

The Christ of the Church

Imitate Christ

“Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ” (1 Cor. 11:1)

- **We make every effort to imitate the first century church**
 - *“on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread” (Acts 20:7)*
 - *“each of you is to put something aside and store it up” (1 Cor. 16:2)*
 - *“singing and making melody... with your heart” (Eph. 5:19)*
 - *“Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus” (2 Tim. 1:13)*
- **Do we try as hard to imitate the first century Christ?**

Imitate Christ

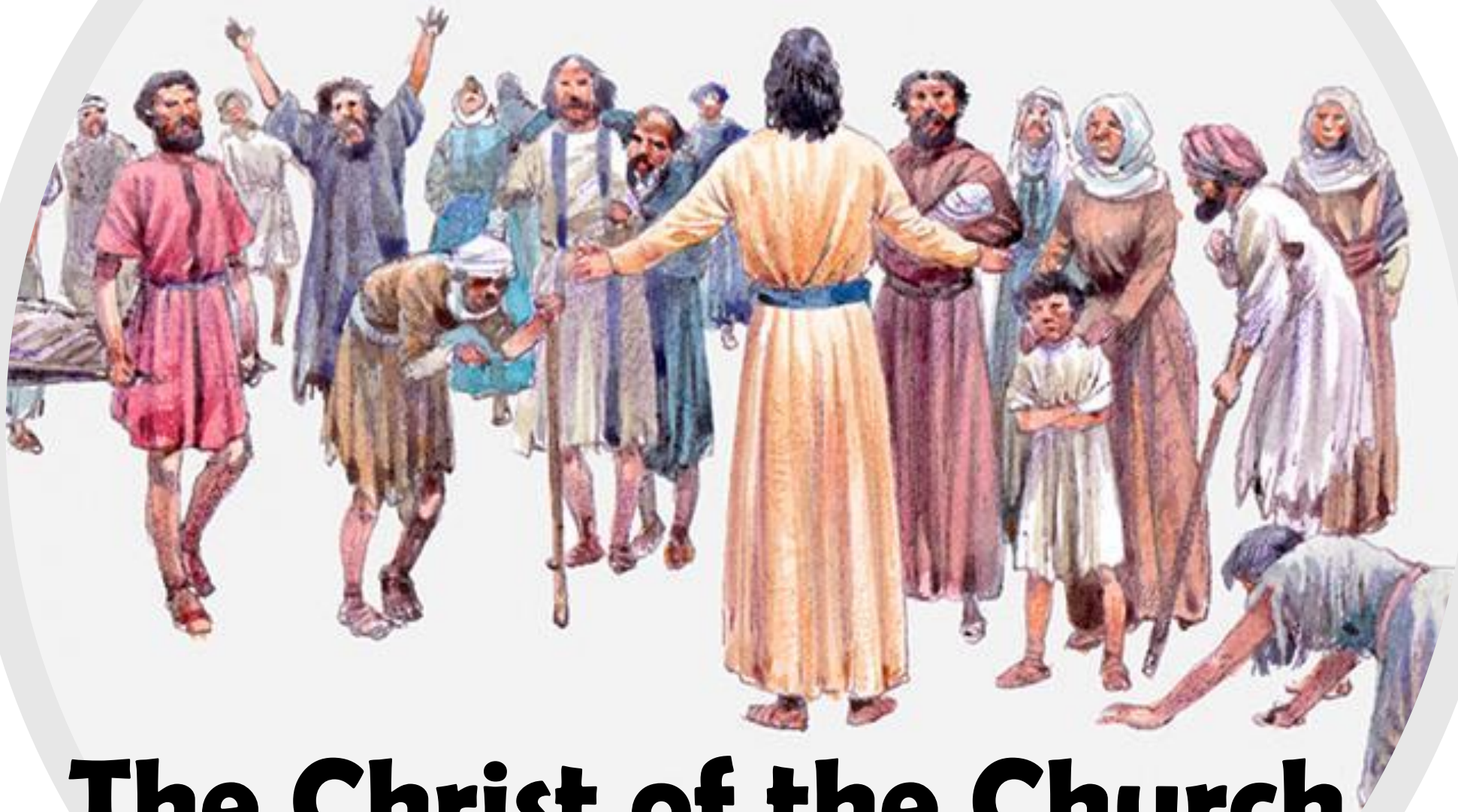
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- Concerned with things that are “helpful” and “build up” (10:23ff)
- “Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor” (24)
- “...whatever you do, do all to the glory of God” (31)
- “Give no offense...” (32)
- “...just as I try to please everyone...” (33)
- “...in everything I do...” (33)
- “...not seeking my own advantage...” (33)
- “...but that of the many...” (33)
- “...that they may be saved” (33)

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**We can't become so singularly focused on being like them...
that we neglect to become like Him**



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Moved By Compassion

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CHRIST DEMONSTRATED COMPASSION FOR OTHERS

- **He was moved by compassion (Mt. 14:13-14; 15:32)**
 - Despite personal crisis (10-12)
 - Do we withdraw into ourselves or close off from others?
 - Duty to others does not end when we have problems
 - Focusing on the needs of others can help us move forward
- **His compassion moved Him to action (Luke 7:11-15)**
 - For those distressed and alone
 - Christ-like compassion will cost us
 - time, energy, effort, money, resources...

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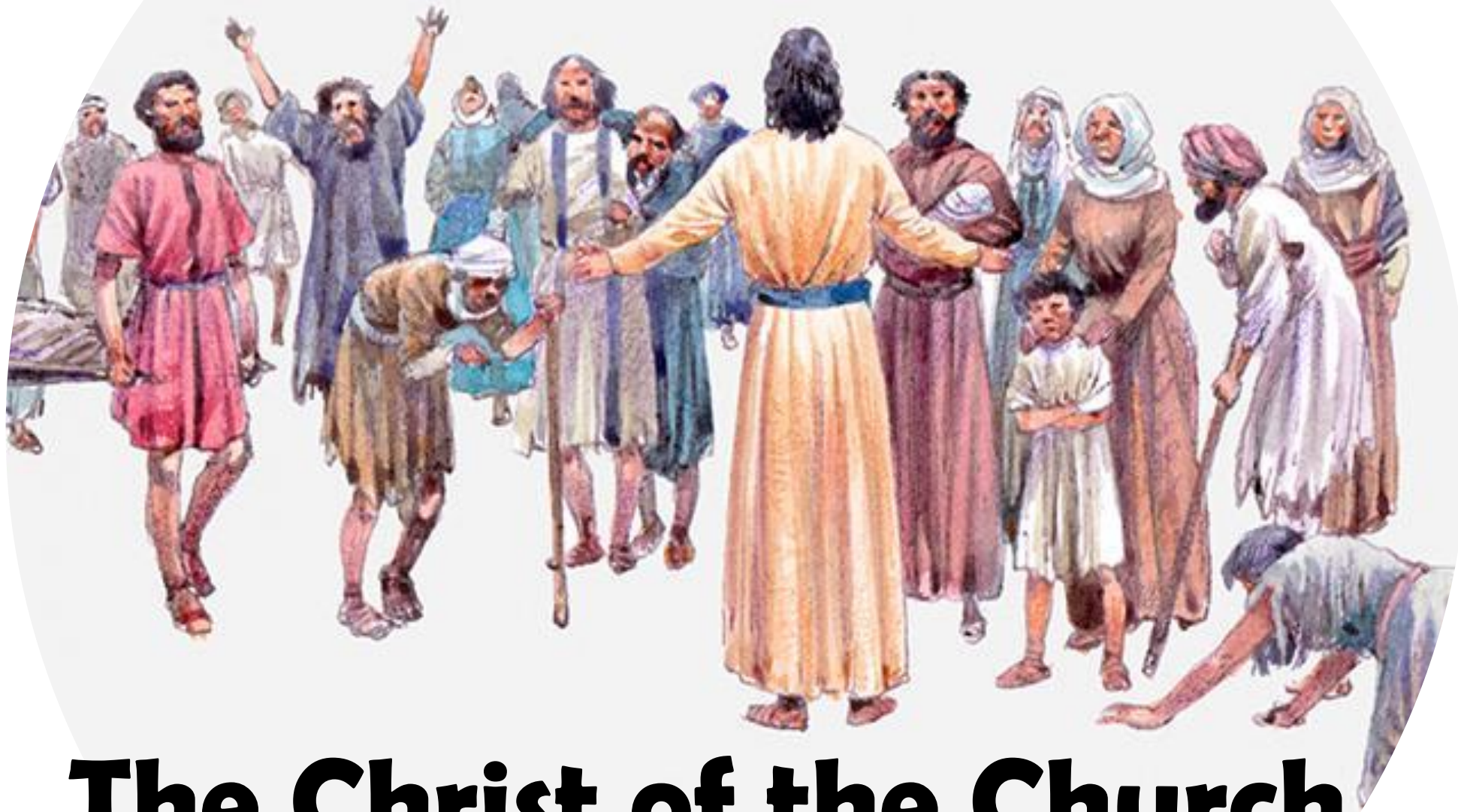
CHRIST TAUGHT COMPASSION TO OTHERS

- **The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)**
 - *“when he saw him, he had compassion” (33)*
 - *“You, go and do likewise” (37)*
- **The Unmerciful Servant (Mt. 18:23-33)**
 - A parable about the kingdom (23)
 - Repentance prompts **compassion** prompts forgiveness
 - Compassion is promised from God (27)
 - Compassion is expected from us (33)
 - Compassion is promised from God, if we show compassion (34-35)

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CHRIST'S GREATEST COMPASSION IS FOR THE LOST

- Their great need is spiritual healing (Mt. 9:35-38)
 - The harvest and labor are spiritual (10:1-4, 7)
 - The laborers must *“pray”* (38) and *“go”* (10:6)
- The fields are white for harvest (John 4:31-38)
 - Jesus speaks of the saving work He will accomplish (34)
 - *“Lift up your eyes and look”* (35, 40)
 - The labor and wages are spiritual (36-38)
 - They were gathering fruit for *“eternal life”* (36)
- Who prompts our greatest compassion?



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It is not enough to imitate the churches of Christ...

We must imitate the Christ of the church

He was moved by **compassion**

