

CROSSING THE LINE

A SCANDALOUS LOVE THAT CAN CHANGE THE WORLD



Part 1: *The Imitation Game*

APPETIZER – Selma, Ferguson, Charlie Hebdo, & Me

If you don't like someone, love them. When love leads our actions, we will find ourselves in a better place to like the people we love.

Acts 1:8

DINE IN – Loving Out of Weakness

John 4:1-10

- Jesus “learned” (or “came to know”)?
- Was Jesus baptising disciples or not (3:26 & 4:1 VS 4:2)?
- Making (creating) Disciples (students/apprentices).
1 Corinthians 4:14-17, 11:1; Philipians 4:9; 2 Timothy 3:10-14; 1 Peter 2:21

The Meeting House exists to make disciples of Jesus.
Our goal is not to attract seat-fillers, but to train difference-makers.

- Jesus left Judea to avoid a confrontation with the Pharisees. He was stewarding his “Messianic Secret” until the right time to fully reveal himself.
- Jesus “had to” go through Samaria?
- Jesus was tired and thirsty. God really became flesh.
John 1:14; 2 John 5-7

- Jesus initiates, out of his vulnerability.
- The disciples are buying non-kosher, Samaritan food.
- Not only would religious Jews need to eat kosher, Jews don't touch non-Jewish utensils or else they become ceremonially unclean. And Jesus asks for a drink from her cup.
- She came at noon. For a reason.

Union with Christ means union with his Body. And when my identity is less in who/what I am and more in who/what I am a part of, I am free from the struggle for esteem — I am free to cheer for the whole.

TAKE OUT – Training VS Trying

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another
~ Jesus (John 13:34-35)

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT #1:

Fine someone to initiate love toward before sundown today. All the better if they are different to you and/or apparently alone in life. Tomorrow, try it again. See how many days you can remember to keep at it.

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT #2:

Spend time every day this week meditating on and expressing gratitude to God for our church and your home church. Find your life, your esteem in your place within a larger beauty.

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT #3:

If you're not in a home church, talk to your pastor today about joining.



Home Church Questions...

HANGOUT [Warming Up To The Topic]

1. How have you done with your homework?

HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture]

2. Read **John 4:1-10**.
 - a. What verse or idea stands out to you? Why?
 - b. How do you feel about the full humanity of Jesus, with all of his weaknesses? Does this encourage you in your faith toward God, or does it leave you skeptical, or something else?
 - c. The doctrine that Jesus "emptied himself" of his divine powers to become fully human is called *kenosis* and is primarily derived from **Philippians 2:5-11** where the word is used in **verse 7**. How could this doctrine encourage us to see Jesus as our example to follow and not just as our Lord to obey?
 - d. Baptism seems to be part of Jesus' disciple-making process from the beginning. Talk about your baptism story.
 - e. What advantage do you think there is in Jesus initiating his conversation with the Samaritan woman from the point of his weakness and vulnerability (Will you give me a drink?) as opposed to starting with his power and truth (I can quench your thirst forever)? How might we follow in his steps on this point?

HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together]

3. Who are your Samaritans? This should be a safe place to be honest. Who would you prefer not to love proactively? Who would you prefer to avoid?
4. Take a few moments to state the obvious – how do you think God thinks and feels toward your #3 group? Ask him to help you align your heart with his.
5. Review Sunday's homework again. Could you try it for another few days? But this time, challenge yourself to initiate love toward someone in the category you discussed in question 3. If you're unsure how you might go about doing that, brainstorm together with your huddle. As you live love, as you choose love, be open to God softening your heart to feel compassion and embrace for whomever you bless. Check up with one another and pray for each other throughout the week.

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Quotes...

Today we begin a new series that walks through the Gospel of John chapter 4. Our hope is to learn from Jesus how to love those we'd rather avoid.

The Jews wouldn't have anything to do with the Samaritans. They would, especially, not share eating and drinking vessels with them. And yet Jesus is asking this woman for a drink.

~ N.T. Wright, *John for Everyone*

The meeting of Jesus and this Samaritan woman at the well is a meeting of love.

~ Jean Vanier, *Drawn into the Mystery of Jesus*

Jesus broke with the tradition of His day and crossed a line by talking to this woman. While Jesus would never break a commandment or behave immorally, He routinely flouted (and sometimes appeared to take special delight in flouting) the nonsensical customs of religion.

~ Charles R. Swindoll, *New Testament Insights*

For Jesus, when there were physical or spiritual needs at hand, social and religious expectations became unimportant.

~ Grant R. Osborne, *Cornerstone Biblical Commentary*

Jesus' revelation of himself to this woman demonstrated that God's saving love knows no limitations; it transcends all barriers of race, gender, ethnicity, and religious tradition.

~ John MacArthur, *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary*

The church is asked to cross boundaries as Jesus does instead of constructing them.

~ Gail R. O'Day, *The New Interpreter's Bible Commentary*

When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?"

~ The Gospel of John