

CHRISTIAN EXTREMISM

EXTREME LOVE

December 6, 2015

1. Prayer:

"God the Holy Spirit, in a world filled with extremism, would you empower us to love with the eternal, all-powerful love that we've been loved with by God the Father through the Lord Jesus. We want this to happen in us and through us so You can be glorified, we can be transformed, and lost people can come to know You. In Jesus Name, Amen."

2. What do you think of the statement, "Our world is filled with extremists. Jesus is calling for Christian Extremism this Christmas. Our weapons are not bullets or bombs, but forgiveness, love, and mercy"?

- Read Matthew 5:43-45. Did Jesus make a suggestion that we are to "love our enemies" and "pray for those who persecute" us, or was it a command?
- How does this change your life? (Be thinking about who the "enemies" are in your life that you can start praying for—maybe it's someone who has hurt your feelings? Betrayed you?)
- As a result of loving our enemies and praying for those who persecute us, what does Jesus say happens to us?

3. Read Mark 2:1-12.

4. Pastor Derwin asked, "How far are you willing to go to love someone into Jesus' Kingdom?" What are you willing to do to reach people who do not know Jesus? Read Mark 2:1-3.

5. Pastor Derwin said, "When you receive Jesus' extreme love, you desire to love people with His extreme love."

- Discuss this statement. We can assume the four men experienced Jesus' love, so they were desperate for the paralyzed man to experience that same love from Jesus.
- Can you share an example from your life where God, as a result of His love towards you, has changed your heart towards someone else?

6. Pastor Derwin said, "Christian Extremists care about people's physical and spiritual problems." Read Mark 2:4-5. How does this affect your life?

7. Read Mark 2:8-12.

- By forgiving the paralyzed man's sins and proclaiming to be the "Son of Man," Jesus is declaring that He is God and Israel's Messiah (Daniel 7:14). As Christians, we believe that He reveals Himself in Scripture as the Father, the Lord Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. This is why we baptize people in the Name (singular) of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (plural).

8. Will you be a Christian Extremist?

- Who are the lost ("spiritually paralyzed") people in your life who you can pray for, care for, share the Gospel with, and invite to TC?
- Close by praying for them.