

## Questions Keith Farmer February 16 sermon: Compassion

1. **Christianity in Australia is not going well. Keith shared that recent research in Australia revealed the 10 major blockages to people believing in Jesus are:**

**Church abuse**

**Hypocrisy**

**Judging others**

**Religious wars**

**Suffering**

**Money issues**

**Outdated**

**Hell and condemnation**

**Homosexuality**

**Exclusivity**

2. **Which of these hindered you coming to faith? What helped you get past those issues?**
3. **Which of these could be evident in your life and thus hinder people believing in Jesus?**
4. **Keith mentioned ‘*judging others*’ (superiority and smugness) was an issue for him. How do we/you judge others today? What may be the reasons for that? Any suggestions as to how we deal with this issue?**
5. **Compassion was and is always demonstrated by Jesus. How would you describe or define compassion?**
6. **Give examples of:**
  - Where people have shown you compassion?**
  - Where you have shown others compassion?**
7. **Read Mark 6:30-44**

**Compare how Jesus and the disciples viewed the crowd? How did this impact their actions? What does that say to you?**
8. **What pictures or words would you use to describe God?**

**Keith shared that Luke 15:20 is the picture that best describes God. Comment on that.**
9. **Keith shared that compassion involves courage and strength, it is resilient and dangerous. Comment on that regarding Jesus’ compassion and your compassion.**
10. **In Colossians 3:12-14, Paul commands us to ‘clothe ourselves with compassion’. What does that involve for you?**
11. **Romans 9: 14,15 we read (The Message); God told Moses, “I’m in charge of mercy. I’m in charge of compassion.” Compassion doesn’t originate in our bleeding hearts or moral sweat, but in God’s mercy.**

**Compassion is not something we try to do better; it originates in the heart of God.**

**What does this mean for you?**

**12. The research mentioned earlier revealed these top 2 responses to the question; what might help you to be open to Christianity?**

- **Events in life that cause me to re-examine how I live**
- **Someone close to me who lives it out in such a way that shows it (Christianity) is working**

**How will those responses affect the way you live in your world?**