

## MESSAGE NOTES

## SCRIPTURE PASSAGE



### Introduction - Caring efficiently

SERMON SERIES: The Best Way to Spread Christmas Cheer

TODAY: Experiencing this season of Christmas by focusing on others

#### 1. Jesus Comes on the scene

Luke 4:14-19

#### 2. What Is Compassion?

Exodus 33:19

Matthew 9:35-38

Phillipians 2:5-8

#### 3. Cultural vs. Gospel

#1 - Self-centered vs. Christ-centered

#2 - Feeling good vs. listening and responding

#3 - You reap what you sow vs. There's more going on here

#4 - Focusing on others as an identity vs. Christ as an identity

#5 - I'm too busy vs. I will make time for this

### Application:

How have you experienced Jesus' compassion?

Who in your life can you reach out and touch with compassion?

Luke 4:18-19

<sup>18</sup> "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, <sup>19</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Matthew 9:35-38

<sup>35</sup> Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. <sup>36</sup> When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. <sup>37</sup> Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. <sup>38</sup> Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

Phillipians 2:5-8

<sup>5</sup> In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: <sup>6</sup> Who, being in very nature <sup>a</sup> God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; <sup>7</sup> rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature <sup>b</sup> of a servant, being made in human likeness. <sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

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The Best Way  
To Spread  
Christmas Cheer

Christmas  
Sermon  
Series









# The Best Way To Spread Christmas Cheer

Christmas  
Sermon  
Series





Experiencing this season of Christmas amidst everyday life



Experiencing this season of Christmas by breaking from everyday life

I love you.  
I love you.  
**I LOVE YOUUUUUU!**



## Luke 2:8-20

<sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

<sup>16</sup>So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. **<sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.** <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.



Experiencing this season of Christmas by focusing on others

**DOES SOMEBODY NEED A HUG?**



Experiencing this season of Christmas by focusing on others

# Jesus comes on the scene

## Luke 4:14-19

<sup>14</sup> Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. <sup>15</sup> He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

<sup>16</sup> He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, <sup>17</sup> and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

# Jesus comes on the scene

## Luke 4:14-19

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because he has anointed me  
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He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners  
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# Jesus comes on the scene

## Luke 4:14-19

<sup>20</sup> Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him.<sup>21</sup> He began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

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# God of Compassion

**Exodus 19:5-6**

<sup>5</sup> "Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine,<sup>6</sup> you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites."



# God of Compassion

**Exodus 33:19**

<sup>19</sup> And the LORD said, “I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the LORD, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.

# God of Compassion

**Romans 9:14-16**

<sup>14</sup> What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all! <sup>15</sup> For he says to Moses,

“I will have mercy on whom I have mercy,  
and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.”

<sup>16</sup> It does not, therefore, depend on human desire or effort, but on God's mercy.

# What is Compassion?

**Matthew 9:35-38**

<sup>35</sup> Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. <sup>36</sup> When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. <sup>37</sup> Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. <sup>38</sup> Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”

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The largest ingredient to the Biblical word compassion is the Greek word *splagchnizomai*. It is first encountered in Matthew 9:36 and it is the Lord Jesus feeling the emotion. Thayer tells us that the word literally means to 'be moved in the bowels' and thus means compassion by extension. The word occurs seventeen times in the New Testament and when it is not rendered compassion it is rendered moved (5). Looking at the usage in scripture of the word it is notable that this is a feeling that produces movement or action.

Bayliss, D.A. "Compassion." *Bible Exposition*. 12/18/2018. Web. 12/18/2018

# The Compassion of Jesus

**Matthew 20:30-34**

<sup>30</sup> Two blind men were sitting by the roadside, and when they heard that Jesus was going by, they shouted, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!”

<sup>31</sup> The crowd rebuked them and told them to be quiet, but they shouted all the louder, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!”

<sup>32</sup> Jesus stopped and called them. “What do you want me to do for you?” he asked.

<sup>33</sup> “Lord,” they answered, “we want our sight.”

<sup>34</sup> Jesus had compassion on them and touched their eyes. Immediately they received their sight and followed him.

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# The Compassion of Jesus

Mark 1:40-41

<sup>40</sup> A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, “If you are willing, you can make me clean.”

<sup>41</sup> Jesus was indignant. He reached out his hand and touched the man. “I am willing,” he said. “Be clean!” <sup>42</sup> Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cleansed.

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A pat on the back, a caress of the arm – these are everyday, incidental gestures that we usually take for granted, thanks to our amazingly dexterous hands.

But after years spent immersed in the science of touch, I can tell you that they are far more profound than we usually realize: They are our primary language of compassion, and a primary means for spreading compassion.

In recent years, a wave of studies has documented some incredible emotional and physical health benefits that come from touch. This research is suggesting that touch is truly fundamental to human communication, bonding, and health.

~ **Dacher Keltner**  
UC Berkeley

[https://greatergood.berkeley.edu/article/item/hands\\_on\\_research](https://greatergood.berkeley.edu/article/item/hands_on_research)

# What was Jesus' mindset?

## Philippians 2:5-8

<sup>5</sup> In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

<sup>6</sup> Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

<sup>7</sup> rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

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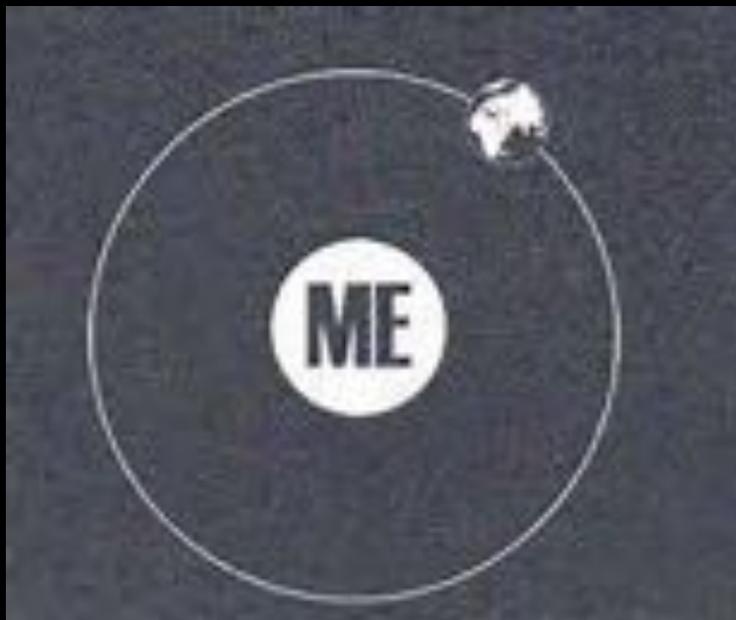
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# Cultural vs. Gospel approaches to “others”

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## #1 – Self-centered vs. Christ-centered



# Cultural vs. Gospel approaches to “others”

#2 – Feeling good vs. listening and responding



# Dialogue with a Raccoon

**“Hey! What’s your name? My name’s Buddy!”**

**“Does someone need a hug?”**

**“I just wanted a hug!”**

# Cultural vs. Gospel approaches to “others”

#3 – You reap what you sow vs. There’s more going on here



Compassion consists of three major requirements: People must feel that troubles that evoke their feelings are serious, the understanding that sufferers' troubles are not self-inflicted, and ability to picture oneself with the same problems in a non-blaming and non-shaming manner.

~ Cassell, Eric (2009). *Oxford Handbook of Positive Psychology* (2 ed.). New York, New York: Oxford University Press. pp. 393–403.

# You reap what you sow?

**John 9:1-7**

As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup> His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

<sup>3</sup> “Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. <sup>4</sup> As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup> While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

# You reap what you sow?

**John 9:1-7**

<sup>6</sup> After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. <sup>7</sup> "Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means "Sent"). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

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# Cultural vs. Gospel approaches to “others”

#4 – Focusing on others as an identity vs. Christ as an identity



# Identity in Christ

Colossians 3:1-4, 11-14

**3** Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. **2** Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. **3** For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. **4** When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

# Identity in Christ

Colossians 3:1-4, 11-14

<sup>11</sup> Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. <sup>13</sup> Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. <sup>14</sup> And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

# Cultural vs. Gospel approaches to “others”

#5 – I’m too busy vs. I will make time for this



## Application

How have you experienced Jesus' compassion?

Who in your life can you reach out and touch  
with compassion?