Faith Talk
Sunday. November 15, 2026
Series. Titus: A Healthy Church in a Chaotic Culture
Sermon. **The Rescue: Mercy That Saved Us**

Scripture. Titus 3:4-5
But when the kindness of God our Savior and his love for mankind appeared, [5] he saved us—not by works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy—through the washing of regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit.

Sermon Summary

A healthy church doesn't just gather to learn the gospel; it goes into the world to live it out, and the way it engages the lost matters deeply.

Paul calls the church in Crete to submit to governing authorities, avoid slander and fighting, and approach lost people with kindness and gentleness because that is exactly how God approached us. It is easy to look at people living in sin and rebellion and feel contempt, but Paul interrupts that tendency with a pointed reminder: we were all once foolish, disobedient, deceived, and enslaved to our own desires.

Lost people are not enemies to defeat; they are people to love toward Jesus. The turning point in every person's story is not their own goodness but God's mercy and kindness; mercy that withholds the punishment we deserve, and grace that gives us a gift we could never earn.

Through faith in Jesus, the Holy Spirit regenerates and renews us, declaring us righteous before God and giving us a living relationship with Him that starts the moment we believe and lasts for eternity. Romans 2:4 reminds us that it is God's kindness that leads people to repentance, not slander, not condemnation, not winning arguments.

So, the church goes into the world the same way God came to us: with compassion for the distressed, gentleness toward the rebellious, and the humility of people who know they too were once lost. This is not being soft on sin; it is being faithful to the gospel.

Discussion Questions

Conversations with Adults

1. The sermon said lost people are not enemies to defeat but people to love. Honestly, is there someone or a type of person in your life you have been treating more like an opponent than a neighbor, and what would it look like to shift that?
2. Paul's reminder that we were all once foolish, disobedient, and enslaved is meant to reshape how we see the lost. How does keeping your own "before Christ" story in view change the way you feel about people still living in that same place?
3. Romans 2:4 says God's kindness leads people to repentance. What does that practically look like in your everyday interactions with people who don't know Jesus — at work, in your neighborhood, or in your family?

Conversations with Youth

1. The sermon said we sometimes treat the world as our opponent to dislike rather than our neighbor to love. Have you ever caught yourself looking down on someone for how they live, and what do you think was really going on underneath that?
2. Paul says mercy is God withholding punishment we deserve, and grace is God giving us a gift we didn't earn. What's the difference between those two things, and why does it matter that we understand both?
3. If God's kindness is what leads people to repentance, what would it look like for you to be that kind of person for someone in your school or friend group this week?

Conversations with Kids

1. The pastor said when Jesus saw crowds of people who were lost and hurting, He felt compassion, not frustration or judgment. When you see someone who is sad, struggling, or making bad choices, what do you usually feel, and what do you think Jesus would want you to feel?
2. Mercy means not giving someone the punishment they deserve. Can you think of a time someone showed you mercy, and how did it make you feel toward that person?
3. The sermon said God showed kindness to people even while they were still doing wrong, and that kindness changed them. Who is one person in your life you could show extra kindness to this week?

Prayer

Father, **thank You** that You did not wait until we had it together before You showed us kindness and love — that while we were still lost, still foolish, still enslaved to our own desires, You sent Your Son and Your Spirit to rescue us. Thank You for mercy that withheld what we deserved and grace that gave us what we never could have earned.

We ask You to give us the eyes of Jesus — eyes that see the distressed and dejected people around us with compassion rather than contempt, with gentleness rather than judgment. Forgive us for the times we have treated the lost as opponents rather than neighbors.

We commit to going into our world the way You came to us — with kindness, humility, and the good news that mercy and grace are still available to anyone who believes. In Jesus' name, Amen.