



# LOVE THAT TRANSFORMS V

MARK 12:28–31

## MARK 12:28–31 (NKJV)

- <sup>30</sup>AND YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.’ THIS IS THE FIRST COMMANDMENT.
- <sup>31</sup>AND THE SECOND, LIKE IT, IS THIS: ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.’ THERE IS NO OTHER COMMANDMENT GREATER THAN THESE.”

# LAST WEEK – LOVE THAT TRANSFORMS

- **1. THE SOURCE** - CHRIST IS NOT ONLY OUR SAVIOR—HE IS OUR STANDARD FOR LOVE. BEFORE LOVE TRANSFORMS OTHERS, IT MUST FIRST FLOW FROM CHRIST.
- **2. THE NATURE:** PRACTICAL AND VISIBLE.; PATIENT WHEN PROVOKED; KIND WHEN UNDESERVED; HUMBLE, NOT SELF-SEEKING; ENDURING IN HARDSHIP...
- **3. THE OUTCOME:** CHANGES PEOPLE; CROSSE BARRIERS;... MOVES FROM FEELING TO ACTION

# 1. TRANSFORMATIVE LOVE STRENGTHENS THE CHURCH

- **EPHESIANS 5:1–2 (NKJV)**
- <sup>1</sup>THEREFORE BE IMITATORS OF GOD AS DEAR CHILDREN.
- <sup>2</sup>AND WALK IN LOVE, AS CHRIST ALSO HAS LOVED US  
AND GIVEN HIMSELF FOR US, AN OFFERING AND A  
SACRIFICE TO GOD FOR A SWEET-SMELLING AROMA.

# 1. TRANSFORMATIVE LOVE STRENGTHENS THE CHURCH

- THE STRENGTH OF A CHURCH IS NOT IN: ITS PROGRAMS, ITS SIZE, ITS RESOURCES
- IT IS IN ITS **LOVE**.

# 1. TRANSFORMATIVE LOVE STRENGTHENS THE CHURCH

- “THE CHURCH IS NOT A MUSEUM FOR SAINTS—IT IS A HOSPITAL FOR THE BROKEN.”
- HEALTHY CHURCHES: WELCOME THE HURTING, RESTORE THE FALLEN. LOVE THE IMPERFECT

## WHEN LOVE IS PRESENT IN A CHURCH:

- PEOPLE FEEL SEEN
- PEOPLE FEEL VALUED
- PEOPLE GROW SPIRITUALLY

## WHEN LOVE IS ABSENT IN CHURCH:

- PEOPLE LEAVE
- DIVISION INCREASES
- GROWTH STOPS

# 1. TRANSFORMATIVE LOVE STRENGTHENS THE CHURCH

- DOES YOUR CHURCH FEEL LIKE A HOSPITAL OR A COURTROOM?
- GREET PEOPLE INTENTIONALLY
- CHECK ON PEOPLE INTENTIONALLY
- CREATE A CULTURE OF HONOR AND GRACE

## 2. TRANSFORMATIVE LOVE CHANGES COMMUNITIES

- **MATTHEW 5:14–16 (NKJV)**
- <sup>14</sup>“YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD. A CITY THAT IS SET ON A HILL CANNOT BE HIDDEN. <sup>15</sup>NOR DO THEY LIGHT A LAMP AND PUT IT UNDER A BASKET, BUT ON A LAMPSTAND, AND IT GIVES LIGHT TO ALL WHO ARE IN THE HOUSE. <sup>16</sup>LET YOUR LIGHT SO SHINE BEFORE MEN, THAT THEY MAY SEE YOUR GOOD WORKS AND GLORIFY YOUR FATHER IN HEAVEN...

## JAMES 2:14–17 (NKJV)

- <sup>14</sup>WHAT DOES IT PROFIT, MY BRETHREN, IF SOMEONE SAYS HE HAS FAITH BUT DOES NOT HAVE WORKS? CAN FAITH SAVE HIM? <sup>15</sup>IF A BROTHER OR SISTER IS NAKED AND DESTITUTE OF DAILY FOOD, <sup>16</sup>AND ONE OF YOU SAYS TO THEM, “DEPART IN PEACE, BE WARMED AND FILLED,” BUT YOU DO NOT GIVE THEM THE THINGS WHICH ARE NEEDED FOR THE BODY, WHAT DOES IT PROFIT? <sup>17</sup>THUS ALSO FAITH BY ITSELF, IF IT DOES NOT HAVE WORKS, IS DEAD.

## 2. TRANSFORMATIVE LOVE CHANGES COMMUNITIES

- **JAMES 2:14–17** - FAITH WITHOUT WORKS IS DEAD.
- LOVE MUST BE:
  - **VISIBLE**
  - **PRACTICAL**
  - **ACTIVE**

# MICAH 6:8 (NKJV)

- <sup>8</sup>HE HAS SHOWN YOU, O MAN, WHAT IS GOOD; AND WHAT DOES THE LORD REQUIRE OF YOU BUT TO DO JUSTLY, TO LOVE MERCY, AND TO WALK HUMBLY WITH YOUR GOD?
  - YOUR COMMUNITY MUST EXPERIENCE CHRIST'S LOVE THROUGH YOU



HOW DO WE LOVE  
TRANSFORMATIVELY?



# 1. LOVE THROUGH COMPASSIONATE ACTION

- FEEDING THE HUNGRY
- HELPING THE NEEDY
- SUPPORTING FAMILIES

## 2. LOVE THROUGH JUSTICE AND MERCY

- STANDING FOR WHAT IS RIGHT
- DEFENDING THE VULNERABLE
- SHOWING MERCY INSTEAD OF JUDGMENT

### 3. LOVE THROUGH WITNESS AND LIGHT

- LIVING IN A WAY THAT REFLECTS CHRIST
- BEING CONSISTENT IN CHARACTER
  - TRANSFORMATION HAPPENS THROUGH **PERSISTENT LOVE**, NOT OCCASIONAL ACTS.

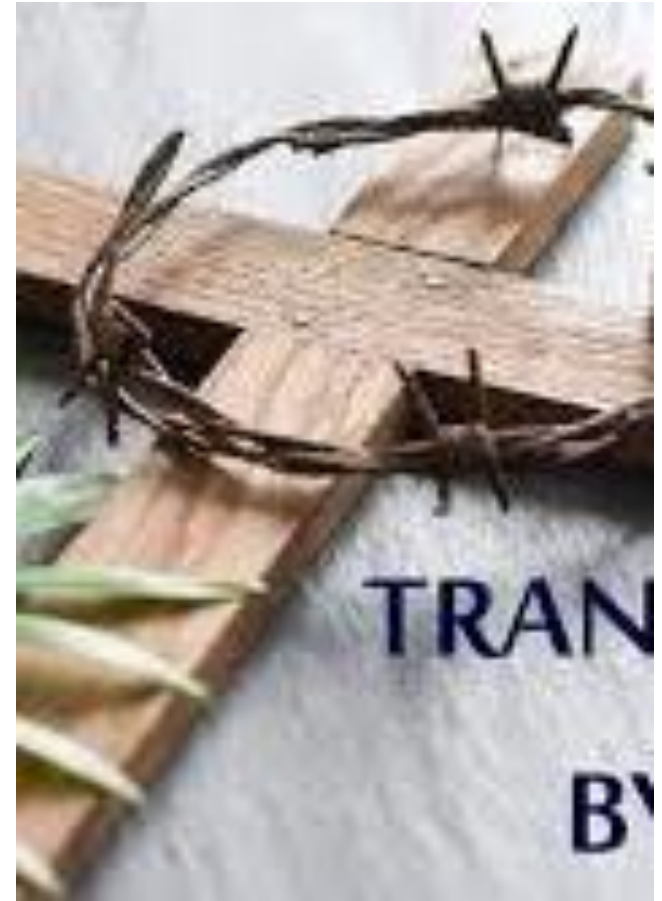
## 4. CHOOSE HUMILITY OVER PRIDE



- LET GO OF THE NEED TO BE RIGHT.

## 5. LOVE WHEN IT'S NOT RETURNED

- THIS IS WHERE LOVE BECOMES **CHRISTLIKE**.



- THE EARLY CHURCH DIDN'T HAVE: BUILDINGS, POLITICAL POWER, SOCIAL INFLUENCE
- YET THEY CHANGED THE WORLD BECAUSE THEY: CARED FOR THE SICK, FED THE POOR, LOVED THE REJECTED, CHOOSE SACRIFICE OVER COMFORT. LET GO OF THE NEED TO BE RIGHT. STOOD FOR WHAT WAS RIGHT. SUPPORTED ONE ANOTHER.
- **THEIR LOVE MADE CHRISTIANITY UNDENIABLE.**

# WHAT NEXT

- **START WHERE YOU ARE**
- YOUR HOME
- YOUR WORKPLACE
- YOUR CHURCH
- YOUR COMMUNITY



# OUR DECLARATION

- I WILL LOVE AS CHRIST LOVED.  
I WILL SERVE SACRIFICIALLY.  
I WILL EXTEND GRACE FREELY.  
I WILL BE A LIGHT IN MY COMMUNITY.  
AND THROUGH GOD'S LOVE IN ME—LIVES  
WILL BE TRANSFORMED.