



# IMMEASURABLY *more*

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9 In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. 10 In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

-1 John 4:9-10

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## Mark 2:1-12

And when he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. 2 And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door. And he was preaching the word to them. 3 And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. 4 And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay. 5 And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." 6 Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, 7 "Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" 8 And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, "Why do you question these things in your hearts?"

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## Mark 2:1-12

9 Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise, take up your bed and walk’? 10 But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he said to the paralytic— 11 “I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home.” 12 And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, “We never saw anything like this!”

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## Ephesians 3:20-21

“Now to him who is able to do far *more abundantly* than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”

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## I. Love that willingly comes in all our mess vs. 1-2

Context: **Thus far Jesus has...**

- **proclaimed the gospel** of God (1:14)
- **invested in discipling** Peter, Andrew, James & John 1:17-20)
- **publicly taught** in the synagogue (1:21)
- **publicly cast out a demon** in the synagogue (1:25)
- **healed** Peter's MIL (1:30)
- **physically healed & cast out demons** of many in Capernaum (1:34)
- **continued preaching & casting out demons** all throughout Galilee (1:39)
- **healed** a man of leprosy (1:41)

*Jesus' ministry wasn't one of him existing at a distance in obscurity. He was actively involved in the mess of peoples lives.*

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## I. Love That Willingly Comes in All Our Mess vs. 1-2

And when he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at

**Peter's home? (Mt. 8:20)**

**Word spread — people looking for another miracle**

home. 2 And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even

**Advent love begins w/ revelation. Word preceded the work.**

at the door. And he was preaching the word to them.

***“Jesus did not come merely to visit us in our misery; He came to dwell in it, to take it upon Himself, and to redeem us from it.” -Sproul***

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## II. Love That Moves Through the Faith of Others vs. 3-5

**Paralytic's friends      Nothing he could do to get to Jesus**

3 And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. 4 And when they

**No excuses made to quit — they improvise**  
could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and

when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay.

**Faith here isn't mere theory — it's tangible & active**

5 And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven.”

***This is how the Lord works—He uses people, moments, conversations,  
& sometimes even interruptions to carry us closer to Jesus.***

***God does 100% of the saving—He simultaneously 100% uses us in His  
grand story of redemption.***

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### III. Love That Gives More Than We Request v. 5

**Not what he asked for but exactly what he needed.**

5 And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven.”

**Based on who He is & prophetically what He would accomplish on the cross—Jesus offered full pardon of sin.**

**Israel’s version of Messiah: A militarized zealot who would save them from the oppression of men.**

**God’s plan of a Messiah: A suffering servant who would save them from the oppression of sin.**

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## IV. Love That Acts With Divine Authority vs. 6-10

**nothing voiced out loud**

6 Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, 7 “Why does this

**punishable by death (Lev. 24)**

man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?” 8 And

**aka—Jesus knew their thoughts. Omniscience (all-knowing)**

immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said

to them, “Why do you question these things in your hearts? 9 Which is easier, to say to the

paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise, take up your bed and walk’? 10 But that

**Heavenly being appointed by God; Descended from heaven & Return in glory; Lord of all (Dan. 7:13-14)**

you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he said to the

paralytic—

***The story that begins in a cradle matters  
because it culminates on the crucifix.***

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## V. Love That Sends Us Out Changed vs. 11-12

**Carries out the mat healed that the carried him him sick—He was changed**  
he said to the paralytic— 11 “I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home.” 12 And he

rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all

**Worship should be always the response to divine love**

amazed and glorified God, saying, “We never saw anything like this!”

***Grace leaves evidence in our lives. Grace sees us as we are. Loves us as we are. But it sure doesn't leave us as we are—It changes us from the inside out.***

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## 1 John 4:7-11

7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9 **In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.** 10 In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11 **Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.**

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*2025  
Christmas  
Ornaments  
Available*



# CHRISTMAS EVE

*at the table*

DECEMBER 24TH | 5 PM



# NO SUNDAY GATHERING

DECEMBER 28TH

A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a large quantity of fresh blueberries. The berries are dark blue with a slight white bloom. The hand is cupped, and the background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting an outdoor setting. The overall tone is warm and natural.

# YEAR END *giving*

MUST BE POSTMARKED IN MAIL OR DONATED ONLINE BY DEC. 31ST

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**Leader:**

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

-2 Corinthians 13:14

**People:**

And also with you.

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