

# **The Christ of the Church**

# Imitate Christ

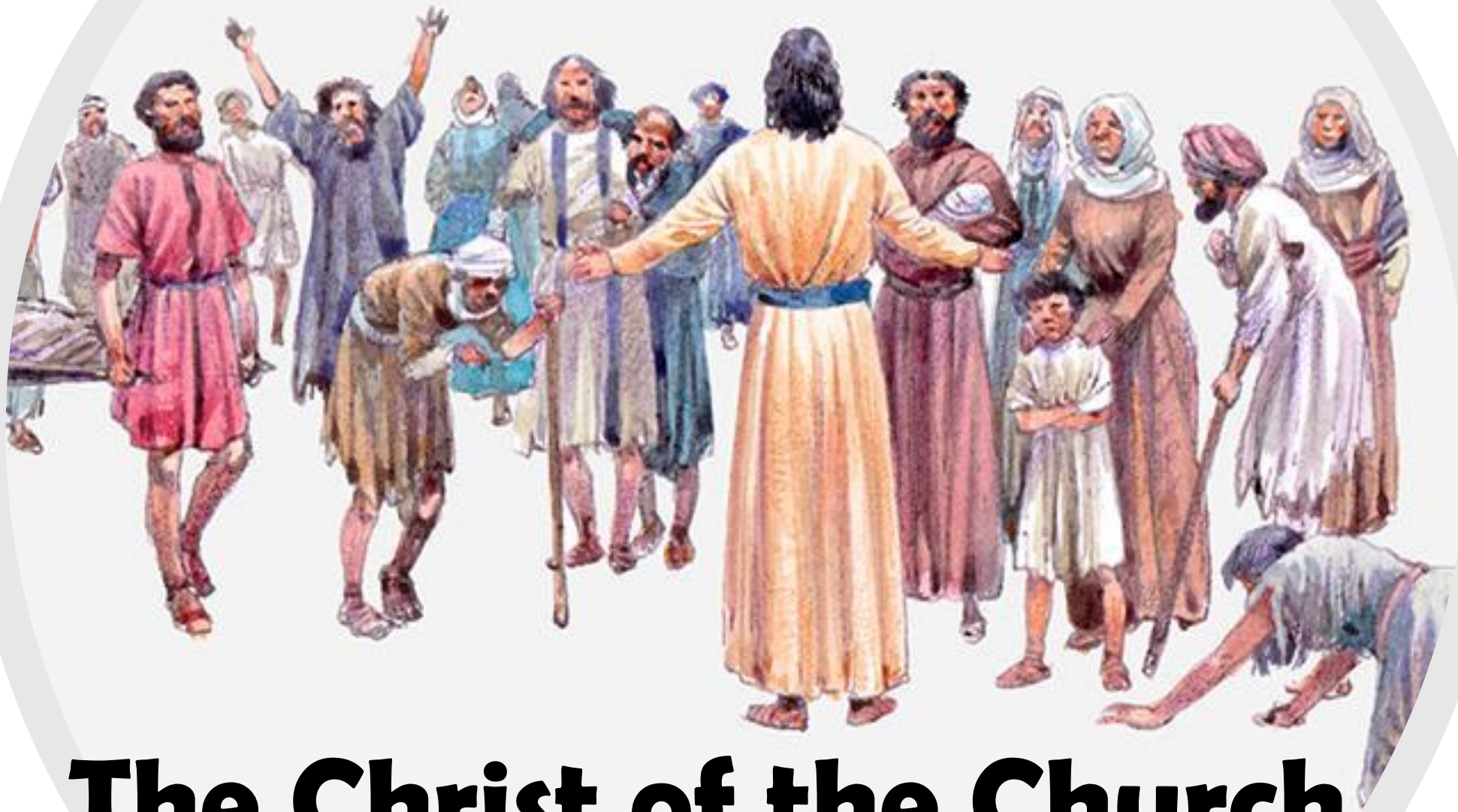
***“Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ” (1 Cor. 11:1)***

**We make every effort to imitate the first century church**

**Do we try as hard to imitate the first century Christ?**

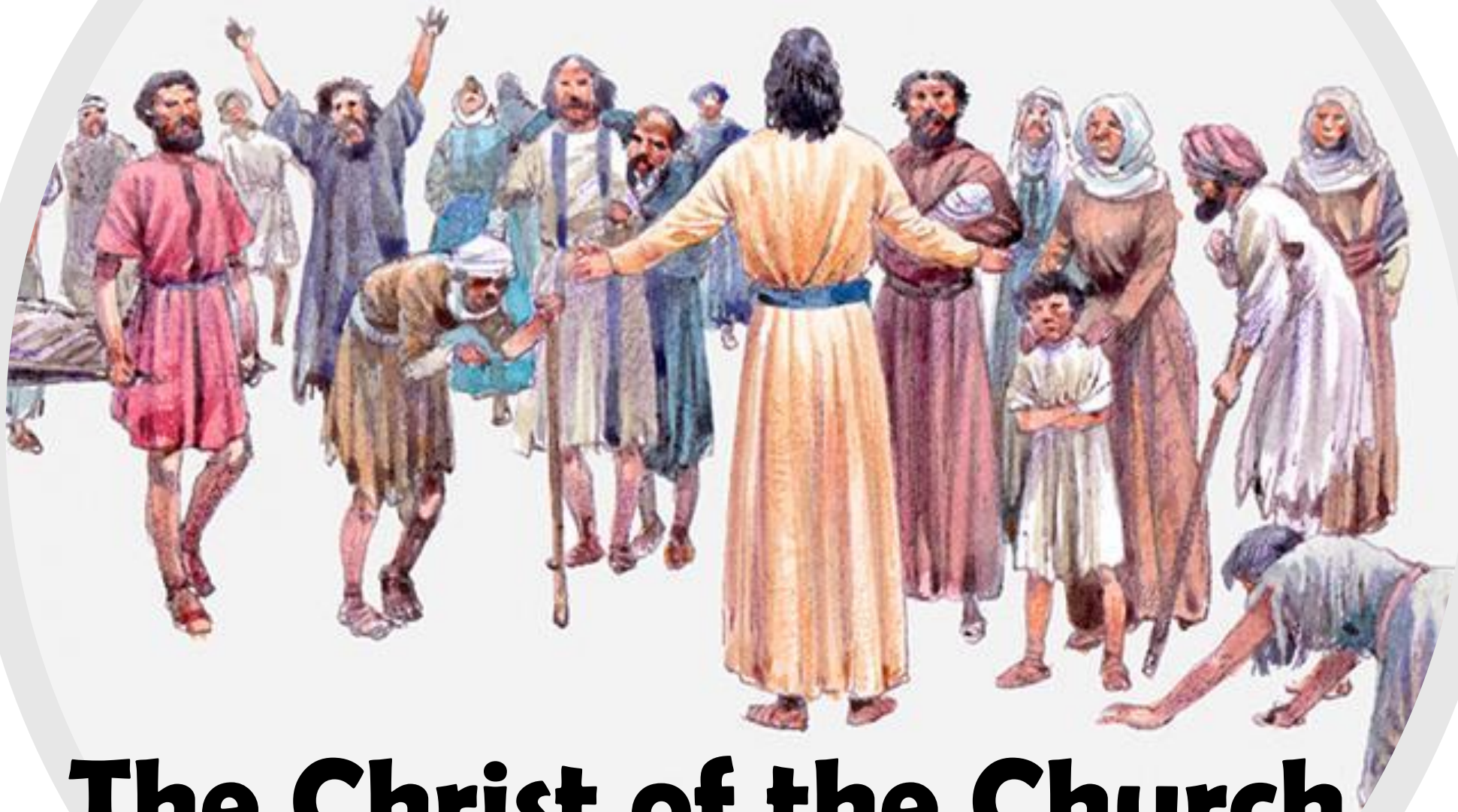
**We can't become so singularly focused on being like them...**

**that we neglect to become like Him**



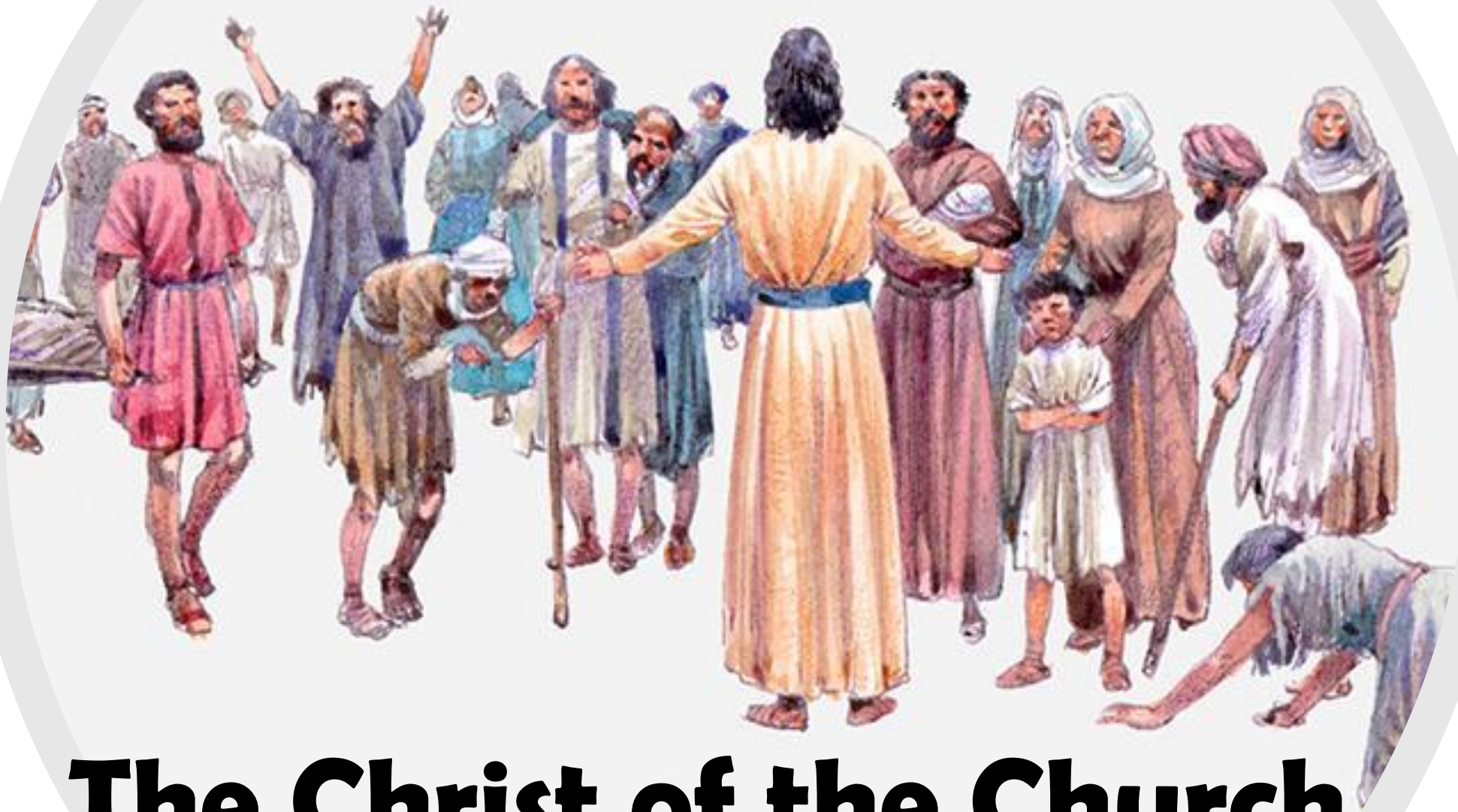
# **The Christ of the Church**

## **Moved By Compassion**



# **The Christ of the Church**

## **Sent to Serve**



# **The Christ of the Church**

## **Given to Forgiveness**

# Imitate Christ

## CHRIST TAUGHT FORGIVENESS

- **A thread throughout the Sermon on the Mount (Mt. 5-7)**
  - Forgiveness is a prerequisite to true peace (Mt. 5:9)
  - Forgiveness precedes reconciliation (5:23-24)
  - Forgiveness is a precondition of acceptable worship (5:23-24)
  - Forgiveness rejects retaliation (5:38-42)
  - Forgiveness enables us to love our enemies (5:43-44ff)
- **Highlighted in the Model Prayer (Matt. 6:7-13)**
  - Forgiveness is the one topic Jesus recapped (6:14-15)

# Imitate Christ

## CHRIST DEMONSTRATED FORGIVENESS

- He forgave them as they killed Him **(Luke 23:34)**
  - Our Lord practiced what He preached...
    - *“But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you...” (Matt. 5:44)*
- He offers forgiveness to us
  - He died for our sins so we could die to our sins **(Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:2)**
    - *“I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven for his name’s sake.” (1 Jn. 2:12)*
  - Yet He lives eternally making intercession for us **(Heb. 7:25)**
    - Jesus is our *“advocate with the Father”* **(1 Jn. 2:1)**



# Imitate Christ

## CHRIST IS OUR STANDARD FOR FORGIVENESS

- A requirement to keep our “body” whole **(Eph. 4:25-32)**
  - “... *forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.*” **(32)**
- A necessary ingredient in our peace **(Col. 3:12-15)**
  - “... *as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.*” **(13)**
- Our unforgiving spirit can harm others **(2 Cor. 2:6-11)**
  - “*forgive and comfort him, or he may be overwhelmed*” **(7)**
  - Our forgiveness is reaffirmation of our love **(8)**
  - Our willingness to forgive is a test of our obedience **(9)**
  - Our reluctance to forgive is us letting Satan *outwit* us **(11)**

# Imitate Christ

## CHRIST IS OUR STANDARD FOR FORGIVENESS

- Our unforgiving spirit will harm us eternally (**Matt. 18:32-35**)

*32 Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me.*

*33 And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?'*

*34 And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt.*

*35 So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."*

# Imitate Christ

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

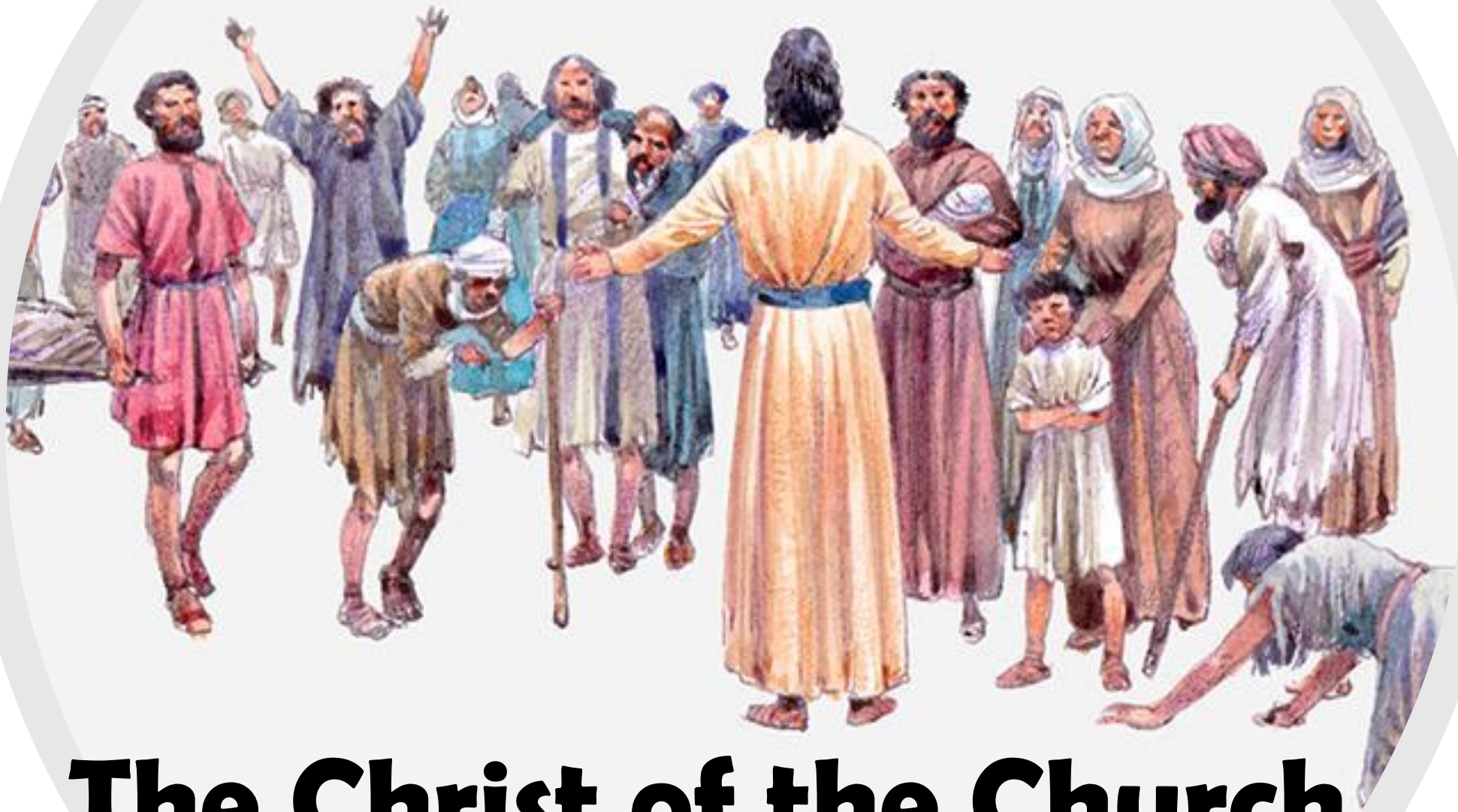
**It is not enough to imitate the churches of Christ...**

**We must imitate the Christ of the church**

**He was **moved by compassion****

**He was **sent to serve****

**He was **given to forgiveness****



# **The Christ of the Church**

## **Given to Forgiveness**

