

WORDS FROM THE CROSS

WEEK 3

SCRIPTURE

Romans 10:13 (NIV)

Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

John 19:25-27 (NIV)

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, "Woman, here is your son," ²⁷ and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

Matthew 9:35-36 (NIV)

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. ³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

John 11:33-36 (NIV)

When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. ³⁴ "Where have you laid him?" he asked. "Come and see, Lord," they replied. ³⁵ Jesus wept. ³⁶ Then the Jews said, "See how he loved him!"

Matthew 26:42 (NLT)

Then Jesus left them a second time and prayed, "My Father! If this cup cannot be taken away unless I drink it, your will be done."

Luke 23:28 (NLT)

But Jesus turned and said to them, "Daughters of Jerusalem, don't weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children."

Luke 23:47-48 (NLT)

When the Roman officer overseeing the execution saw what had happened, he worshiped God and said, "Surely this man was innocent." ⁴⁸ And when all the crowd that came to see the crucifixion saw what had happened, they went home in deep sorrow.

1 Corinthians 12:25-26 (NLT)

This makes for harmony among the members, so that all the members care for each other. ²⁶ If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad.

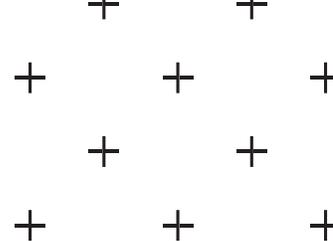
John 3:16 (NIV)

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

+ +

+

+ +



FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION

1. What was your biggest takeaway from this weekend's message?
2. Some people dismiss compassion as being too touchy-feely or irrational, sometimes even considering it a weakness. Why do you think compassion is sometimes viewed this way?
3. How would you explain the difference between empathy and compassion? And if there's a difference between the two, what would you suggest that difference is?
4. Read these sections of Scripture: Matthew 9:35-36, John 11:33-36 and Luke 23:28. What do these three readings reveal to us about the genuine compassion of Jesus?
5. How would you best describe a truly compassionate organization, church or community? Have you ever served with one, and if so, what stood out to you the most about that experience?
6. So far in this series, we've seen Jesus show compassion to those who tortured and shamed Him. We've witnessed Him show compassion to the thief on the cross. And now we observe Him showing compassion as he secures ongoing care for his mother in John 19:25-27. How would you describe this level of compassion?
7. Compassion literally means "to suffer together." Can you recall a time when someone else's suffering or heartbreak became your own? Or, when someone offered compassion to you or your family in a season of suffering or heartbreak?
8. Which is easiest for you? To be compassionate toward 1) a friend; 2) a stranger; or 3) an enemy? Why did you answer that way, and why do you think that's true?
9. Pastor Steve offered nine different ways to demonstrate compassion toward others: Be a listener; be empathetic; be an advocate; be a volunteer; be private; be a giver; be aware; be kind; be creative. Which of these is easiest for you, and which is the most challenging?

