

Inside Out: Changed Lives, Change Lives

God's Compassion Toward Us: Oct 26 – 27, 2024

Welcome to the start of our new series entitled Inside Out: Changed Lives, Change Lives. In this six wk series, we'll learn about how our changed lives cause us to change the lives of others around us. And you have just heard from some of our missionaries who went out and were a part of changing lives. And if you ask them what motivated them to do so, they surely will say, it's because Jesus changed my life and I now wanna help change another for eternity.

We just finished a series, Stand up and Stand out, where we talked about making a difference in this world, we will stand out!, we will look and act differently from everyone else. And as we enter November, we enter the busy time of year where before we know it, it'll be Thanksgiving and then Christmas. And this is the time of year, we as a church plan some church without walls outreaches, where we go beyond these walls to engage those in our community, many who won't step inside our sanctuary, but surely need the touch of Jesus.

(Keynote). Show pics of the Youth Prayer walk & Food Distribution)

It's easy for us Christians to gather, sing some songs, hear a nice message, eat some refreshments and get inspired live out our Christian faith. And we've been learning how to love those in our ohana. How to live in community where we become ohana to one anodda!

This is what John says to us, "Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions" (1 John 3:18 NLT). **(Keynote)**

You've heard the saying he or she's "all talk and no action" kind of person.

Love is not just feeling you have. Love is an Action. Love is something you do!

I remember my faddah telling me, “Eh, you **only mouth**, you betta do um”. So from the words from my faddah, so tell the person next to you, “No be one “only mouth Christian”. Tell the other person, Love is an Action. (**SHOW PICS Keynote**)

I’ve been in a months long home renovation project. Some good church braddahs, showed love in action by helping me change out my windows. And when we first started I was so sore and exhausted. Why? I wasn’t used to that kind work. I was flabby and weak. Gayle said, “okay if we hire someone to do our windows”. And I said nope, “I’ll trust God to help me”. And thank God, the project was completed albeit in several months. To do this project, one braddah loaned me his scaffolding and he didn’t need it back soon, so I asked if I could use it to paint my house and I’m almost pau and I’m gonna be sad. I saved not only the cost of hiring out, but it was like having a gym membership cuz I’m lean and mean again.

The point is this, love in action is like a muscle. We have to use our muscles and yes, at first might be hard, tiring, and we’ll be flabby at first. But once you use your muscles to go out and show love an aloha to those around you, not only will your compassion muscles grow, but you’ll see the people around you get blessed because you extended your muscles of compassion to help those around you. And who gets blessed the most. It’s us.

Speaking of that I’d like to share a couple of praise reports of how God showed up in our ohana. One couple had their car die. And had no funds to fix it or even buy another one. Well, not even two wks go by, someone donates them a car.

Another praise report, formerly buss up people helping other buss up people get whole again. (Kawasugis, Llantos, and Agdinoays)

The hook of the message: I'm so proud to be a part of our church ohana where we've so good about showing love in action fo one anodda. We are not "only mouth Christians" to each other. We take care of one another in need, extending ourselves by giving of our time, talents and treasures. How many of you have been blessed, made good inside cuz somone in this church extended love to you? Now with that love in action we've experienced inside our church house, how do we take that outside to those outside our ohana. It's one thing to extend love to ohana, but what about those who are outside, ones who may look and think different than us, ones who smell different than us. Now, that's the challenge Jesus wants us to wrestle with in this series.

If we have been changed on the inside, can we truly make a difference on the outside to the very ones outside of our comfort zone?

(Synopsis) Today, we pass them everywhere we go. From the person sitting on a lonely bench to the coworker who is silently struggling. The needs are all around us. It can feel overwhelming at times, like we'd rather tune it all out. How did Jesus respond to the overwhelming needs of the people around Him? What was His response to those in need? How was Jesus able to meet the needs of so many while never running dry? In this series we will discover the secrets to seeing people the way Jesus does and loving them the way He would (That's directly from the synopsis for our series)

I'd like to feature this one story that Jesus told to teach us about loving those like he would. But before I do, let me ask you this question "in the bible, do you know

what the main, the most important teaching, command is and what is the 2nd most important teaching?

Most of you know this. And when Jesus was asked the question by a religious leader, and I shared the question in Hawaii Pidgin, “Teacha, wat I gotta do fo get da fo real kine life dat goin stay to da max foeva?”

Other English translations renders this question “Teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life?”

And Jesus responds to the religious leader and asks him, what does the law of Moses say about that? AND just like you answered me when I asked you the question of what the greatest commandment is, that’s how the teacher answered, with that same teaching directive, Love God and love your neighbor as yourself.

But the teacher wanted to challenge to Jesus. So Jesus tells this story. And many of you know this story as it’s even known by those who don’t know Jesus like you and me. But I’d like to challenge you not just to know the story, but to live out the main point of it. Got it!

Before we start, I have some pre-listening questions for you: **(Keynote & place questions after the video too)**

- Who are the main characters?
- Why are the backgrounds of the characters important to this story?
- Who was the hero of the story and what did he do?
- What was the question Jesus asked the religious teacher about the story?

What's this story? It's The Good Samaritan story, Da good guy from Samaria story, Since most of you know about it, we go listen to it local style. You ready? **Show video:**

Go make lidat too! Wow. (Go over Qs)

Who are the Buss up people in our lives today? Who are the Religious leaders and Levites today? Could those religious guys be us too. All good intentioned, but not having the pity, compassion to help those around them, even if it's so obvious. Reflect upon how the Samaritan saved the guy. He inconvenienced himself big time and made sure the guy was healed. How many times do we fall short and not extend ourselves because we'd have to go out of our way. Humbug dat we tell.

This was an "In your face" story for the teacher of the law who asked that question. You notice, he couldn't even say "The Samaritan". He tells "da guy dat had pity fo him", da buss up guy. Jesus so wanted to expand the eyes and heart of the religious leader to challenge him for his compassion/his pity to extend to everyone, beyond the walls of his inner circle of ohana.

Jalike us, we have been shown to be faithful to take care of our own, but what about those far outside our inner circles.

Was easy fo gather in Mililani Mauka for church services for the Mililani congregation , cuz it's a bed town community. We don't see homelessness up there. You gotta have a little more money to live in that community. But here in this part of Wahiawa, we see more of the "needy" here. And when we came out of Covid, some of the Mauka congregation didn't come here. I think God is using this time to open our hearts to the needy cuz when we build back in Mauka, and

I'm not saying we close down this location, but there will still be the "needy". Just that the needy will look differently. And it will still require us to have great compassion and love to see behind the nice houses, beyond fancy clothes, and expensive cars people drive. Just because people have all those material items, that doesn't mean not needy. At times, those people are more needy cuz they put their security in the temporary, not the eternal. I can speak like this cuz I live in that community.

We are gonna learn in this series how to show pity, in other translations, the bible says, show love and compassion over others. So we'll gonna talk about how can we have that love and compassion of Jesus for others. And if I can leave you with anything today, I wanna say this, unless you've experienced the love and compassion of Jesus, hard for you to muster the love and compassion for others. If one truly has been touched by Jesus love and compassion for you, how he's forgiven you from past wrongdoing, healed you from your wounds, carried you when you couldn't be carried, then from that experience, you **are able to** have the same love and compassion for others. And others beyond our ohana and truly love from the Inside Out, out to those far from what we look like.

You see one way of viewing this story that we just learned from is this. Jesus himself is the Good Samaritan and who is the bus stop wounded guy? That's us.

And we as a church will organize some key beyond the walls of our church events for us to show love in action. Cuz we don't just wanna be all mouth Christians.

We'll cover in this series, seeing through the Eyes of Jesus and learn about our savior's compassion, and learn how to love without running dry, we'll show how to love by being generous, especially in the Thanksgiving season, and we'll talk

about this compassion culture we want to continue to establish in our church ohana.

In this series, we'll have several important church initiatives for you to participate in to grow your compassion muscle. **Fall Fest** (We need more people to set up their trunks and serve) That's this coming wk. Then we'll have **Give Thanks**, let's show compassion in action! Let's get out for that.

(Wear Give Thanks shirt under my aloha shirt and then take off my aloha shirt to show da Mahalo Plenny Shirt) (**Show Yellow Hibiscus**)

Have ushers pass out cards: This is one of the designs the HPBM design team has come up with. And get others. The yellow hibiscus, our state flower, Mao hauhele, includes the QR code to get you to the HPBM website. You can listen and watch videos of the bible in HP. How many of you like this shirt? We doing presale after the service. Cheaper than online \$20.

End with reflection/benediction:

I don't want to end without giving you a chance to respond to the compassion Jesus has for you. Like in that story we learned from, Jesus doesn't walk past you and ignores you. He stops, has pity on you, he say what an inconvenience to help you, and carries and mends you back to wholeness if you allow him to do so. But first you have to acknowledge that you're buss up. Maybe not robbed and beaten like the Jew guy, but relationally, emotionally, maybe you even have every physical thing in the world, but something's missing and you feel buss up on the inside. Well, allow Jesus to be your savior to save you fo build you up cuz you buss up. Let um build you up!

That's where it all begins. We all need to acknowledge we are buss up with our wrongs and stinking thinking and need a savior. Unless you see that, you won't

see a need for our savior. I want to extend an invitation to you to trust Jesus to be your savior. Is there anyone like that here today?

Benediction: Why do we want to be Love in Action Christians? Because we wanna show how awesome Jesus is and connect everyone to him. It's all for You, Jesus"

Glory and Beauty.

Ohana Group Discussion Questions:

1. What did God highlight from this message to you?
2. Reread and meditate on the truth of 1 John 3:18.
3. Has God highlighted any bus-up people in your life? What would love in action look like for you to help these people?
4. Reflect upon how bus-up you were before Jesus and how God used someone(s) like the Samaritan in Jesus' story to bring you to wholeness. Can this reflection motivate you to do the same for someone else?
5. Pray for each other to open their heart and eyes to opportunities to put love in action this week.