I have never watched Survivor, but trailers display the ugliness of unhealthy competition. All for a monetary prize. I never watch dystopian shows where a global crisis has led to a removal of compassion. All seems so ugly.

The powerful arrange the system to support themselves: “the poor are merely lazy”, Amazon relocating to reduce tax bill, rich nations undercut locally grown food prices in poorer nations, in the name of free trade.

On Friday nights we play games = competition. At one level this is OK, natural. ‘Natural’ = good in adverts. It is natural for the strong to survive, but is it right? Ezekiel 34.20-22a **“I will judge between you strong sheep and the weak sheep. You pushed the sick ones aside and butted them away from the flock. But I will rescue my sheep and not let them be ill-treated any more.”**

Darwin could be blamed; evolutionary ideas have been used to justify ‘eugenics’, enforced sterilization of those with low IQs, abortion of Down’s syndrome foetuses, even euthanasia. This is the way of the world. Goats surprised – they were only doing what society did. But it is not Jesus’ way!

Jesus’ compassion (Luke 4.18: **“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has chosen me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind; to set free the oppressed”)** is not just “I *have* to help the poor”, but “I *cannot* restrain my love” They look similar.

The first is subject to compassion fatigue, can become cold and calculating – giving to those who will respond, come to church, be grateful, etc. It is often what many churches mistakenly think of as mission.

The second is sustainable, seeks out, is satisfied to give with no response needed. The sheep were surprised but instinctively knew where and when to show compassion.

This is God’s Mission – and can only occur when we draw on God’s love for us, seen in Jesus Christ.