

## The Ways of Jesus

### Compassion & Suffering

- *The Ultimate act of compassion*
- The motive was love (“for God so loved the worlds...”)

#### Jesus Had Compassion for the Suffering:

**Matthew 15:29-32** – *Jesus left there and went along the Sea of Galilee. Then he went up on a mountainside and sat down. Great crowds came to him, bringing the lame, the blind, the crippled, the mute and many others, and laid them at his feet; and he healed them. The people were amazed when they saw the mute speaking, the crippled made well, the lame walking and the blind seeing. And they praised the God of Israel. Jesus called his disciples to him and said, “I have compassion for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat. I do not want to send them away hungry, or they may collapse on the way.”*

#### The nature of compassion

- A feeling of genuine concern for others (physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual)
- *Acting* out this concern in practical ways (prayer, giving, helping)

#### Jesus Suffered for Others

**Isaiah 53:5-6** – *But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

#### A Call to Compassion and Suffering

**1 Peter 2:20b-21** – *But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. <sup>21</sup>To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.*

#### Jesus Questions

1. **What opportunities are there around me to show compassion?**
2. **How am I positioned to best show compassion to others?**