

I. RoadVision: Impassioned.

Gee Sprague, Lead Pastor

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CrossRoad Church celebrates lives being redeemed and communities being transformed through authentic compassion.

A.I really have been surprised by the response to last week's message.

B.The good news is that I have heard the most from both ends of the spectrum!

1. After each service, I was excited that most of the people who introduced themselves to me were all around 25.
2. I felt it was an affirmation of the message.

C.I got an email from one of our more mature members.

D.Hi Gee, I believe that yesterday was probably one of the best services I have ever been to ANYWHERE!!! I think we as older members have a tendency to forget what our legacy will be. I enjoyed listening to the young people. It makes so much sense, because I know of churches that are still doing things the same old way with the same outcome year after year. Their congregation is diminishing rapidly. They do have money, but there aren't enough of them to make it worthwhile to spend. The chart you did, surprised me somewhat, because I didn't realize how few were members in my age bracket (70-79). Peggy Broach nudged me when you got to hers which was even fewer (80-89). I feel yesterday will have a strong impact on the 50 and up crowd. We will all understand why things are not the same as when we were growing up. I was in church every time the doors opened, but I was bored and I only went because my friends were there and I was expected to be there. I also was very close to my Minister and didn't want to disappoint him. I have never been bored at CrossRoad. Thanks again for making CrossRoad so special.
Verdie/Ducky

E.I want to say thank you to people like Verdy, Peggy Broach, Tom and Catherine Hastings, Margie and John Fiore, Bill and Norma Phillips, Fred and Sharon Stone....the list goes on...

F.I was watching Margie Fiore last week do the fist pump on Break Free and thought how cool is that.

G.It is great to see people responding to the vision!!!!

H.Our Vision statement today, and for next week may actually be the end result of the Vision itself.

II. Ultimately, Our vision is to be a Church that celebrates lives being redeemed and communities being transformed through authentic compassion.

A.That won't happen unless we:

B.*Invite people to 'come as they are.'*

C.*Inspire imperfect people to connect with a perfect God through a relationship with Jesus Christ.*

D.*Create a loving community for everyone.*

E.*Challenge one another to grow in faith and serve others.*

F.*Empower the next generation to lead.*

G.When we do these things, the end result will be a celebration of the redemptive love of Jesus Christ working in our lives to transform us to be able to love the world as Jesus did.

H. *(John 3:16 NRSV) "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.*

I.*(1 John 3:16 NRSV) We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us--and we ought to lay down our lives for one another.*

J.When John wrote his Gospel and his letters, they were not assigned Chapter and Verse. Those were assigned much later as the Bible began to be published and circulated for uniformity and to be able to identify passages quickly.

K.What a neat coincidence, or Godincidence that John 3:16 and I John 3:16 have a relationship.

L. John 3:16 expresses that God so loved the world, the people God created, that He would send His only Son Jesus to redeem us and to restore us to life eternal through His death on the Cross and Resurrection.

M. I John 3:16 then announces that anyone who has experienced the redemptive love of Jesus Christ, and knows the transforming power of the Holy Spirit, is now willing to lay down their life for others.

III. (Luke 7:36-50 NRSV) One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and took his place at the table. {37} And a woman in the city, who was a sinner, having learned that he was eating in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster jar of ointment. {38} She stood behind him at his feet, weeping, and began to bathe his feet with her tears and to dry them with her hair. Then she continued kissing his feet and anointing them with the ointment. {39} Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw it, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what kind of woman this is who is touching him--that she is a sinner." {40} Jesus spoke up and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." "Teacher," he replied, "Speak." {41} "A certain creditor had two debtors; one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. {42} When they could not pay, he canceled the debts for both of them. Now which of them will love him more?" {43} Simon answered, "I suppose the one for whom he canceled the greater debt." And Jesus said to him, "You have judged rightly." {44} Then turning toward the woman, he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has bathed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. {45} You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not stopped kissing my feet. {46} You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. {47} Therefore, I tell you, her sins, which were many, have been forgiven; hence she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven, loves little." {48} Then he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." {49} But those who were at the table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" {50} And he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

IV. We Celebrate a God who loves unconditionally!

A. Worship *proskuneo Προσκύνηω*: to bow low, fall at another's feet.

B. The Religious leaders didn't really understand that kind of love.

C. They really weren't in touch with a God who cared for them personally.

D. Their religious beliefs were based on their performance.

E. This woman had failed in every area of her life.

F. She did not fail to see the love of God in Jesus Christ.

G. That love brought her to her knees and she was overwhelmed.

H. I grew up hearing about a God who loved me in a personal way, but when we worshipped, most of the hymns were directed towards the all powerful, mystical, totally other God.

I. A favorite hymn sang, Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessèd, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, Thy great Name we praise.

J. There is a need for us to worship a God who is way beyond what our minds can conceive, but this woman represents so many in our culture, who for what ever reason have found themselves out of the circle of God's love, alienated, broken relationships, broken bodies, broken minds, broken hearts.

K. At CrossRoad, our vision is to Worship and Celebrate in such a fashion that broken people are made whole.

V. Redemption produces love!

A. {40} Jesus spoke up and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." "Teacher," he replied, "Speak." {41} "A certain creditor had two debtors; one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. {42} When they could not pay, he canceled the debts for both of them. Now which of them will love him more?" {43} Simon answered, "I suppose the one for whom he canceled the greater debt." And Jesus said to him, "You have judged rightly." {44} Then turning toward the woman, he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has bathed my feet with her tears

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B. Denarii are Roman Republican coins, originally cast in silver and worth 10 donkeys; known as a "penny" in the New Testament.

C. One Donkey about \$100

1. 50 Denarii about \$5000
2. 500 Denarii about \$50,000

D. Jesus asks, who loves the most when forgiven a debt.

E. The church answer is both would love the same.

F. Let's be honest. We have all been forgiven small debts.

G. There is always the idea that you could have paid it off. Sure there is gratitude, but not like the gratitude a person feels when their debt exceeds anything that could ever be repaid.

H. This parable identifies a very important aspect of the message of Jesus Christ.

I. All of us have a debt that we owe and cannot pay.

J. The religious people of Jesus' day aren't any different from those of today.

K. The Gospel of Jesus Christ has no room for self righteousness.

L. We try to justify ourselves before God by informing the Almighty that our debt is only \$5. Look at all those \$50k debtors. Surely I can work that off. What's the big deal about writing off that debt.

M. Let me put it this way. What is your love for God worth—5 bucks, or 5 billion?

N. Regardless of the debt, each one of us has to know that Jesus Christ paid the ultimate price for redemption, so each of us needs to love at the highest possible value.

O. The woman's love was obvious, not so with the Pharisees.

P. *CrossRoad Membership Profile*

1. Last week out of 30 people joining, 5 were by profession of faith and 12 were by reaffirmation of faith.
2. Yay God!

VI. **Redemption Transforms!**

A. The problem that many people see with the Government Bail Out that is being proposed to help such a large number of people with their mortgage debt is that statistics show that within 6 months, those people will be back in debt.

B. Trust me this is not a great comparison, because I think so many people have taken advantage of the system on both sides.

C. Even Jesus had to deal with this issue!

D. *{48} Then he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." {49} But those who were at the table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" {50} And he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."*

E. Forgiveness is a powerful thing, but often times people receive forgiveness but there is no evidence of change.

F. We see it in people who come through our doors all the time.

G. Jesus recognize this, so he says to the woman, *"Your faith has saved you; go in peace."*

H. Central to the message of Jesus is that His death and resurrection were a part of God's plan to transform us and our relationship with Him!

I. *(John 15:15 NRSV) I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father.*

J. Most of us want to relate to God as if He is the big boss. We work for Him and expect a reward.

K. Jesus says, I want a different relationship with you, that of a Friend.

L. *(1 John 3:1-6 NRSV) See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. {2} Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.*

M. John describes the relationship as now becoming Children, and what we will be has not yet even been revealed.

N. *{3} And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. {4} Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. {5} You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. {6} No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him.*

O. Eventually, those who are redeemed by Jesus, whose debt has been paid, start living a more faithful life.

P. We become much more careful to not build up huge debts of sin, but choose to live lives that are no longer ruled by sin.

VII. **Compassion means Sacrifice!**

A. *(1 John 3:16 NRSV) We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us--and we ought to lay down our lives for one another.*

B. Our end goal for people who are a part of the Body of Christ that meets inside these walls, is that we become a body of people who Celebrate redemptive love of Jesus, transformed by the power of the Resurrection and willing to love the world sacrificially, the way Jesus loved us!

C. We are Impassioned about the Celebrating Redemption, seeing lives transformed to share the love, the Compassion of Jesus Christ with all people.

VIII. The Lord's Supper

A. There are probably two ways to come to this celebration.

B. There are people here who are Self Righteous.

1. Caught up in the illusion that they really don't have a debt that they can't repay.
2. Caught up in the illusion that their own righteousness will make them right with God.

C. Then there are those who struggle to believe that God could still love them, and they know that their sin debt is as high as the national debt.

D. Jesus has called us to remember his Redemptive Love through His Broken Body, the bread, and His Shed Blood, the cup.

E. (Sing while passing out elements)

F. *We do not presume to come to this thy table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy table. But thou art the same Lord, whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to partake of this Sacrament of thy Son Jesus Christ, that we may walk in newness of life, may grow into his likeness, and may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.*

G. The Body of Christ given for you!

H.The Blood of Christ shed for you!

I.*The Lord's Prayer*

J.Worship