. OVERFLOW Conference for Youth will be held on the long weekend in May. A few youth cannot afford to go but would like to attend. If you'd like to help, you can designate "OVERFLOW" in the offering or at the Giving Centre on Sundays or the office during the week. (Registration deadline is May 1st).

