

# GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

## Sermon by Ray Reynolds

### *Jesus, The Minister*

#### Introduction:

- A. **I Peter 3:8** – Peter encourages us to “understand” each other and “love” one another.
- B. The word “compassion” appears 20 times in NT (NKJV).
- C. In 70% of these occurrences, Jesus is having compassion, someone is asking Jesus for compassion or Jesus is teaching other about compassion.
- D. He clearly had a *passion* for *compassion*!
- E. Jesus knew how to be a compassionate minister.
- F. In this lesson, I want us to see some of the examples of Jesus’ compassion and see if we can learn from Him!

#### Discussion:

##### *I. Jesus Had Compassion For Those Who Needed Provision*

**Matthew 15:32** – Jesus was so emphatic that the translation, “I do not want” actually suggests him to be saying: “I am determined not to send them away hungry.” – We will do something!

**Matthew 25:34-35** – God is seen granting entrance into the kingdom based on his grace and good works done while on the earth. Including, but not limited to, helping those who are in need.

##### *II. Jesus Had Compassion For Those Who Needed Healing*

**Matthew 20:29-34** – At least four different times in Matthew alone we read of Jesus giving his attention to the “blind.” Mark and Luke identify one of the two of this occasion as “Bartimaeus.”

**James 5:14** – James reminds his readers that sick people needed to be prayed for and should call upon the elders for special prayer when needed.

##### *III. Jesus Had Compassion For Those Who Needed Encouragement*

**Matthew 14:13-14** – Note the reference that is made to “their sick” not “the sick.” Still further, “sick” translates a word meaning, “without strength” [in bed with fever, stricken with palsy, paralyzed at pool of Bethesda].

**Hebrews 12:12-13** – Weakness can cause some people to be lost. You don’t go from saved to lost overnight. People slowly drift away and backslide until they fall from grace.

##### *IV. Jesus Had Compassion For Those Who Needed Forgiveness*

**Matthew 18:27** – It was a common thought in this day that you were obligated to forgive three times (**Amos 1**). Peter was more than twice as generous. Still, the Lords used an unforgettable story [contrasting one who owed \$12,000,000 to one who owed \$20] to prove it is not *how often* we forgive but *how* we forgive that counts (v.35; “patience” and “pity” vs.26, 29, 33).

**Ephesians 4:32** – We are called to be kind and forgiving. Don’t forget that Jesus commands us to forgive in the Lord’s prayer saying that we will only be forgiven if we forgive one another (**Matthew 6:14-15**).

##### *V. Jesus Had Compassion For Those Who Needed Salvation*

**Matthew 9:35-37** – Jesus couldn’t stop going from town to town because He knew the people needed salvation. Why is it that the disciples learned to evangelize so easily after the church began? They watched the Master!

**Mark 16:15-16** – In the Great Commission Jesus commands us to go into all the world and teach all nations. He wants us to share His compassion for lost souls.

#### Conclusion:

- A. **Hebrews 13:1-3** reminds us that we have to keep on loving each other, welcome strangers, visit the prisoners, and have compassion for the suffering.
- B. Jesus did all of these things, and if we are to be His servants, we need to exemplify the Master!
- C. Are you compassionate to the poor, the weak, the weary, the sinful, and the lost?
- D. If we are not compassionate to them, can we expect God to be compassionate to us?
- E. Do you need the compassion of God to help you?
- F. We will show you compassion if you need it today!