

“’Tis the Season”

“Make the most of every chance you get. These are desperate times!”
Ephesians 5:16 *The Message*

“To Be Compassionate!”

“You must be compassionate, just as your Father is compassionate.” Luke 6:36

A. God’s compassion is our model...

“You must be compassionate, just as your Father is compassionate.”
Luke 6:36

1. The meaning of compassion is to recognize the suffering of others, then take action to help. To speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves... defend the rights of the poor and needy.

“Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves; ensure justice for those being crushed. Yes, speak up for the poor and helpless, and see that they get justice.” Proverbs 31:8-9 *NLT*

2. Compassion is a form of love that is aroused when we are confronted with those who suffer or are vulnerable. Because we are created in God’s image, this characteristic lies within us, thus a lot of humanitarian work is based in this motivation.

“Then a despised Samaritan came along, and when he saw the man, he felt compassion for him.” Luke 10:33 *NLT*

3. The word is used twelve times in the New Testament and nine of those refer to God’s compassion to heal. The word describes where this feeling of compassion strikes us... as in the intestines, or the “gut”!

“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*

4. So God calls us to share the compassion of our Heavenly Father as His compassion never fails!

“Because of the LORD’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, ‘The LORD is my portion; therefore I will wait for him.’” Lamentations 3:22-24 *NLT*

“God’s loyal love couldn’t have run out, his merciful love couldn’t have dried up. They’re created new every morning. How great your faithfulness! I’m sticking with GOD (I say it over and over). He’s all I’ve got left.” Lamentations 3:22-24 *The Message*

B. Compassion will take us out of our comfort zone...

“So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him.” Luke 15:20 *NLT*

1. Compassion is always looking for an opportunity!
2. Compassion never stops looking, no matter how hopeless it may seem.
3. Compassion drives us to go to the need.
4. Compassion calls us to go beyond what is comfortable and reach the world around us.
5. Compassion meets the need right where it is!
6. Compassion shows respect, love, mercy, and kindness.
7. Compassion comes at a price!

“Compassion can’t be measured in dollars and cents. It does come with a price tag, but that price tag isn’t the amount of money spent. The price tag is love.”—J. C. Watts Jr.

C. Compassion is a driving virtue that leads to peace...

“Duke University did a study on ‘peace of mind.’ Factors found to contribute greatly to emotional and mental stability are:

1. Not living in the past. An unwholesome preoccupation with old mistakes and failures leads to depression.
2. Force yourself to stay involved with the living world. Resist the temptation to withdraw and become reclusive during periods of emotional stress.
3. Not wasting time and energy fighting conditions you cannot change. Cooperate with life, instead of trying to run away from it.
4. Refuse to indulge in self-pity when life hands you a raw deal. Accept the fact that nobody gets through life without some sorrow and misfortune.
5. Do not expect too much of yourself. When there is too wide a gap between self-expectation and your ability to meet the goals you have set, feelings of inadequacy are inevitable.

6. Find something bigger than yourself, to believe in. Self-centered egotistical people score lowest on any test for measuring happiness.
7. The absence of suspicion and resentment. Nursing a grudge is a major factor in unhappiness.
8. Cultivate the old-fashioned virtues—love, humor, compassion, and loyalty.”

D. Compassion gives us a look that is a lot like the Father...

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort,” 2 Corinthians 1:3 *NIV*

1. God commands us to show compassion.

“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.” Ephesians 4:32 *NIV*

2. We share compassion to others because God has been so compassionate to us.

“Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate?” Philippians 2:1

3. Remember to put on compassion like an article of clothing.

“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.” Colossians 3:12

“So, chosen by God for this new life of love, dress in the wardrobe God picked out for you: compassion...” Colossians 3:12a *The Message*

4. Compassion becomes one of the earmarks that demonstrates who we are!

“If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion—how can God’s love be in that person?”
1 John 3:17 *NLT*

“But what happens when we live God’s way? He brings gifts into our lives, much the same way that fruit appears in an orchard—things like affection for others, exuberance about life, serenity. We develop a willingness to stick with things, a sense of compassion in the heart, and a conviction that a basic holiness permeates things and people. We find ourselves involved in loyal commitments, not needing to force our way in life, able to marshal and direct our energies wisely.”
Galatians 5:22-23 *The Message*

E. How will you demonstrate compassion this week?

"We must learn to regard people less in the light of what they do or omit to do, and more in the light of what they suffer." — Dietrich Bonhoeffer

1. *Be a Listener*
2. *Be an Advocate*
3. *Be a Volunteer*
4. *Be Confidential*
5. *Be a Giver*
6. *Be Selfless*
7. *Be Empathetic*
8. *Be Considerate*
9. *Be Genuine*
10. *Be a Warm Communicator*
11. *Lighten a Load*
12. *Let Your Heart Break*
13. *Treat People with Importance*
14. *Respond, Always!*
15. *Be Creative*

"'Tis the Season to be Compassionate!"

Seasonal Sermon Series:

"'Tis the Season..."

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A Sermon Series Focusing on the Virtues of the Season

December 24, 2017 – To Be Full of Faith!

December 31, 2017 – To Be Hopeful!