

The 4th Sunday in Lent ~ Sunday, March 15, 2026
“The Heart God Desires ~ A Companionate Heart”
Micah 6:6-8 & Luke 10:25-37

When you read the Scriptures carefully, one thing becomes very clear: God isn't primarily concerned with _____ appearances or religious performance. He's concerned with our _____ nature and the condition of our _____.

However, once a heart has been broken, softened, and rooted in trust, something else begins to happen. It begins to turn _____, as the mercy we receive from God begins to shape how we _____ to others.

Compassion literally =
It describes a movement of the _____ that's so deeply affected by another person's pain that it leads to _____.

“...he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.” (Matthew 9:36)

“Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.” (Colossians 3:12)

The lawyer isn't really seeking transformation; he's seeking _____ –perhaps even _____. Behind this question lies a very human instinct. We want to know where the _____ are. We want to know how far our _____ goes. Who exactly counts as my neighbour? Who am I obligated to love? And perhaps just as importantly, who am I not obligated to love?

Jesus tells the story of the Good Samaritan—a story that doesn't simply answer the lawyer's question, but rather completely _____ it.

#1. _____.
“But a Samaritan, as he travelled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him.” (Luke 10:33)

All three men saw the wounded traveller, but only one truly noticed and _____. The difference wasn't eyesight; the difference was the _____. The priest and the Levite had learned something that many of us learn in life: how to look without really _____.

inattention blindness = which is a psychological phenomenon where individuals fail to notice unexpected _____ in their visual field due to a lack of _____, not because of any visual impairment.

We often see only what we're looking for. And sometimes, without even realizing it, we train ourselves to _____ what is uncomfortable. We become skilled at _____ ourselves from the suffering around us.

However, compassion begins when we allow ourselves to truly _____ the person in front of us.

“Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves...defend the rights of the poor and needy.” (Proverbs 31:8-9)

“Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” (Matthew 25:40)

A compassionate heart begins with _____. It begins when we ask God to open our _____, so that we can truly see.

Sometimes the people God's calling us to notice aren't strangers lying on a roadside somewhere far away, but are so much _____ than that

Compassion often begins not with grand _____ acts, but with something much simpler: the willingness to pause, pay attention, and _____ the people God has placed in our path.

Often the difference between _____ and compassion is simply the willingness to _____ and notice.

How often do you stop and notice the people in need around you?

#2. _____.
The second thing Jesus highlights in the story would've _____ his original audience: the hero of the story is a Samaritan.

Jews and Samaritans had centuries of _____ between them, and the tension between these two groups ran deep.

When Jesus makes a Samaritan the hero of the story, his listeners would've been _____ because in their cultural imagination, the Samaritan was the least likely candidate for _____.

Jesus deliberately _____ their expectations, and chooses a Samaritan to be the one who shows _____.

He refuses to allow cultural _____ to determine whether compassion is offered. That is one of the radical things about the love Jesus teaches. Compassion

doesn't ask first, "Is this person like me?" It asks, "Does this person _____ mercy?"

Jesus is gently, but firmly _____ the invisible walls we build between people.

"There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus." (Galatians 3:28)

"You have heard it said, 'Love your neighbour and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." (Matthew 5:43-44)

True compassion _____ our hearts beyond the boundaries we naturally draw. And if we're honest, we could admit that those boundaries still _____ today.

It's easy to show compassion to people who are _____ us—people who look like us, think like us, and live like us. However, the love Jesus describes here reaches further than that. It crosses the street. It crosses the social divide. It crosses the emotional distance that keeps people safely categorized in our minds. The compassionate heart refuses to see people merely as _____, but as _____.

"Which of these three do you think was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers? "The one who showed him mercy." (Luke 10:36-37)

Jesus _____ the question entirely. Instead of asking, Who qualifies as my neighbour? Jesus asks, What kind of neighbour will you be? The focus shifts from identifying others to _____ our own hearts.

Compassion _____ the lines we often draw between "us" and "them."

Are you willing to cross the lines and show mercy to someone regardless of who they are?

#3. _____.

Notice that the Samaritan does far more than just _____ sympathy for the man lying on the side of the road; he _____ it with tangible _____.

This isn't just _____ compassion; it's _____ compassion. This kind of compassion isn't just _____, it's _____ and costly. It requires time, _____, and sometimes even personal risk. And yet, it's precisely that kind of love that caused the early church to _____ so dramatically in the ancient world.

His actions on behalf of the man lying by the side of the road cost him time and money, and interrupted his journey. However, that's the _____ of real mercy.

"If one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,' but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it?" (James 2:16)

Compassion moves us from _____ to _____.

"He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6:8)

Having true compassion is to _____ mercy—not just admire it or talk about it, but to love it enough to _____ it. Sometimes compassion will look dramatic, but more often it looks _____.

Often the most powerful acts of compassion are the _____ ones that no one else ever sees. However, these small acts of mercy quietly _____ the heart of Christ.

Ultimately, the Good Samaritan story points beyond itself, reflecting both the heart of _____ and the compassion of _____ Himself.

Humanity lies, like the wounded traveller, along the roadside of sin: broken, helpless, unable to rescue itself. _____ passes by. Human _____ passes by. But Christ doesn't pass us by. He comes near. He binds our wounds. He lifts us up. And at the cross, He pays the full _____ of our healing, restoration, and redemption.

The compassion we're called to show others isn't something we _____ on our own; it flows out of the compassion we've first _____ from God, _____ by the Holy Spirit who is at work in us and through us.

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ, God forgave you." (Ephesians 4:32)

"We love because he first loved us." (1 John 4:19)

How do you share the compassion that you've received with others?



When that kind of heart begins to grow in the lives of _____ believers, like you and me, something beautiful happens: The love of Christ becomes _____ in the world around us.