

July 12 Worship Service: When Compassion Dies | Obadiah 1:10–14

Jul 14, 2026

Summary

When Compassion Dies

Big Idea: A small view of God kills compassion; when compassion dies we inevitably sin against God, delight in evil, and even join in it.

Overview

The pastor unpacked Obadiah 1:10-14, where God condemns Edom for standing by—and then joining in—Babylon's attack on Judah. Though Edom and Judah were family, Edom's pride erased compassion. Their example warns us: if God is not “big” in our hearts, love withers, pride blooms, and violence follows. The message traced God's covenant promise to Abraham (Genesis 12) and showed how rejecting that promise led Edom to sin, celebrate wickedness, and participate in it. Christ, by contrast, embodies perfect compassion (Matthew 9:36) and calls His people to display that same gospel-shaped mercy in a broken world.

Key Scripture

- **Obadiah 1:10-14** — The foundation of the whole message: Edom's pride-driven lack of compassion brings God's judgment.
 - **Genesis 12:2-3** — Covenant backdrop: God blesses those who bless Abraham's line and judges those who curse it.
 - **Genesis 3:15** — The theological anchor: God's redemptive promise that would come through Judah despite human opposition.
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Main Points

1. When compassion dies, we sin against God (vv. 10-11).

- Edom “stood aloof” while Babylon pillaged Jerusalem, setting itself **against** its own brother nation.
- Family is God's gift for instruction, security, and care; to harm family is to rebel against God Himself.
- Shame “covered” Edom—the visible mark of sin that Adam felt after the fall.

2. When compassion dies, we celebrate wickedness (v. 12).

- Edom gloated, rejoiced, and boasted over Judah's ruin, virtually throwing a victory parade.
- A heart shrunk by pride delights when God's people stumble because it imagines God's purposes have failed.
- True compassion would have mourned; false pride clapped.

3. When compassion dies, we participate in wickedness (vv. 13-14).

- Edom moved from cheering to acting: looting Jerusalem, blocking escape routes, handing survivors to Babylon.
- They grabbed the tangible tokens of Judah's covenant blessings (wealth, land, lives) and claimed them for themselves.
- Pride doesn't stop at applause; it takes up the sword.

Christ offers the opposite picture: He entered our calamity, bore our sin, and showed compassion that rescues rather than ruins.

Application

The call: Behold God's greatness until compassion is reborn; repent of pride and join Christ in mercifully pursuing the hurting.

Head — Recognize that pride shrinks your view of God; study His Word to see His sovereignty, holiness, and mercy.

Heart — Let the memory of your own rescue in Christ melt contempt and stir genuine compassion for sufferers and sinners alike.

Hands

1. Spend daily time beholding God's greatness in Scripture, asking the Spirit to enlarge your view of Him.
 2. Actively meet a practical need this week (food, time, presence) while sharing the hope of the gospel.
 3. Repent of any secret joy over another's failure; pray blessing instead.
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Reflection Questions

1. Where do you see traces of Edom's pride—standing “aloof” while others suffer—in your own life?

2. When have you secretly rejoiced at someone's downfall? What does that reveal about your view of God?
 3. How does remembering your salvation in Christ kindle compassion for those still far from Him?
 4. What concrete situation this week calls for you to move from indifference to gospel-driven action?
 5. How can your family become a training ground for true, Christ-like compassion?
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Prayer

Merciful Father, You had every right to judge us, yet in Christ You showed incomparable compassion. Forgive our pride that delights in others' pain. Enlarge our vision of Your majesty until our hearts break for what breaks Yours. By Your Spirit make us people who run toward need, speak the gospel boldly, and reflect the mercy we have received. In Jesus' name, amen.