



**“Friend, your sins are forgiven.”**

***Luke 5:20***

***Reading Luke 5:1-26***

Some things are pretty simple when you watch them being done. However, they can be a little more challenging to learn how to do. Loving can be that way. That’s why we need to learn from the best ... Jesus! How can we go about fireproofing our relationships by loving like Jesus?

**Taking Steps to Love Like Jesus Involves ...**

**1) Thinking of OTHERS More than SELF**

**2) Making the FIRST MOVE**

**3) Taking RISKS**

***A “Loving Like Jesus” Challenge:***

***Wives/Husbands: Consider how to demonstrate love to your spouse this week in a way that is not self-seeking. Put his/her needs before your own. Pray for God’s guidance in this area.***

***Singles: Prayerfully select someone to whom you can demonstrate Christ-like love this week. Put that person’s needs before your own. Pray for God’s direction as you do so.***

***For Further Consideration this Week:***

***Monday: Meditate on Romans 12:10.* While this verse encourages demonstrating a “brotherly love,” it also emphasizes the Christ-like quality of honoring others above self. As you accept the “Loving Like Jesus” challenge this week, pray that God will show you how to honor others (your spouse, family members, friends, or neighbors) above yourself.**

***Tuesday: Read Galatians 5:13.* Paul says that our freedom in Christ should be used to serve others rather self. Confess any ways that you have been neglecting others, especially, your spouse and family members, in order to focus on your own desires—and pray for the strength to put others first.**

***Wednesday: Read Ephesians 4:2.* As you read this verse, pray that God’s Spirit will open your heart toward displaying qualities that reflect the unconditional love of Jesus to others—starting with your own spouse and other family members.**

***Thursday: Read Ephesians 4:32.* How does this verse describe what our behavior toward others should be? What should we do toward others? Why? Think about the motivation behind loving like Jesus!**

***Friday: Read Mark 6:14-15.* Forgiveness plays a big part in the exercise of unconditional love. Jesus indicates that we cannot claim to have received His love and forgiveness if we are not able to show it to others. Spend some earnest time in prayer, and ask God to reveal to you whether you are still harboring an unforgiving spirit toward anyone—especially toward your spouse in some area of your home life.**

***Saturday: Meditate on Luke 23:34.* As you read Christ’s words of forgiveness from the cross, consider the impact of that expression of love on your own life. Then, consider how to show that same kind of love to others by harboring a forgiving spirit. Take some action upon the “Loving Like Jesus” challenge!**