



FAITH  
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## Episode 215 - Compassion

*Are there ways to develop more compassion for others?*

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### **Jerry Green:**

Welcome, friends, to this special episode as we continue season nine of Faith Made Simple with our pastor-teacher, Todd Smith. I'm Jerry Greene, your host. If you've been listening, you know Todd loves to explain Scripture, and we believe understanding and obeying God's Word is key in the Christian life. James 1:25 reminds us that obedience brings blessing. So let's listen to Todd's thoughts for today.

### **Todd Smith:**

Thanks for listening today — I hope your day is off to a great start or that it's finishing well. Over January we've been walking through character traits to help set our year up right: courage, conviction, and today — compassion.

Compassion isn't just a personality trait; it's a deliberate choice to enter another person's pain and help carry part of their load. Chuck Swindoll says compassion is "grace wearing work boots." That nails it — compassion isn't pity from a distance; it's love willing to get dirty, tired, interrupted.

Jesus modeled compassion perfectly. Mark 6:34 records that after a long day He looked at the crowds and felt compassion for them — they were like sheep without a shepherd. Even tired and hungry, He put compassion ahead of convenience and fed 5,000, showing how God multiplies small acts of compassion beyond our imagination.

Compassion slows down the quick-to-cancel, quick-to-critique world. It listens longer than it talks, chooses tenderness over toughness, and often costs something: time, reputation, money, emotional energy. True compassion will cost you. But we are Christ's hands and feet; He sees and knows those who are hurting.

Think of the woman caught in adultery (John 8). The crowd demanded swift justice; Jesus stooped, silenced the stones, and then offered a life-changing balance of truth and grace: "Neither do I condemn you. Go and sin no more." That is compassion in perfect balance.

Practical compassion can be small: handing over the last piece of pie, sending a simple "I'm praying for you" text, sitting in a hospital room with no words. The more compassion you give, the more it grows in you — it softens hard edges and heals wounds. So this week, look for people in your pathway, ask God for Jesus' eyes to see them, choose compassion over

critique, and be willing to let someone interrupt your schedule. Slip on the “grace work boots” and go help.

**Jerry Green:**

Todd, most people want to be compassionate, but it’s not always easy. Can we grow compassion?

**Todd Smith:**

Yes. Compassion isn’t natural for all of us — I have to choose it. We can develop it by disciplining our minds: ask, “How would Jesus see that person?” Force yourself to look through Jesus’ eyes. It will cost extra time and energy, but asking pointed questions of ourselves helps us move from feeling to deliberate, costly compassion.

**Jerry Green:**

Thanks, Todd. Friends, that brings us to the close of this episode. Faith Made Simple is a free ministry — please help by subscribing and sharing, and leaving a comment and rating. If you’re local, visit Crossroads Community Church in Valencia, California, where God’s Word is taught faithfully, verse by verse. For more info about the podcast or the church, visit [FaithMadeSimple.net](http://FaithMadeSimple.net). On behalf of Todd and the Faith Made Simple team, we look forward to our next visit. Until then, remain faithful — be a doer and live blessed.