

Sermon Notes

“Compassion for the Crowds”
July 28, 2019



Seeking God
in Solitude



Finding God
in Friendship



Celebrating God
in Community



Reflecting God
in Relationships

Reflection Questions *(please use these individually or in groups)*

Sermon Reflections:

1. Have you been worn out, torn down, or cast aside by the world? Receive the compassion of Jesus!
2. Do you feel burdened by the weight of religious or institutional rules or regulations? Ask Jesus to teach you about the freedom of his "light and easy yoke."
3. Pray for someone you know who is walking through a dark valley, that they receive rescue and restoration from the Good Shepherd.
4. Make a commitment to spiritually "lie down" this week in order to be healed or strengthened.

Devotional Reading & Inward Reflection

- **John 10:1-5 | In an average day, which voices do you allow to most influence your life?**
- **Heb. 13:20-21 | How is the Shepherd equipping you to do his will this week?**
- **Ps. 95:1-7 | What parts of nature most stir you to worship God in awe and wonder?**
- **Matt. 18:12-14 | Pray for someone you know who has wandered away from the flock.**

Self-Care Disciplines *(Excerpts from Celebration of Discipline)*

July Discipline: Corporate Guidance | "The Community of God" (p. 189)

A personal experience of the Emmanuel presence of Jesus, that He has come to guide his people himself, leading them in definite and immediate ways, is a deeply profound thing. But, it is not sufficient. Individual guidance must yield to corporate guidance. There must also come a knowledge of the direct, active, immediate leading of the Spirit *together*. Perhaps the preoccupation with private guidance alone in Western cultures is the product of their emphasis on individualism. The people of God have not always been so.

Dallas Willard states, "The aim of God in history is the creation of an all-inclusive community of loving persons, with Himself included in that community as its prime sustainer and most glorious inhabitant." Such a community lives under the immediate and total rulership of the Holy Spirit. They are a people blinded to all other loyalties by the splendor of God, a compassionate community embodying the law of love as seen in Jesus Christ. They are tenderly aggressive, meekly powerful, suffering and overcoming.

Ask someone close to you about what "loyalties" appear to him/her to be most influential in your life. Do any of these loyalties distract you from the splendor of God or lead you away from the law of love?

Note: Don't let these burden you each week. Please engage only if you feel it would be beneficial in caring for yourself. Sometimes self-care involves giving yourself a break, even from self care disciplines.