

**The Fire of Compassion**  
Care & Compassion Expo – 2022  
Sept 24-25, 2022

**Introduction**

- **Set Up for Today** - We are currently in our Discovering Practical Christianity Series, where we are looking at how we BECOME the CHURCH and don't just hang out IN CHURCH. We've been walking through the book of James. This weekend we are taking a one-week break from our James study to focus on ACTUAL ways to get involved and to BE the church both in our community and around the world.
- **Ministries Here and There** - As you've heard, we have ministries that we partner with that are both around the corner and around the globe. Every year we want to take time to highlight those and invite each of you to connect and invest in the ministry that God lays on your heart.
- **But Why?** - But, before we get into all of that and release you to browse all the powerful opportunities, I want to make sure that we all are on the same page when it comes to our hearts and WHY we do outreach.
  - Why should we share Jesus with our friends, families and neighbors?
  - Why should we give of our hard earned money to help someone economically challenged?
  - Why should we support ministries that are helping people we don't even know?
  - Why should we alter our calendar to go on a mission trip?
  - Why should we be on the lookout for people struggling when we have our own problems?
  - Why, what's the point in serving?
  - Why should compassion pour from our hearts?

**Main Message**

- **Lance's Lesson – 20 min**
  - **3 Main Points for you today**
    - **1.) Compassion is the Heart of Christ**
      - **Good Samaritan Story – Lance Version**
        - **The Context** – what is the greatest commandment? Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength and mind. And love your neighbor as yourself. Desire to Justify Self: And who is my neighbor?
        - **Jewish Man's Trip with Robbers** – Jerusalem to Jericho road. stripped, beaten, robbed and left half dead.

- **Priest & Levite** – ignored the need.
- **Samaritan Didn't, so He DID** – “when he saw him, he had compassion...and so he went to him and...”
  - Stopped what he was doing and made this man's problems his own.
  - Personally bound his wounds
  - Put him on his own horse, took to an inn and took care of him all night
  - Next day paid \$ for more care.
  - Jesus said: Ya, do that.
  - I'm assuming that the priest and Levite weren't just psychopaths who didn't care about human suffering. I think they were busy. I think they thought nice thoughts. I think they may have even prayed for God to help him. But they didn't DO ANYTHING.
- **Natural vs. Learning Curve** - Some of you are softies; some of you, well, let's just say you struggle a little bit in this area.
- **Where does pain come from?** – it comes from sin and brokenness. Jesus came to address the effects of sin. He came to be a different king of King, one that didn't just care about those who could benefit His reign, but for all those in His kingdom that suffered. He
- **2.) The Deepest Motivation is Love**
  - **What do we do about the pain that is around us?** We respond. Why? Because we were in need and God loved us so much that He did something about it. He sacrificed His One and Only Begotten Son, to die on the cross for our sins.
    - **God didn't have to.** We caused the problems. We were the problem. But God's love was greater than our problems.
    - **God didn't do it for Credit.** Billions of people will shrug at God's offer of love and sacrifice to rescue them. He didn't do it for credit and affirmation.
    - **He did it because His love compelled Him too** – He could not have the true love for His creation that He had and see them suffer as they do and not do anything about it. That's what LOVE DOES! It responds.
  - **There are many motivations why people do good things.** There are tens of thousands of charities all over the world created by people that don't know Jesus Christ. Clearly, their motivation isn't Christian based.

- **If we only love and care for those we easily love, we are no different than the world.** God is asking for a deeper compassion, a deeper love. He's asking us to look at the type of love that He gave us and allow that love to transform our hearts into a fueling, overflowing love, that loves, not in reaction, but on purpose.
- **3.) Other People's Problems are Our Problems, Because They are God's Problems**
  - **Caring for the Least of These**
    - Jesus said, I was naked, hungry and thirsty, and you met my needs. When you did it to the least of these.
  - **The Head Gets to Direct the Body** – Jesus is the head of the church and we are the Body of Christ. Right? Then we don't get to do whatever we want to do, we have a mission directed from God above. We are on His agenda. He's interested in actively loving people and transforming the world. He is less interested in building our private kingdoms. So, as the Body, we are built and designed to serve His purposes.
  - **Callous Hearts & Blind Eyes** - If we turn a blind eye to true need, we have revealed the depth of our heart to be absent of God's love.
  - **The Miraculous Possibility** – but if we respond to the voice of the Holy Spirit and lean into the challenges that He wants to address, we get a chance to see Him move in the most powerful ways. The reason the Book of Acts is so exciting is because the Church was doing what Jesus and the Holy Spirit wanted to do, so there was power flowing continually.
- **Steiger Set Up** - We have here today some ministry partners and friends that live out what I'm talking about in a rather extreme way. Would you welcome to the stage, Aaron
- **Interview with Steiger Ministries – 10 min**
  - Lance sets up how we got involved with Steiger as they are walking out, after applause.
  - **Question 1 – What was the motivation and vision of Steiger initially and what drives it?**
  - **Question 2 – Why do you personally give your life for it today?**
  - **Question 3 – How does it work?**
  - **Question 4 – Give me one story of the power of God flowing miraculously in Steiger's efforts.**
  - Dismiss Aaron and team – to applause

- **Frontline Fire** – If you need some fire in your Christian life, some passion, some excitement, you **MUST** be involved in evangelism and ministries that are on the frontline of what God is doing in transforming lives. Early Christianity was fascinating. Just read the Book of Acts and it was full of adventure, complexity, trial and miracles. That's fascinating Christianity. If you want more of that in your life, if you want **FRONTLINE FIRE**, get involved in ministries that directly connect with those that don't know Jesus yet, or are brand new. It will fill you up and fire you up.

### **Conclusion**

- **For Those of you Online** – we have something just for you – so stay tuned. You are going to be able to engage with all that we have going on here, right from your screen.
- **For those of you in-house** – we are letting you out early so that you can have time, before you pick up your kiddos, to peruse the tables in the lobby that have all the different outreach opportunities that Bridgeway is involved in.
  - **Bingo Card** - Remember, there's a Bingo card to check off at the stations, and I've seen the prizes, you want to win.
- **Let's Pray for Our Time – and then Get Active AS THE CHURCH!**