

## Encounters With Jesus: The Unifying Christ John 17

*Compassion.* The word literally means to be moved in one's stomach with pity. Do you remember the last time you felt pity with your whole- being? In Matthew's Gospel we witness Jesus seeing the crowds and being moved with compassion because they were harassed and helpless. Compassion moved Jesus to take the first step toward us. His compassion unleashed in us compels us to act. What this world needs is more Christ infused compassion. Have you experienced His compassion? Are you demonstrating His compassion?

35 Jesus traveled through all the towns and villages of that area, teaching in the synagogues and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom. And he healed every kind of disease and illness. 36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them because they were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 He said to his disciples, "The harvest is great, but the workers are few. 38 So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields."

Matthew 9:35-38 NLT

## • Compassion Sees. (Compassion begins with truly noticing the needs of others.)

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them because they were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Matthew 9:36 NLT

• Compassion Serves. (Compassion moves into action to meet the needs of others.)

He said to his disciples, "The harvest is great, <u>but the workers are few</u>." Matthew 9:37 NLT

## • Compassion Compelled by Christ Prays. (The need is bigger than us, but not Him.)

So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask Him to send more workers into His fields." Matthew 9:38 NLT



I. How clearly can people see God through your life?

2. Grace-fueled acceptance demonstrated through compassion compels us to accept people, as they are, where they are. How are you and your Life Group demonstrating compassion?

3. What would it take for First Baptist Gulfport to become known as the compassionate church where people matter? What can you do to make FBCG a more compassionate fellowship?

4. Are you a working part of the Body of Christ? Are you serving? Is First Baptist Gulfport stronger and healthier because of you?

## 5. Some practical suggestions for demonstrating Christ fueled compassion:

- *Reach out* to a single mom.
- *Visit* someone who is sick or homebound.
- *Feed* someone who is hungry.
- *Serve* someone in the community who could use your help, but cannot pay you.
- Join a ministry in the church that you are passionate about (Text SERVE to 228-265-5020 for a list and description of places to serve.) And if there's not one, take steps to create it.