

Launch
The Practice of Compassion
Matthew 9:36

All across our nation believers are recognizing this Sunday as “The Sanctity of Human Life Sunday”

On January 22, 1973, the U. S. Supreme Court issued the landmark decision establishing a woman’s legal right to abortion...

- To date – 62 million since Roe vs Wade
- This year – 39,500
- Rape/Incest – 385 (< 1%)
- Past 16th week gestation – 1,900 (4.8%)

And this is not something that is happening off somewhere else...

In the tri-county area 1 out of 7 pregnancies are terminated through abortion...

We have one of our own, Danny Ewert, who in 1974 was a surgical assistant in the military...

Young and naïve at the time, Danny hadn’t given much thought about the legalization of abortion in our nation.

But being confronted with it first hand, changed him...

Let’s listen to a portion of his testimony...

These are dark days in our nation...

There is a storm brewing and is just over the horizon...

In speaking of these last days, Jesus shared what it would be like ...

Matthew 24:10–13 (ESV) — And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. 11 And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. 12 And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. 13 But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

Did you hear what He said?...

Matthew 24:12 (ESV) —And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold.

How do the people of God respond in times like these?

What hope does this nation have to overcome the blight?

I believe the hope can be found in the heart of God being expressed through His people...

I’ve titled today’s message, “The Practice of Compassion”

ONE THING

A Compassionate HEART will ENTER, EXPERIENCE and EXPEL the PAIN of OTHERS!

Matthew 9:36 (ESV) — When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

Compassion begins in the heart...

The word COMPASSION is the combinations of two words...

COM means “with”

PASSION means “to suffer” ...

It is not simply an emotion, even though it stirs our emotions...

Compassion comes from the heart of believers because God is a God of compassion!

➤ **GOD is a compassionate FATHER!**

Psalm 103:13 (ESV) — As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.

Psalm 116:5 — Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; Yes, our God is compassionate.

Psalm 86:15 (NLT) — But you, O Lord, are a God of compassion and mercy, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love and faithfulness.

Psalm 51:1 — Be gracious to me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; According to the greatness of Your compassion blot out my transgressions.

So, as I have told you many times before...

Put off your old self... be renewed in the spirit of your minds... and ...

Ephesians 4:24 (NLT) — Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy.

When we put on our new self, look what we are putting on...

Colossians 3:12 (ESV) — Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience,

The Lord wants us to have His heart of compassion!

When we see our nation crumbling all around us, as believers ...

• **We must not be hot-HEADED, but hot-HEARTED!**

James 1:19–20 (ESV) — Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; or the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

Luke 7:12–15 (ESV) — 12 As he drew near to the gate of the town, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow, and a considerable crowd from the town was with her. 13 And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, “Do not weep.” 14 Then he came up and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, “Young man, I say to you, arise.” 15 And the dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother.

Know this, Jesus has compassion for you!!!

He SEES your pain

John 5:19 (ESV) — So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise.

Matthew 9:36 (ESV) — When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

- **JESUS is a compassionate SAVIOR!**

Hebrews 4:15 (ESV) — For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Are you here today with problems that make you feel like an outcast?

Mark 1:40–41 (NLT) — A man with leprosy came and knelt in front of Jesus, begging to be healed. “If you are willing, you can heal me and make me clean,” he said. 41 Moved with compassion, Jesus reached out and touched him. “I am willing,” he said. “Be healed!”

Are you here today going through pain and grief?

So, how do we practice compassion?

2 Corinthians 1:3–4 (ESV) — Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we

may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

To live like this we must “put on” the Lord Jesus...

When we do He will release compassion through us to others

• **THE SPIRIT is a compassionate COMFORTER!**

1 Peter 3:8 (ESV) — Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind.

Like the story of the good Samaritan...

Luke 10:25 (ESV) — And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?”

The lawyer thought he was doing just fine until Jesus told the story of a Samaritan...

- **A man was traveling and was robbed, beaten and left for dead...**
- **Two religious people pass by, but don’t want to get involved...**
- **Then a Samaritan passes by...**

Luke 10:33 (ESV) — But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion.

1 John 3:18 (ESV) — Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

Ephesians 4:32 (ESV) — Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Galatians 6:2 (ESV) — Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

After Jesus overflowed with compassion, seeing the people helpless and harassed like sheep without a shepherd, He gave clear instructions to His followers...

Matthew 9:37–38 (ESV) — Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

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A Compassionate _____ will _____,
and _____ the _____ of _____!

1. _____ – The _____ of Compassion.

- _____ is a compassionate _____!
- We must not be hot-_____, but hot-_____!

2. _____ – The _____ of Compassion.

- _____ is a compassionate _____!

3. _____ – The _____ of Compassion.

- _____ is a compassionate _____!