



## Titus #7

### Titus 3:1-3

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March 1, 2026

We have divided Titus into 2 parts: Chapt 1 and 2 (a quicker overview of church operations) and Chapter 3 (slowing down to focus on each verse). Today we will only cover one verse which is not even a whole sentence:

#### Titus 3:4

But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared...

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But when appeared the kindness and love of God our Savior...

Should you start a sentence with “But?” This refers us back to verses 1-3: to be ready to do good and to obey and subject, peaceable, and gentle. This is Jesus’s way to live.

#### But...

Titus 3:1-3 – Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and always to be gentle toward everyone.

Here are the first three verses: This is who we once were, the Cretan Way. Titus was in Crete teaching the Cretans to live Jesus’s Way. We need to p

#### But...

Titus 3:1-3 – Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and always to be gentle toward everyone. At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another.

#### Jesus’ Way vs Cretan Way

Gather  
Practice  
Focus  
Celebrate

Here are the things to do to live in Jesus’s Way; Sue focused on these last week. We are to celebrate the victories of Jesus in our lives.

### But...

At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another.

This is who we were but....**the gospel**

But...this is who we were. But....the Gospel or the Good news of what Jesus has done: the stories and ways Jesus has stepped into our lives, the identities he gives us as his children and heirs and the kingdom actions he gives us. This is what we want to focus on during Lent: This is who we were BUT the Gospel.

### Appeared...

Light in a dark room  
Plot Twist

Let's go back to verse and the word "**Appeared**." Usually, this word means either there are not there: it reminds me of Star Trek when they appear and disappear on a planet. But this particular word has a different meaning: it means the "light has been turned on" or the "Light is shining." It's like a spotlight appearing on a stage to shine on something that is already there.

My son likes to lay down with us when he goes to bed: I have a red pillow next to his pillow. Earlier this week, I was looking for the red pillow in the dark and needed to turn on the light to find it, only to find it was right at my foot. Jesus is like the red pillow: the light goes on and I suddenly notice that Jesus was there the whole time.

This word also means something like a plot twist. If you think about the movie The Sixth Sense: the movie is tense and you don't understand what is happening. Then at the end of the movie, there is a big reveal that changes the whole movie. Once you know this, you can't watch the whole movie again with the same tension because you see what was true the whole time!

### Kindness and Love

Micah 6:8 – He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love **mercy** and to walk humbly with your God.

### Hesed

Moreover, we see the Kindness and Love of our Savior. We see his **MERCY** which means **HESED**, a central character of God: his **lovingkindness**. We don't have a good word for this in English: it has to be explained and contextualized. In the New Testament, writers have the same problem because Greek doesn't have a good translation either. It's a combination of LOVE and KINDNESS, like how purple and red make Maroon. It could be Philio love for your brother and kindness. Jesus IS HESED. The character of Jesus is the character of God: it's central to his character

### Jesus is Hesed

Matthew 14:13-14 – When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns. When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had **compassion on them** and healed their sick.

As we walk toward Easter, we see his love on the cross and throughout his ministry.

For example, when Jesus hears his cousin, John, has died he was sad and went to a solitary place. When the crowds followed him, he had compassion on them and fed them.

### Jesus is Hased

Mark 10:20-21 "Teacher," he declared, "all these I have kept since I was a boy." Jesus looked at him and **loved him**. "One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

Another example: Jesus loved this man: he could have rebuked him or told him to go ahead and follow him anyway. But Jesus doesn't pamper him or chase him: this verse says **he loved him** and held out before the man his sin, the thing he is clinging to. God in love does the same for us, not for our shame but because he loves us.

### Jesus is Hased

John 11:33-35 – When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was **deeply moved in spirit** and troubled. "Where have you laid him?" he asked. "Come and see, Lord," they replied. **Jesus wept**.

When Lazarus died, Jesus was deeply moved and wept. The Jews said Jesus **loved** him. He poured out his loving kindness on the people: he could have told them what was going to happen (that he was going to raise Lazarus from the dead) but instead he walked into their pain and cared for them. Jesus is HESED: it is central to his character.

What do we do with these stories? Let's talk about **Tapes** and **Chains**. If you have a cassette player, you will understand the idea of "tapes." This is also something that goes along with our hotseat model: tapes play in our minds when we experience negative emotions, reminding you of times this has happened before. We all play these tapes. It's like a heavy chain that needs to be set down. We pull on these chains and keep adding links to the chain, making the chain heavier and heavier and more burdensome. **We need to make new chains.**

### Tapes and Chains

We need to forge new chains out of the stories of God's Hased, the stories of Jesus' love and kindness.

In middle school, I had a silver chain which was not heavy or burdensome. It was light and a reminder that I was God's heir. We must forge new links for light chains that correspond to Jesus's HESED: places in Scripture where Jesus loved others. We can add stories from our own life

In 2012, I was looking for a new church: I chose three churches to attend over the next year. I first visited a Spanish Church and then my brother David returned to Tucson and wanted to take me to his church, The Village. I never went to the third church because my brother's joy in being here was contagious. I forged a new link in my chain of how I came to the Village.

This past Friday, I was working on this sermon. My wife took our kids to Sabino Canyon and when they came back, it was **so** hot. As they were walking, the tram came unexpectedly and rescued them: Layne reported to me that God was so good! I forged a new link on my chain.

We need to learn what it means that Jesus is HESED: Can I draw out the love and kindness in these stories?

**Jesus' Way vs Cretan Way**

Gather

Practice

Focus

Celebrate

This week, look for Jesus's love and kindness: Tell stories to others about his HESED in your life. Then listen to the stories of others.

***Don't trade stories but really listen to others.*** Tell one story and focus on it: hold onto the details and then celebrate what God has done. Celebrate that He has offered his love and kindness which changes everything. Everything is different because we can see: we see and understand Jesus's HESED.