No one has ever been better at loving people than the One who came and laid down his life as a ransom for everyone on the planet - Jesus Christ.

If you want to learn how to love, look at Jesus. And that’s what we’re going to do today - take a trip with Jesus and watch him radically love someone in a way that changes their life and their whole community forever.

I want to define what it means to love people Jesus-style...

**Loving people Jesus-style means looking for an opportunity to show love to a person, no matter how undeserving, in ways that leave a profound impression about God’s best, loving intention for his or her life.**

Let’s break that statement down a bit. To love people Jesus-style...

1. **Look for the next person to love.**

In Mark 4:1, we read that “a very large crowd soon gathered” around Jesus. That happened a LOT. Jesus had no trouble finding and drawing crowds. But Jesus doesn't just love the crowds and the masses. He loves each person individually.

We don’t change the world by declaring that we love everybody. We change the world by loving one person at a time.

*So Jesus LEFT the crowd to find the ONE. And we need to do the same.*
2. Get Over Prejudices.

Obviously, we should use caution when a situation feels threatening or dangerous. But we have to get past our stigmas, stereotypes, and preconceived ideas.

Mark 5:1-5 NLT

1 So they arrived at the other side of the lake, in the region of the Gerasenes. 2 When Jesus climbed out of the boat, a man possessed by an evil spirit came out from the tombs to meet him. 3 This man lived in the burial caves and could no longer be restrained, even with a chain. 4 Whenever he was put into chains and shackles—as he often was—he snapped the chains from his wrists and smashed the shackles. No one was strong enough to subdue him. 5 Day and night he wandered among the burial caves and in the hills, howling and cutting himself with sharp stones.

This was the kind of man nobody wanted anything to do with. He was alone, probably because of the influence of the demonic powers present in his life, but also because he scared people.

We often keep people at a distance and walk a large circle around them because of stigmas and stereotypes...

- The poor and homeless
- People with mental illness
- People who have been incarcerated
- People from a particular region of the world
- People of another religion
- People of a different ethnicity

Jesus moved toward messy ministry opportunities, and so should we.

You don't have to keep telling people what everyone else sees about them. Tell them what God sees about them!

Loving people is messy. It often requires taking time to get to know someone, getting involved in their life (and being willing to bear your own soul, too), and actively helping and serving them.

Mark 5:6-13 NLT

6 When Jesus was still some distance away, the man saw him, ran to meet him, and bowed low before him. 7 With a shriek, he screamed, “Why are you interfering with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? In the name of God, I beg you, don’t torture me!” 8 For Jesus had already said to the spirit, “Come out of the man, you evil spirit.”

9 Then Jesus demanded, “What is your name?” And he replied, “My name is Legion, because there are many of us inside this man.” 10 Then the evil spirits begged him again and again not to send them to some distant place. 11 There happened to be a large herd of pigs feeding on the hillside nearby. 12 “Send us into those pigs,” the spirits begged. “Let us enter them.” 13 So Jesus gave them permission. The evil spirits came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the entire herd of about 2,000 pigs plunged down the steep hillside into the lake and drowned in the water.

Jesus used his power to make a difference. You and I can do the same.

● If you have privilege
● If you have power
● If you have wealth
● If you have influence
● If you have resources

Then bring all that you have to bear on behalf of others.

Love people in tangible, high-touch, unforgettable ways.
Every time we
  1.) look for people to love,
  2.) get over our prejudices,
  3.) move toward messy ministry,
We ultimately show people how God feels about them.

We leave an impression, and that impression is influential.

The shepherds went and started telling everyone what they’d seen.
The man himself started telling everyone what he’d personally experienced.

We need to start more conversations, with our actions, that spread the good news that God loves, values, and wants to save every last person on earth!

Maybe you’re like the man in the story... rejected and forgotten, judged and ignored. But God sees you. Jesus wants to step into your life with healing!