

THE COURAGE TO LOVE

September 3, 2017 John 13:34-35 by Bob Branch
Love That Changes Everything, part 4 of 4

BIG IDEA: Love is the primary indicator that Jesus' life has found its place in us, but it takes courage to walk that out. **Courageous love. The courage to love.**

"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." **John 13:34-35**

Jesus and the untouchable man (with leprosy).

1. **Courageous love enters the world of others and provides meaningful, healing TOUCH.**

"A man with leprosy came and knelt before him and said, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean."

Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" Immediately he was cleansed of his leprosy." **Matthew 8:2-3**

Who needs this kind of love in your world?

Jesus and the materialistic, young seeker (rich young ruler).

2. **Courageous love enters into authentic CONVERSATION with others, listens well, and inserts TRUTH with gentleness, mercy and understanding.**

Mark 10:17-22

"we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ" **Ephesians 4:15 NLT**

Who is in your world that needs you to engage in this kind of conversation?

Jesus and a close friend's death. (Lazarus)

"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. Then the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" **Jn. 11:33-36**

3. **Courageous love can experience and express a full-range of EMOTION and SHARES it with others.**

"Laugh with your happy friends when they're happy; share tears when they're down." **Romans 12:15** Message

Who needs you to sit with them; listen and enter into their pain?

Jesus and the Cross.

4. **Courageous love dares to do for others what they cannot do for themselves. It is COSTLY love. The ultimate courageous love expression is sacrifice.**

"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." **John 15:12-13**

"This is how we know what **love** is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters." **1 John 3:16-18**

Who can I love, like you, today? Give me the heart and the courage to love.

