

The Christ of the Church

Imitate Christ

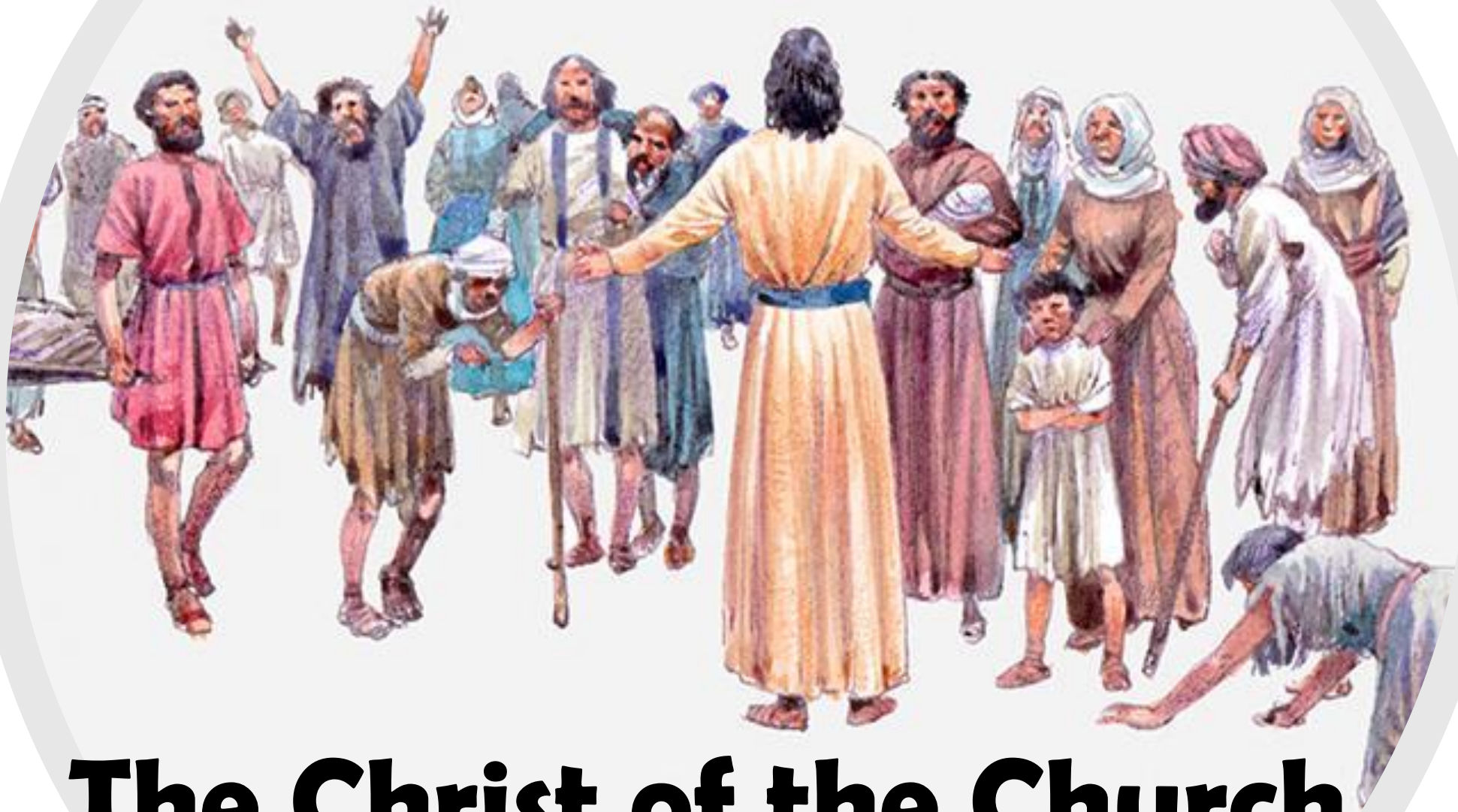
“Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ” (1 Cor. 11:1)

- **We make every effort to imitate the first century church**
 - *“on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread” (Acts 20:7)*
 - *“each of you is to put something aside and store it up” (1 Cor. 16:2)*
 - *“singing and making melody... with your heart” (Eph. 5:19)*
 - *“Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus” (2 Tim. 1:13)*
- **Do we try as hard to imitate the first century Christ?**

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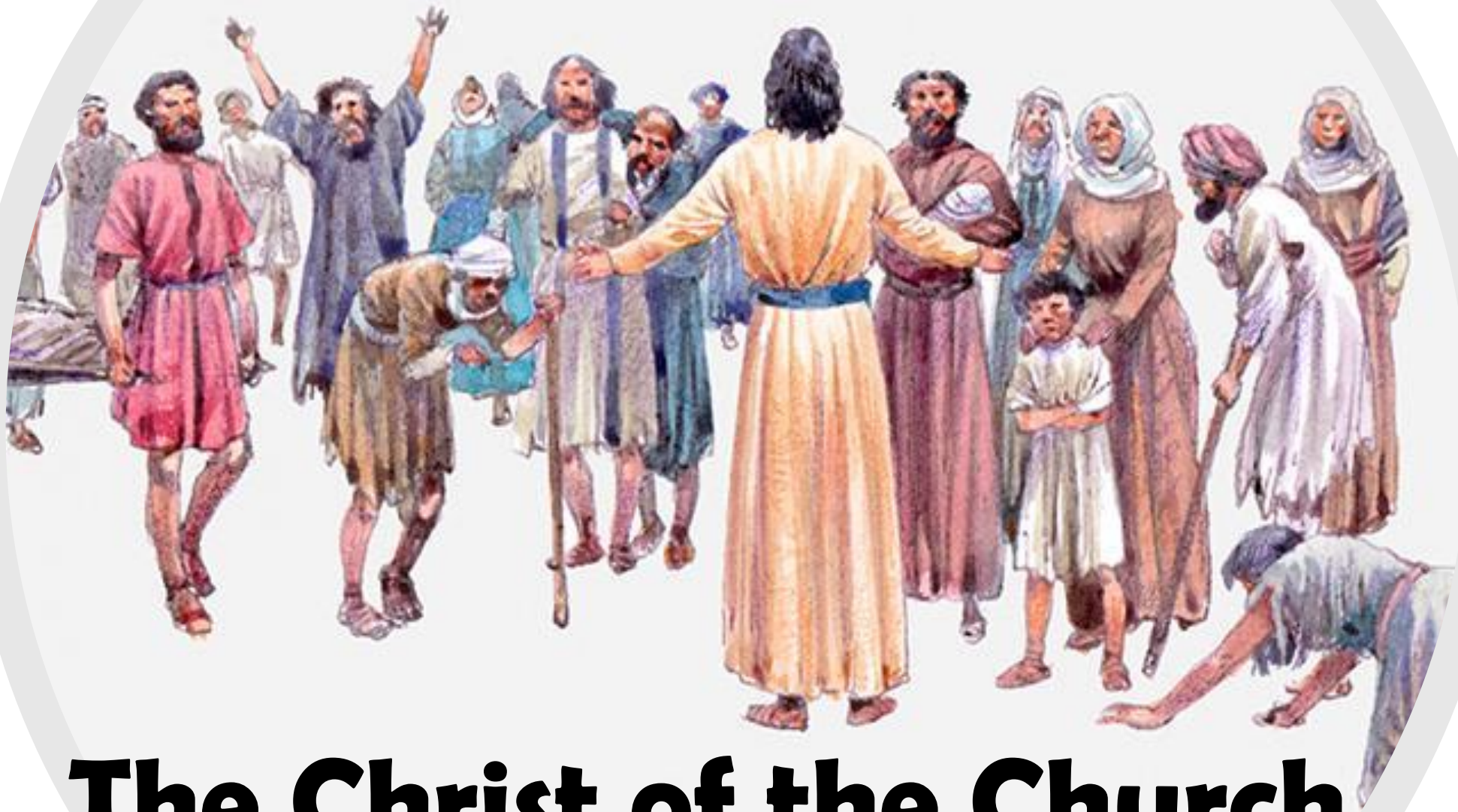
“Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ” (1 Cor. 11:1)

**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

Imitate Christ

HE CAME TO SERVE

- **Jesus inverted the kingdom pyramid (Mt. 20:25-28)**
 - The “*great*” won’t lord authority over the “*small*” (cf. 1 Pet. 5:3)
 - The path to greatness in His kingdom is service
 - If we won’t serve, we’re not imitating our King
 - *“But I am among you as the one who serves” (Luke 22:27)*
- **A servant is not greater than his Master (John 13:12-17)**
 - Jesus taught an eternal principle through a contemporary practice
 - As Lord, Jesus was worthy to be served, **but** He served instead
 - The blessing is not in the knowing... but in the doing

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FAITHFUL SERVANTS SERVE

- **Serving is in the DNA of the faithful (Acts 6:1-7)**
 - *“they chose Stephen, a man full of faith...” (5)*
- **Personified in Deacons**
 - *“They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience... then let them serve as deacons” (1 Tim. 3:9-10)*
 - diákonos – literally "kicking up dust" because "on the move"
- **There has to be a little “deacon” in all of us**
 - There was in Martha (Jn. 12:2) Phoebe (Rom. 16:1-2) and...
 - **True servants don’t need titles, just opportunities to serve**

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SERVING IS NOT GLAMOROUS

- It never has been...
 - *“the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Mt. 20:28)*
- It is caring for the needs of others in an active, practical way
 - It might be a call, text, card or a conversation
 - It might be giving a ride, providing a meal, or pulling a weed
 - It might be expensive, time consuming, or even sacrificial...
 - It is a demonstration of love **(Gal. 5:13)**
- When we serve His, we are serving Him **(Mt. 25:37-40)**

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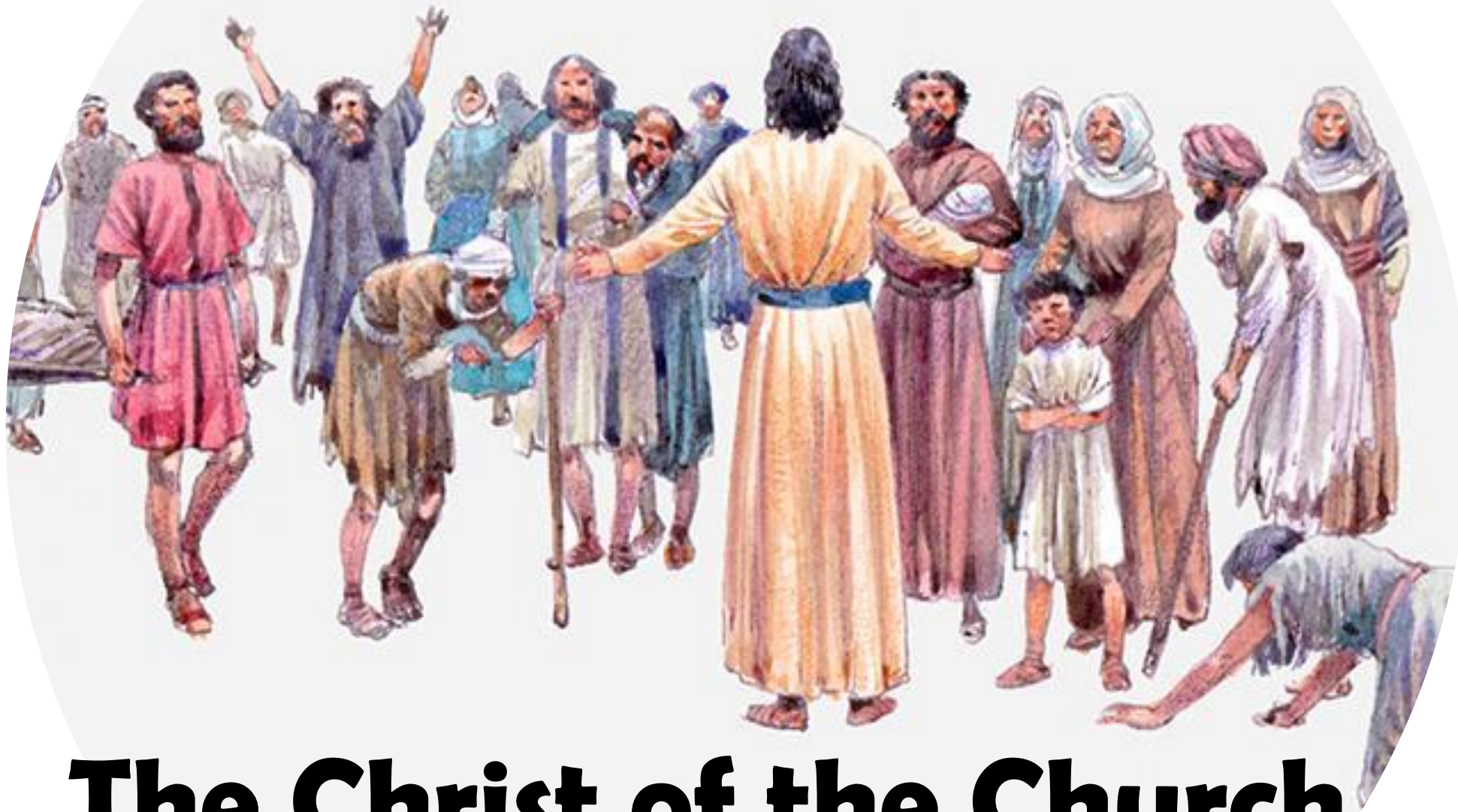
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It is not enough to imitate the churches of Christ...

We must imitate the Christ of the church

He was **moved by compassion**

He was **sent to serve**



The Christ of the Church

Sent to Serve

