

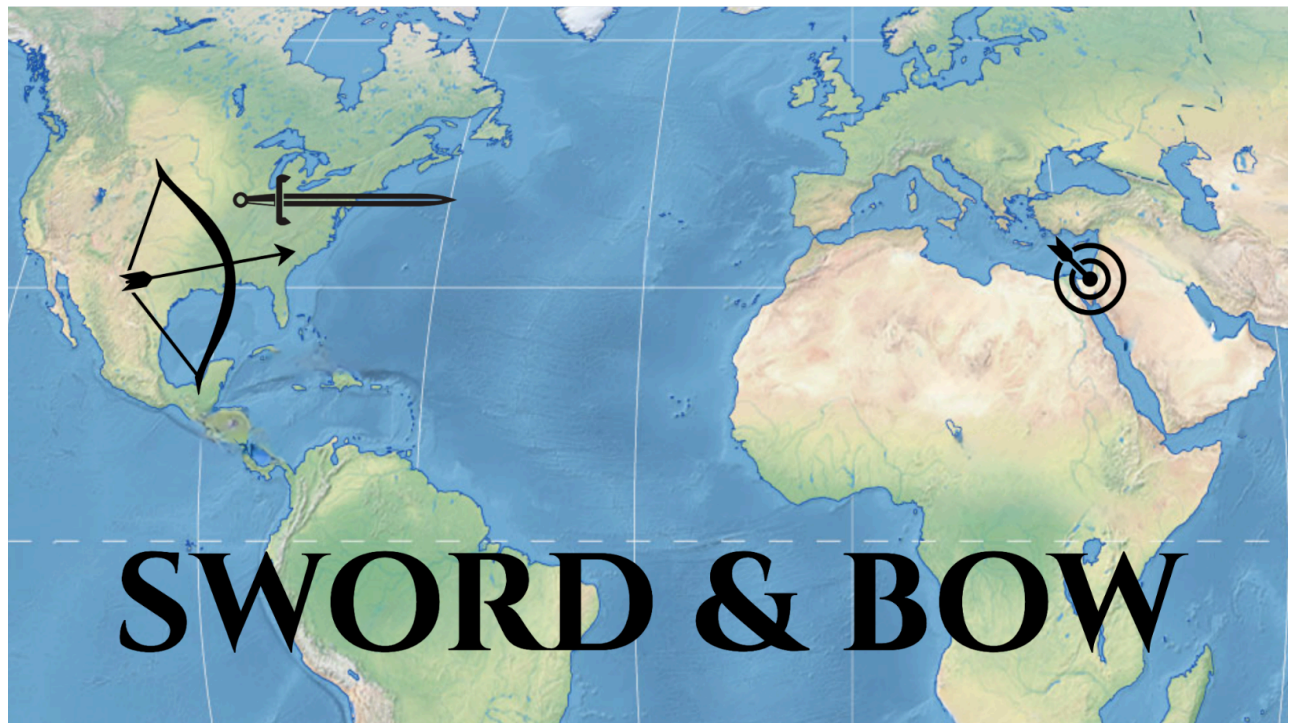
Bar Love

Saturday, December 6, 2025
11:52 AM

Good Morning Arising Church,

Let's begin with an announcement: Mohammed was a pedophile. Islam is evil, and Allah is the devil. There is no two-state solution and we are proud to be unapologetic Zionists. We hate Islam, but we **love Muslims** and want to see them saved and reconciled to the Promised Son of Abraham. We want to see Palestinians and Muslims call on the name of Adonai and declare that Israel belongs to the Jews so that God's chosen Nation can say "how did our enemy fall in love with the King of the Jews?".

We are on an exciting journey as a church.



We are engaged in a battle on two fronts. We are aimed with the bow towards the middle east and the 70 nations that are under the control of Satan and his

cohort. And, we are also armed with the sword—fighting the same battle here in Illinois against the spiritual powers.

*testimony from Tuesday?





Our dear brother Pastor Slaughter is currently in Texas at LCM. In an effort to bless the house that helped plant this one and the house that shaped the Slaughter family and so many of us here, we have sent them to be a blessing to our brothers for a few weeks. We certainly miss him, but we owe LCM a great debt and any chance we get to serve and bless them—we should take.

In light of the last several messages, here is a passage Pastor Slaughter shared with us on Tuesday while we were standing on top of Sears Tower.

- **Isaiah 44:24–26 (NIV)**

²⁴ “This is what the Lord says—
your Redeemer, who formed you in the womb:

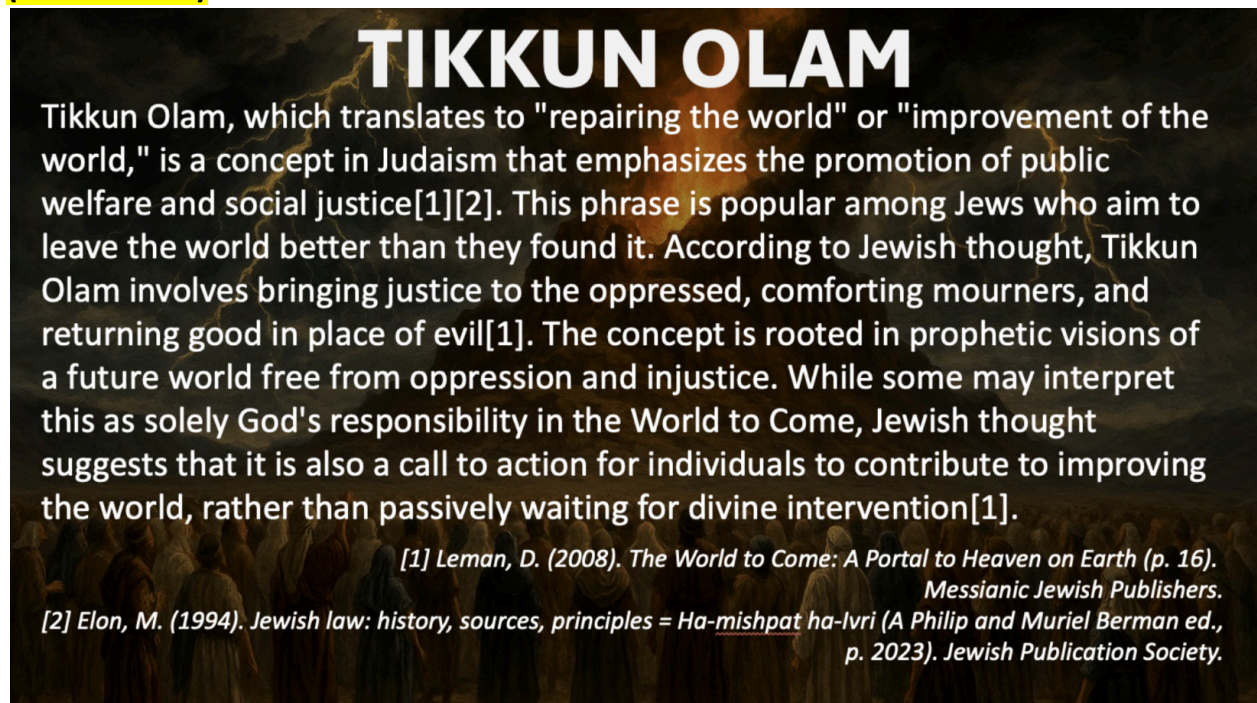
I am the Lord,
the Maker of all things,
who stretches out the heavens,
who spreads out the earth by myself,
²⁵ who foils the signs of false prophets
and makes fools of diviners,
who overthrows the learning of the wise
and turns it into nonsense,

²⁶ who carries out the words of his servants
and **fulfills the predictions of his messengers,**

What an incredible promise!! He will fulfill the predictions of his messengers! Saints, there is a supernatural confidence we can have when we submit our lives to the King. Our vision as the OAC is the heart of God, it is exactly what His aim has been the entire time—we are just realizing it more and more each year.

We were deeply moved by the study on Exodus 22—especially the concept of Tikkun Olam.

(READ SLIDE)



TIKKUN OLAM

Tikkun Olam, which translates to "repairing the world" or "improvement of the world," is a concept in Judaism that emphasizes the promotion of public welfare and social justice[1][2]. This phrase is popular among Jews who aim to leave the world better than they found it. According to Jewish thought, Tikkun Olam involves bringing justice to the oppressed, comforting mourners, and returning good in place of evil[1]. The concept is rooted in prophetic visions of a future world free from oppression and injustice. While some may interpret this as solely God's responsibility in the World to Come, Jewish thought suggests that it is also a call to action for individuals to contribute to improving the world, rather than passively waiting for divine intervention[1].

[1] Leman, D. (2008). *The World to Come: A Portal to Heaven on Earth* (p. 16). Messianic Jewish Publishers.

[2] Elon, M. (1994). *Jewish law: history, sources, principles = Ha-mishpat ha-Ivri* (A Philip and Muriel Berman ed., p. 2023). Jewish Publication Society.

This is truly our purpose as followers of Yeshua—the world is rot with sin and chaos, but WE ARE THE SOLUTION! The perfect Law is the great remedy of every generation in every location. Men and women who live out the perfect law will repair the world wherever they go!

Many Christians grew up with an understanding of this Law as being part of a different dispensation, or an old—worn out covenant. We even surveyed one of the most prominent protestants of all time calling it a "scourge" and "dispensation of terror." This is not Biblically sound.



We talked about how the ten commandments form a water shed where all other commandments flow and Jesus even summarizes those 10 commandments as Listen and Obey God (SHEMA) so that you can LOVE GOD and LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR...

In the past few foundations we have been hammering home that the giving of the law at Sinai was not only a marriage between the nation of Israel but it is called several times a "covenant of love."



Deut 7:9 says, that God is "the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love..."

And in vs 12 he connects these words (the law) that he was giving them, to his covenants that he swore to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the forefathers of the faith.

- ~1500 years before Jesus
- Didn't start with just Jesus and the cross...but also at Sinai

1 Ki 8:23-24 Says, there is no one like the Lord...who keeps his covenant of love with your servants who continue wholeheartedly in your way...

- ~1000 years before Jesus

Neh 9:32 says, the great God, mighty and awesome, who keeps his covenant of love...

- ~400 years before Jesus

Why is this called a covenant of love? Because he is a loving husband and father who wants his people's lives to go well and that they would live long in the land that he was giving them.

This makes it so strange that Christians for generations want to distance themselves from this covenant of love and would rather redefine it. Why?

- **Romans 8:5–8 (NIV)**

⁵Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. ⁶The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. ⁸Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.

Paul lays out a *peshat* truth: those who reject the LAW do so to please the flesh! Well, if you want to know what forsaking the Law looks like...we're living in it.

Do you all remember the message Mother's Remedy?

In it the pastors describe that the nation is like a train without brakes and is definitely heading for judgment...

And in the message, they outline 7 reasons that it is heading for judgment.

(DO NOT READ)

- 
1. Innocent Bloodguilt
 2. Sexual Perversion
 3. Leaders Loving Bribes
 4. Mocking True Messengers
 5. Corrupted Priests
 6. Abandoning Israel
 7. Cursing Israel

1. Innocent blood... Just as Israel provoked the LORD through child sacrifice, the modern practice of abortion is a massive debt of bloodguilt that cries out to God and can't be ignored. If he was willing to send his chosen people into exile, how much more are we going to be judged?
2. Sexual perversion... Practices in our day that are clearly condemned in the Bible are not only tolerated they are now celebrated and protected by our laws...
3. Leaders Loving bribes... I don't think we need to talk about the level of deception and corruption that is taking place at the highest level of leadership happening in our country.
4. Mocking true messengers... God's warnings through faithful voices are ignored, ridiculed, or silenced until judgment becomes unavoidable...
5. Corrupted priests... even Christians that are meant to represent a righteous standard are compromised by moral failure and greed.
6. Abandoning Israel... You all have seen and heard the continued cycle throughout history of the rise in antisemitism and Israel hate speech. It is happening again.
7. Cursing Israel... which grows into actively fighting against and cursing Israel. We just had a radical Muslim get elected as mayor of the largest city in America... do you think it is not possible for something like that to get into the white house?

All of this makes us want to draw away...we need to be set apart right? After all, we have something special here...

Just to give you an example, We were returning from the trip into the city, we were in a packed rush hour train and it was like a hearse, everyone on it was completely dead, completely absorbed by their phones and not saying a word to each other. We were the only ones talking and laughing... and I can easily get into the attitude of I'll just continue to fellowship with the brothers...I want to be found faithful when Jesus returns and not get entangled with the wicked.

The church at large has grown complacent in the rampant sin of this wicked and depraved generation. Righteous anger is deeply needed in the church towards wickedness and the Archonic forces at work. Praise the Lord He will come to judge the living and the dead and establish righteousness!

That is Jesus second coming! This is who our savior is. But what did he have to do first? What was the mission he left us with until that day?

- o **1 John 3:11–18 (ESV)**

11 For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. 12 We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him?

Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous. 13 Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you. 14 We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers.

Whoever does not love abides in death. 15 Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

16 By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. 17 But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? 18 Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

Before the 2nd coming of Jesus, there was the 1st coming and he has given us a command to love. He came to save sinners...

Last week we talked about being faithful over time while this vision is carried out. You want to be found faithful doing what exactly? Seeking and saving the lost by making disciples (the very solution to Mother's remedy was SONS).

Give the other example on the train of the man hungry for someone to talk to when we were talking about the word?

The passion and growth of this church's love for the Word has been undeniable. What we've witnessed is nothing short of a revival...a revival of love for the Scriptures, for truth, for the Law of God. It has caused a maturity in the men and women in this church that God needs us to have to accomplish the mission he is giving us.

But now comes the next work of God among us.

It is time for a revival of love for people.

Today's Message is titled:



Scripture is clear about a major reason why Jesus came:

- o **1 Timothy 1:15 (ESV)**

15 The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the **world to save sinners**, of whom I am the foremost.

You want to grow in love for others? First, never forget the state that you were saved from. You will have undeniable love and mercy for others if you have an awareness of your own sin and the mercy you have received.

Luke 7:44–47 (NIV)

⁴⁴ Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair.

⁴⁵ You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. ⁴⁶ You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. ⁴⁷ Therefore, I tell you, her **many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little.”**

Humility is the fuel for love. She knew exactly who she had been—and she knew exactly what she had been forgiven of.

If you have felt your love for people grow cold. If you have felt apathetic to the state of where people are at around you. You need to have a revelation of your own sinful state that you were saved from.

The act of her loving Jesus by washing his feet was out of deep place of love for him and a recognition of her own sinful state...but it was also, because no one was honoring Jesus as he should be honored. No one had greeted Him. No one washed his feet. No one anointed him with oil. No one had done the dirty work love requires.

If we truly want to love the Lord, we must love the people He created. We must love the least of these. We must learn to see them the way He sees them—oppressed, trapped, deceived, and abused by archonic powers. Not enemies to be avoided, but captives to be rescued...this is tikkun olam.

Jesus demonstrated this with his own disciples...

John 13:1–17 (NIV)

13 It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. **Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.**

²The evening meal was in progress, and the **devil** had already prompted **Judas**, the son of Simon Iscariot, to **betray** Jesus. ³**Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God;** ⁴**so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist.** ⁵After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

****Jump to 12****

¹²When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. **"Do you understand what I have done for you?"** he asked them. ¹³**"You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am.** ¹⁴**Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet.** ¹⁵**I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.** ¹⁶**Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.** ¹⁷**Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.**

Many of us have washed other people's feet as a way to show love and humility...and it is. But it is more than just washing people's feet...the point of why Jesus was doing this was because it was a dirty job that needed to be done and no one else was doing it...

How willing are you to do the dirty job? This goes for your brothers first...If you cannot humbly do what is necessary for one another...when it is uncomfortable, unrecognized, or inconvenient...how will we ever do it for those outside these walls? For the ones who maybe smell like urine, who are broken, unstable, or difficult to love?

Now notice what John tells us at the very beginning of the passage:

Jesus loved them to the very end.

- That includes **Peter**, who would deny Him.
- That includes the others who would flee.
- And that even includes Judas...the one the devil had already moved to betray Him.

How could Jesus do this? It says, he could love them to the end because He was settled in who He was. He knew the Father had given Him authority. He knew His origin. And He knew His destination.

Are you any different?

- You are seated with Him in the heavenly places.
- You have been chosen by God for good works.
- And your destiny is also secure if you follow Him faithfully and wholeheartedly.

When you truly know that, you can serve people who will betray you. You can open your home and your life, pour yourself out, and watch people walk away. And then...you can get up the next day and do it again.

Because this was never about being appreciated. It was about obedience to love people into discipleship and making the world a better place by making men and women better.

Jesus closes this moment with a command:

John 13:34–35 (NIV)

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples...”

This is the command we have received—from our Commander, our Lord, our Head, and our Friend.

As we set out to do the great call that God has given us in the FACE OF OUR ENEMIES...this is what we must be known by.

Peter tells us that faith is meant to grow—it must be *supplemented*, developed, and expressed. In **2 Peter 1**, we are given the shape of mature discipleship:

DO NOT READ - Nod to Jared's submission and the men who helped prep.

1. **Virtue** — moral strength; the courage to actively do good to those around you
2. **Knowledge** — a growing understanding of God's will
3. **Self-control** — bringing every desire under His authority
4. **Steadfastness** — enduring under pressure without compromising the first three
5. **Godliness** — imitating Adonai in every circumstance

And then Peter brings us to the culmination:

6. **Brotherly affection** — sacrificial, familial love toward the household of faith
7. **Love** — the same love, now extended outward to the world

The last 2... brotherly affection and love are the culmination of the list of Christ-like attributes we must be doing. If love is missing, discipleship is incomplete.

Jesus speaks to this directly:

John 15:12–17 (NIV)

¹² My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵ I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. ¹⁷ This is my command: Love each other.

Loving each other with a love that is willing to lay down your life. Love that obeys the father no matter the cost is a love that will rescue those out of the world. That kind of love is fruit that will last...

Which means our goal can't be simply converts and bringing people to church so someone else can disciple them. Everyone's goal must be to make lost men and women in the world as brothers and sisters through discipleship.

- o **1 John 4:19–21 (NIV)**

¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. ²¹And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

Your love for God **MUST** be shown as a love for people. Anything else is just self-deception.

Jonathan was a man that was willing to lay down everything for his brother because it was the will of God. He loved David as his own soul.

- o **1 Sam 18:3-4** “Then Jonathan made a covenant with David, because he loved him as his own soul. And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was on him, and gave it to David, and his armor, and even his sword, and his bow, and his belt.”

He gave up his Robe, a symbol of him surrendering his own aspirations and dreams and by all earthly reasoning, his rightful position and benefits, to affirm and get in line with God's plan.

He gave David his armor—his means of protection.

His **sword and bow**—As we know...they are the instruments to attack both near and far.

And even his belt—the piece that held everything together.

That belt points us to Paul's words in Colossians:

Colossians 3:12–15 (NIV)

12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with **compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness** and **patience**. 13 Bear with each other and **forgive** one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

14 And over all these virtues put on **love**, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

This is an incredible picture of love for David...it is no wonder that his armor-bearer, a man that was extremely close to Jonathan. You could even say a disciple of Jonathan would say in 1 Sam 14 :

1 Samuel 14:7 (ESV)

7 And his armor-bearer said to him, "Do all that is in your heart. Do as you wish. Behold, I am with you heart and soul."

This is what having a heart of love for God and love for your brother produces...other men who will also be willing to lay down their lives for the mission of God. The armor bearer had no guarantees, no promises, a high chance of dying and hard path ahead with no perceivable benefit for himself.

This is what love for God and love for a brother produces:
men willing to lay down their lives for the mission of God.

o **2 Samuel 9** - David and Mephibosheth

Everyone knows of David and Jonathon and even his son Mephibosheth but this could be a good example of loving someone in the family, especially those who can't repay you.

We should act like David in this matter because we were Mephibosheth at one point (verse 9), a dead dog.

See what David does in verse 11, treating him like one of his own sons

Starts out with David looking for anyone still alive from Jonathan's household to show kindness to. A servant from Saul's house says how there is one and he is crippled, so David brings him in. Mephibosheth calls himself a servant and yet David will treat him like a son instead. When we truly love people, even their family becomes our own; their sons become ours, their responsibilities ours and so on and so forth even when they have passed away.

You may read these and immediately begin to think about the brothers and sisters in this room and loving them. Which is true. If you do not love these people then your salvation is in question according to John.

In reality, that should be easy...these people are amazing.

Do you think the command to love was exclusive to those already in the family...

- o **Leviticus 19:34 (NIV)**

³⁴ The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the Lord your God.

Who are foreigners to us? Those not in this family and we are called to LOVE THEM. Let's remind ourselves of the testimony of the man who wrote this:

- o **Exodus 2:15-22**

Moses fled from Pharaoh and stayed in the land of Midian. And he sat down by a well. 16 Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters, and they came and drew water and filled the troughs to water their father's flock. 17 The shepherds came and drove them away, but Moses stood up and saved them, and watered their flock. 18 When they came home to their father Reuel, he said, "How is it that you have come home so soon today?" 19 They said, "An Egyptian delivered us out of the hand of the shepherds and even drew water for us and watered the flock." 20 He said to his daughters, "Then where is he? Why have you left the man? Call him, that he may eat bread." 21 And Moses was content to dwell with the man, and he gave Moses his daughter Zipporah. 22 She gave birth to a son, and he called his name Gershom, for he said, "I have been a sojourner in a foreign land."

Why go to the trouble for people he did not know? The Law was already on his heart 40 years before he heard it, he was treating a foreigner the same way he treated his own brothers.

What's amazing too, is this act of love actually resulting in the joining together as a family...Jethro gets to repay the act by loving Moses like a son.

The Law is meant to incline your heart, hearing of the sacrificial love and action Moses takes for strangers should incline your heart to want to do the same. Everyone wants to model Moses miracles, what about his love compassion?

Do you think this body could stand to actually love people more?

o **Isaiah 58:6–7 (NIV)**

⁶“Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen:

to **loose the chains of injustice**

and **untie the cords of the yoke,**

to **set the oppressed free**

and break every **yoke?**

⁷Is it not to share your **food** with the **hungry**

and to provide the poor wanderer with **shelter—**

when you see the naked, to **clothe** them,

and **not to turn away** from your own flesh and blood?

The prophets is always about warning your soul to point you back to the heart of the law, loving restoration. Isaiah is warning the religious who love religious activities...

They love to pray, they are seeking God, they are fasting...and yet they are not loving people.

God says, that is not the fast I have chosen...

The fast that he has chosen is tikkun olam through discipleship:

- Breaking yokes...meaning, walking with people long enough for them to see freedom.
- Sharing food...this is an obvious relational investment.
- Providing shelter... giving them a place of belonging.
- Clothe them... this is giving them the dignity that they have in Christ.
- Not turning away... this covenant loyalty

o **Psalm 18:35 (NIVUK84)**

35 You give me your shield of victory,
and your right hand sustains me;
you **stoop down to make me great.**

The writings is meant to direct your strength. What is the verse right before this one?

- o **Psalm 18:34 (NIV)**

³⁴ He trains my hands for battle;
my arms can bend a bow of bronze.

Before David was taking the discontented distressed and indebted and making them mighty warriors, Adonai was doing it for him.

It was Adonai who trained David for war and Adonai who stooped down to make David great. This is who our God is, and like David, it has to reflect in our actions.

**preaching point—when was the last time you did a sacrificial act for someone you did not know, or could not benefit from at all? When was the last time your love for the Lord and for the lost drove you to actually DO SOMETHING for someone else?*

How quickly have you given up on someone?

***Onar testimony...**

WORDS FOR "LOVE"

OLDER TESTAMENT	NEWER TESTAMENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong emotional bond and affection (aheb: emotional bond, affection: Gen 29:20) • Loyalty and covenant commitment (hesed: loyalty and kindness) • Language connections to WOMB and the care a mother has for a child (raham: Is 49:15) • It has connections to tending sheep and using it as the appropriate response when you want to hold a grudge but instead should treat them as you treat yourself. (red: Lev 19:18) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expressing affection and mutual interest. (phileo: John 11:3) • Beyond emotion that is willed on someone underserving of it. (agapao: 1 John 4:9)

Bruce B. Barton et al., Luke, Life Application Bible Commentary (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 1997), 156.

in Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament, ed. R. Laird Harris, Gleason L. Archer Jr., and Bruce K. Waltke (Chicago: Moody Press, 1999), 852

Love unfortunately has become an empty word in English. As you can see it took all of these words to try and describe the Love in the scripture. It appears over 400x in the Word.

Love is so much more than a hallmark card. It's so much more than how you feel about a certain kind of food or hobby. Love is the fuel for the Law, it is a covenant of love / it is the definition of who God is. God says of Israel in Isaiah 43:4 "ahavtikha" - I love you. We have ONE word for Love, wherein the Bible has to use several words to describe it.

As we have shown you, love for others has marked the scripture since the beginning. Jesus' teaching were not new concepts! Moses' loved the Hebrews and devoted his entire life to them, he also loved some unknown women at a well enough to risk his own safety for them. David and Jonathan shared a brother/covenant love that should inspire our own brotherhood.

The prophet's devoted their lives and reputation to the people of God out of love for them and obedience to Adonai. King David was made great as a lowly Shepherd by God and in turn made the least of these great warriors for Israel.

But there is an example of love we have not touched on. A type of love so rare, so uncommon it has baffled commentators for generations. A love so profound, it's usually misunderstood. A love so devoted, it causes the giver to devote their entire life to someone who did not deserve it. This love was originating in sacrificing and joining themselves to the unlovable, the rejected! Obeying God in a way that would be ludicrous to most Christians today.

Take a look at this passage from the book of Hosea.

- o **Hosea 3:1 (LSB)**

1 Then Yahweh said to me, “**Go again, love a woman *who* is loved by *her* companion and is an adulteress, even as Yahweh loves the sons of Israel, though they turn to other gods** and love raisin cakes.”

There is a prophet worth considering, who attached himself to someone so unlovable, it could have cost him everything, yet his love still echoes today. We may have given it away, but do you want to know whose love this is? No it's not Hosea...

It's Barnabas.

- o **Acts 4:36–37 (NIV)**

³⁶ Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means “son of encouragement”), ³⁷ sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles’ feet.

A Levite from Cyprus, this man named Joseph is introduced as forgoing all personal ambition, and wholly devoting himself to the Apostles. It seems as though they gave him the name—Barnabas. Which your translations likely says means "son of encouragement". We are not saying this is incorrect, but we are going to also present another possibility:

Barnabas: Bar Naba

BAR'NABAS (bar'na-bas; Gk. from Aram. barn-bû'â, “**son of prophecy**,” especially as it is manifested in exhortation and comfort).

Unger, M. F., Harrison, R. K., Vos, H. F., Barber, C. J., & Unger, M. F. (1988). In The New Unger's Bible dictionary (Rev. and updated ed.). Moody Press.

“The simplest suggestion is that “**ναβας (nabas)**” is derived from **נביא (nby')** (son of a prophet) or from **נביאתא (nby't')** (or **נביאותא, nby'wt')**, son of prophecy, inspiration” (Barrett, 1:259).

Aaron K. Tresham, “Barnabas the Apostle,” in *The Lexham Bible Dictionary*, ed. John D. Barry et al. (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2016).

Regardless of what exactly his name means, his character elevates him as one of the greatest examples in the New Testament.

Before Barnabas traveled the world preaching the gospel and appointing elders, he was first a disciple himself who gave up everything to follow Christ's apostles. He gladly gave up his land to pursue discipleship and the advancement of the Kingdom through the Apostles. Remember, Barnabas was a Levite, which means he would not have had any sort of inheritance of land that was given and passed down to him. Everything he had, he had to work for. This makes it all the more incredible his immediate willingness to sell what he had worked for and lay it at the feet of men who were about the Kingdom's business. This began Barnabas' discipleship process, and it is evident that he became a capable disciple who could then make more disciples by the time we see him in Acts 9.

- **Acts 9:26–28 (NIV)**

²⁶ When he [Saul] came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple.

²⁷ But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus. ²⁸ So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord.

Many cite Saul as one of the most influential men in world history. He certainly is one of the most well known figures in all of the Bible. Imagine you are Saul for a moment, reflecting on your own life. Who do you think he would have said was one of if not the most influential men in his life? Romans, Galatians, Ephesians, and all your favorite NT books do not exist without Barnabas.

Barnabas displayed the kind of love so radical, he believed in a man whom NO ONE ELSE did. He saw in Saul something NO ONE ELSE SAW. Saul's reputation was so poor, even Ananias doubts the angel that appears in his home. Saul's reputation was so poor, all the apostles whom had seen the resurrected Messiah did not have the faith to believe Saul was genuinely transformed and worthy to be called a disciple. When no one believed and saw Saul as anything other than a threat—Barnabas saw a son. And not only that, he saw a man who he would devote the rest of his life to.

- **Acts 11:22–26 (NIV)**

²² News of this [revival in Antioch] reached the church in Jerusalem, and they sent **Barnabas** to Antioch. ²³ When he arrived and saw what the grace of God had done, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts. ²⁴ He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord.

²⁵ Then **Barnabas** went to Tarsus to look for Saul, ²⁶ and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year **Barnabas** and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people.

How do you think Saul learned to be an apostle? Before Saul was traveling the world ministering the gospel, Barnabas was...

Barnabas was the one who went to Tarsus to look for Saul. He sought him out and brought him with him to Antioch. This was a notable journey...

Barnabas, after traveling from Jerusalem to Antioch, encouraged the body of believers there. He then proceeded on a journey of about seven days to Tarsus, approximately 142 miles away from Antioch.

This was not like Pastor Slaughter stopping by your house to pick you up. This would be the equivalent of **walking from Crystal Lake to Peoria, IL**.

It was quite the trek that Barnabas made for the sake of bringing Paul into ministry with him. *Mind you*, the church in Antioch was doing well! There was no recorded crisis that required Paul's urgent assistance. But Barnabas wanted Paul serving with him in Antioch and was willing to make a personal sacrifice to ensure Paul was there.

And consider this: there were no convenience stores along the way, no modern technology, no phones, FaceTime, or GPS.

For a whole year, they met with the church and taught about Christ. We often revere the greatness of Paul, rightly so, and we think of Barnabas as just the guy who was tagging along with him. That is far from the truth. This passage makes it clear that Barnabas brought a young Saul **in to his ministry** and discipleship to teach the church in Antioch for a whole year! We need to be more like Barnabas:

seeing the potential and call of God on those around us, taking them in, and discipling them to be better men than us. Let's go to Acts 14 where Paul and Barnabas have travelled to Lystra to minister and preach and have just prayed and seen a lame man to get up and walk!

- o **Acts 14:12 (NIV)**

¹² Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul they called Hermes because he was the chief speaker.

This statement is mind-blowing, but if you're not familiar with the Greek pantheon, you will miss the remarkable message behind it. Hermes was the son of Zeus, the messenger and spokesman of the gods. Zeus, on the other hand, was king of the gods— revered as the source of universal laws, defender of justice, guardian of hospitality, and dispenser of destinies. How powerful must the people of Lystra have viewed Barnabas to have considered him as Zeus and Paul as his son and spokesperson! Basically every Christian, and even non-believers, are familiar with Paul, since he wrote 13 books of the Newer Testament and had such an impact on the early Church, but almost nobody could tell you anything about Barnabas if they even recognized his name! This was not the perspective of the original audience nor the people of Lystra . They would have viewed the relationship between Paul and Barnabas as the relationship between a father and a son, and Barnabas as powerful as the king of the gods.

**paraphrased from Eerdmann's dictionary.*

We could spend all day talking about Barnabas, he is all throughout the Newer Testament.

ACTS OF BARNABAS

Acts 12:25–13:3 (NIV)

25 When Barnabas and Saul had finished their mission, they returned from Jerusalem, taking with them John, also called Mark. 13 Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. 2 While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” 3 So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.

Acts 14:23–25 (NIV)

23 Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust. 24 After going through Pisidia, they came into Pamphylia, 25 and when they had preached the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia.

Acts 13:42–44, 48–49 (NIV)

42 As Paul and Barnabas were leaving the synagogue, the people invited them to speak further about these things on the next Sabbath. 43 When the congregation was dismissed, many of the Jews and devout converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas, who talked with them and urged them to continue in the grace of God. 44 On the next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. 48 When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and honored the word of the Lord; and all who were appointed for eternal life believed. 49 The word of the Lord spread through the whole region.

Acts 15:12–14 (NIV)

12 The whole assembly became silent as they listened to Barnabas and Paul telling about the signs and wonders God had done among the Gentiles through them. 13 When they finished, James spoke up. “Brothers,” he said, “listen to me. 14 Simon has described to us how God first intervened to choose a people for his name from the Gentiles.

*elaborate as time allows

The fact of the matter is: the incredible reach of Paul's ministry would have never happened if it were not for Barnabas. Barnabas was willing to risk his reputation by advocating for him and bringing him along on his Apostolic mission. He preached with him, disagreed with him, suffered with him. Barnabas loved Saul, when no one else did, and the result—global impact. **THIS IS TIKKUN OLAM... Barnabas made the world forever a better place by pouring into Paul and making him a son.**

We want you to take a minute and try to imagine the most influential person in your life outside of family members. Begin to think of all the things they have taught you/sacrificed/etc. What would you NOT HAVE if you never met them, or if they upon meeting you did not care enough to try and help you?

Not only is that Saul without Barnabas, its someone outside of these walls without you.

The most powerful disciples aren't always the obvious ones. Often, they're the ones who simply were right in front of us, hungry, humble and in need of help—

that is where God can give supernatural love for them greater than anything you could produce on your own.

But like Barnabas, you have to be willing to try. You have to have enough love in you for others to go after the one no one else wants. You have to take the success of someone else as your responsibility and your purpose.

Barnabas built a stage so someone else could stand on it.
Barnabas devoted his life to the success of someone else.

How much capacity do you currently have to love the unlovable?

How far are you really willing to go for someone you don't know?

Evangelism is the initiation of discipleship. When you speak with a stranger about the gospel, does it ever enter your mind that this is someone you should desire to spend your life serving for the sake of the gospel? That's actually evangelism.