

Fil-Am Community Church
Barry Black
6 March 2016

Good morning Fil Am! I want to welcome our visitors and all of you to our continuing series on sermons from the book of “The 5 Love Languages” from Gary Chapman. The Song that I came in on was the Theme from the 1980s top TV show “The Love Boat” sung by the extremely well-traveled and talented Jack Jones;

Now today I am taking you on a Cruise; SO HERE WE GO; TURN TO YOUR NEIGHBOR ON YOUR LEFT AND TELL THEM “I am going on a cruise – Join me” Now Turn to your right and say “I am going on a cruise with you.” Now hold on – Don’t get me in trouble here.

The Captain of this series “The Love Boat”, who tipped his hat to us each weekend and gave us his signature salute, was an actor named Gavin MacLeod – As Captain Stubing He took over the role at age 46 and today, at 86, he is one of the most recognizable actors in history; His actions during this series (1977 to 1987) were many and varied;

Few people know this but Mr. MacLeod became a Born Again Christian when his Mother developed a cyst on the left side of her brain. In her 70s; and in need of an operation... the doctors didn't know if she'd make it thru the operation or wind up a vegetable. The morning of the operation he woke up in a big beautiful bedroom in Beverly Hills, thinking, the bigger the house the happier he'd be, and he states; “you can see where I was”. And he prayed to Jesus “that if he would give my mother more time I'd turn my life over to him.” This was in 1984 – following this he reunited with his wife, Patti, of 8 years.

Right after the operation on his Mom he states “something told me to call Patti, my wife. I didn't even have her number. I got it from my secretary. It was September 15, 1984. I called and she picked up. I said, “This is Gavin, can we be friends?” She said, “That's all I ever wanted,” and then I'm asking to see her. She invited me over for dinner. The following Monday I get down there. I knocked on the door and she opens it and says, “I'm sorry Gavin your dinner's cold. It's been waiting for three years.” She is really something else!”

Mr. MacLeod states that The Love Boat theme is ALL ABOUT JESUS LOVE FOR US - It is how He loves us and how His Love provides for our continued adventure with Him!

Listen to the words: I have and can see exactly what he means:

Love, exciting and new
Come aboard. We're expecting you.
And Love, life's sweetest reward.
Let it flow, it floats back to you.

The Love Boat soon will be making another run
The Love Boat promises something for everyone

Set a course for adventure, your mind on a new romance.

And love, won't hurt anymore
It's an open smile on a friendly shore.
It's LOVE!
Welcome aboard
It's LOVE! LOVE! LOVE!

In fact; One of the things He states he began doing when asked to speak about his being born again and his experience on the show was this; [DEMONSTRATION OF TRIANGLE FOR WITNESSING] Mr. MacLeod states that you can clearly see when you make the heart shaped triangle with your hands that, if you get this three way relationship right, Jesus is at the top and he solidifies the two end corners of the bottom of the triangle, where you and your mate are. And yes, once this love flows it Will flow right back to you!

As we have discussed previously, the Love Languages show us how each of us Feel Love; It may be Words of Affirmation; Physical Touch; Quality Time; Receiving Gifts; or the one we will discuss today: Acts of Service.

And, as we go over what these Love Languages are, and how they are manifested by our actions, our expressions of Love, and our activities, I want you to see something very special:

How God - in the person of His one and only Son -Jesus - modeled these actions - activities - and expressions for us when He came to earth to show us One Thing:

How God Love us so Very Dearly!

So, today on our journey thru the Love Languages - I want you to see the many ways/Examples that Jesus did just that; Showed us His Love thru Acts of Service;

But, First: What are Acts of Service?

How are they shown? How should we act when we perform them? And what behavior should we show when we perform acts of Service for our Loved ones and those to whom we are displaying our love?

Acts of SERVICE; According to Gary Chapman these are actions that speak louder than words; they are acts that allow us to say very demonstrably "I love you!" and mean it.....

Now listen up....If acts of service is your spouse's primary love language, nothing will speak more deeply to him or her emotionally than simple acts of service.

A woman who had been married some 15 yrs. came to Gary Chapman's office one day and said; she was frustrated with her marriage. She said: "I don't understand my husband David. Every day he tells me that he loves me, but he never does anything to help me. He just sits on the couch watching TV while I wash the dishes, and the thought never crosses his mind to help me. I'm sick of hearing 'I love you.' If he loved me, he would do something to help me."

Yes; and even though her husband, David, loved her, he had never learned to express his love in a way that made her feel loved.

She was emotionally drained as David could not quite understand; "the way to Her Heart was showing her he loved her by doing those things that demonstrated this.... Many times when we talk about this emotion we say "Put your money where your mouth is.... Put feet to your words..... Don't just tell me you care, SHOW ME!"

It can make a world of difference.... And, I want to clue you into this particular Love Language;

Here is where it really makes a difference.... You want to do acts of service "naturally"; You do not want to make a big deal of it... and not make a demonstration of it to your mate.... Hey, Look what I just did for YOU!!!! I took the trash out; I took your car and filled it up with gas; I cleaned out the garage; I took the kids off your hands so you could go shopping; I;I; I; I;.....NO - Do not do this.

When you express LOVE to your mate thru Acts of Service you want to just act in accordance with the Nike Slogan.... JUST DO IT!

Why? Because as we read in scripture... "4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices

with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. 8 Love never fails.

Now... When you get this down... and you are truly a General at performing Acts of Service, what will happen?

Your spouse, or significant other, will recognize that you truly love her/him.... You truly care and you do not hold things over her/his head - You do not keep a reason of wrongs or rights!

And Love will manifest itself in the relationship. God – Who is the Author of Love - will set things up for you that you could never do on your own; But first we must GO FORWARD AND ACT [THAT is why it called an ACT OF SERVICE] – And, by doing so, God will put it together – in one neat little package – as there is A Time – A Place – and A Blessing associated with Caring for Your Soul Mate.

Now... Is Gary Chapman on to something here? How did Jesus Himself show us the Love sent down from heaven's throne?

1/God showed His love for us by doing seemingly small things/small acts that produced awesome results but - I want you to see something here – WHEN WE DO ACTS OF SERVICE, NOTE: THERE IS A TIME – A PLACE – AND A BLESSING THAT COMES WHEN IT IS MOTIVATED BY L-O-V-E !

Many of these acts were conspicuously small but they made a big - big difference.

Such as the time that Jesus took a small boys lunch, consisting of five barley loaves and two fish and fed 5000 men - besides the women and children.

"We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish," they [the disciples] answered.

18 "Bring them here to me," he said. 19 And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. 20 They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. 21 The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children. [Matthew 14:17-21 NIV]

Note something special here; In Leviticus, Chapter 9, God establishes the Mosaic Covenant and institutes the order of service, along with the tabernacle and the Aaronic priesthood. This is exactly what Jesus does: He first takes the items: the 5 loaves and the

2 fish, blesses them IAW God's Blessing; sanctifies them for service as a blessing to the people; gives them to His Disciples; and has His Disciples provide them to the people; He does this in a very orderly manner to prove a point – This is how it is to be done when you have a problem and need God's Blessing to solve it. An orderly means to solve ANY Problem in Ministry!

The Time: Just before Jesus preached; a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the signs he had performed by healing the sick. 3 Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples. 4 The Jewish Passover Festival was near.

The Place: At the hill overlooking the Sea of Galilee [Tiberias] [just south of the Benedictine Tabgha church]; A serene place where Jesus could stand and be heard for a long way off.

The Blessing: To demonstrate the Power of God to 1/ Take care of His people; 2/ To show His disciples that they have the power with God's Blessing to Overcome and 3/ To demonstrate that God is into the details - nothing is too little for God to be on the scene and "Taking care of business." Also – when He instructed the disciples to take up what was left over they [disciples] took up how many baskets? – 12 - how many disciples were there? 12 – Isn't that a coincidence? 12 is the number of completion, the number of Government and appears many times in the Bible; The New Jerusalem will have walls 12,000 Furlongs square; Walls 12 times 12 or 144 cubits high; A city made up of 12 gates, each made from a solid Pearl [12 in all]; There were 12 Apostles; 12 Disciples; and there will be 12 plus 12 or 24 elders in the New Jerusalem.

[When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." 13 So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.]

A small act – feeding a large crowd - done as an Act of Service to demonstrate God's Love and it had special significance.

Example 2: The story of the Woman at the well; Note here that this woman is "Nameless" Why is she Nameless? Because it doesn't matter who she is - It only matters that she is ---- Think about that – some of you are looking at me and you are going "What is he talking about?" That She is - You will get this in a second when you think about it.

The Story: The Gospel of John - the nameless Samaritan woman at the well, recorded only in the Gospel of John, is a revealing one; full of many truths and powerful lessons;

John 4:4-42 Jesus has a conversation with a woman – a Samaritan woman – who had come to get water from a well [known as Jacob's well] about a half mile from the city of Sychar – in Samaria. Why is this important?

Because, She was a Samaritan - a race of people that the Jews utterly despised as having no claim on their God, and she was an outcast and looked down upon by her own people as well.

How do we know this? By the fact that she came alone to draw water from the community well when, during biblical times, drawing water and chatting at the well was the social highpoint of a woman's day. However, this woman was ostracized and marked as immoral, an unmarried woman living openly with the sixth in a series of men.

And you know the story; Jesus asks her to give Him a drink of water; She answers "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.) What does this tell us? Jesus isn't into politics – or the politically correct way of doing things - He is no respecter of persons - and he doesn't play favorites! He is, and this is tough, but He is the Donald Trump of His day! He doesn't side with the most popular way of thinking and the politically correct way of stating the correct way of doing things.

10 Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

She says: "Sir, you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? 12 Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?" [That is why we are at Jacob's Well – It is the Place!]

13 Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

15 The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."

16 He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back." [Now this is the POINT]

17 "I have no husband," she replied.

Jesus said to her, “You are right when you say you have no husband. 18 The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.” [She passed the test! Jesus wanted to see how she would respond and she was honest.]

19 “Sir,” the woman said, “I can see that you are a prophet. 20 Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.”

21 “Woman,” Jesus replied, “believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. 22 You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. 23 Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. 24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”

Does this Act of Service Teach us a few things? -

It teaches us that God loves us in spite of our bankrupt lives.

God values us enough to actively seek us, to welcome us to intimacy, and to rejoice in our worship.

As a result of Jesus' conversation, only a person like the Samaritan woman, an outcast from her own people, could understand what this means.

To be wanted, to be cared for when no one, not even herself, could see anything of value in her—this is grace indeed.

Do you think that Your Spouse is Looking for Anything Like This?

Guys – Listen to me - Go to your Wife and Tell Her – I want to give you a Drink of Nurturing Love that – once drawn from - you will never – never – never Go Back and wonder: Where is the Love? Okay.... You can thank me later but, whatever you do, do not be late to Impact Class!

So Here we go;

The **Time:** As Jesus was traveling - It was high noon on a hot day. Jesus was tired from traveling so he stops to do business with this woman;

The **Place:** A rest stop—Jacob's well outside the town of Sychar – Significance; This is a Well where Jacob came and bought the piece of Land to give to His son Joseph [also known as Jacob's fountain and The Well of Sychar]. It is a deep well hewn of solid rock that has been associated in religious tradition with Jacob for roughly two thousand years. It is situated a short distance from the archaeological site of Tell Balata, which is thought to be the site of biblical Shechem. Shechem – In the Bible - Genesis 12:6-8, records how Abraham reached the "great tree of Moreh" at Shechem and offered sacrifice nearby.

Genesis, Deuteronomy, the Book of Judges and Joshua hallow Shechem over all other cities of the land of Israel.[6] At Shechem, Abram "built an altar to the Lord who had appeared to him ... and had given that land to his descendants" (Gen 12:6-7). The Bible states that, on this occasion, God confirmed the covenant he had first made with Abraham in Harran, regarding the possession of the land of Canaan. And, this is interesting, [Shechem became the "holy city" of the Samaritans]

The Blessings: Many valuable truths we glean from this story. Such as:

- 1) Only through Jesus can we obtain and receive eternal life: "Jesus answered, 'Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life'" (John 4:13-14; cf. John 14:6).
- 2) Jesus' ministering to those outcasts of the Jewish society (the Samaritans) reveals that all people are valuable to God and that Jesus desires that we demonstrate love to everyone . . . including even our enemies (John 4:7-9; Matthew 5:44).
- 3) Jesus is the Messiah (John 4:25-26; 1:41; Matthew 27:22; Luke 2:11). He states His case right Chere!
- 4) Those who worship God, worship Him in spirit and truth (John 4:23-24; Psalm 145:18).
- 5) Our testimony about Jesus is a powerful tool in leading others to believe in Him: "Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, 'He told me everything I ever did.' So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed an extra two days. And because of his words many more became believers. They said to the woman, 'We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world'" (John 4:39-42).

Additionally, we learn from Jesus' dialogue with the woman at the well three absolute truths about salvation:

- 1) Salvation comes only to those who recognize their desperate need for the spiritual life they do not have. Living water can be obtained only by those who recognize that they are spiritually thirsty.
- 2) Salvation comes only to those who confess and repent of their sin and desire

forgiveness. Before this immoral woman could embrace the Savior, she had to concede the full burden of her sins.

3) Salvation comes only to those who take hold of Jesus as their Messiah. For the absolute truth is that salvation is found in no one else (John 14:6; Acts 4:12).

Example 3: This example is one of a more conceptual nature as it applies to each of us; Only By serving do we learn how to serve. When we are engaged in the service of our fellowmen, not only do our deeds assist them, but we put our own problems in a fresher perspective.

When we concern ourselves more with others, there is less time to be concerned with ourselves. [Remember the I,I,I,I,I I spoke about with regard to Acts of Service ?] In the midst of the miracle of serving, there is the promise of Jesus, that by losing ourselves, we find ourselves. (See Matt. 10:38-39.)

"38" And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. 39" He who has found his life will lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake will find it."

Of course, we all need to be loved, but we must be giving and not always receiving if we want to have wholeness in our lives and a reinforced sense of purpose.

This once again means there is:

A Time: When God shows us to jump in there and serve your fellow-man;

A Place: When God shows us

A Blessing: God will Bless as He has ordained you to be at the right time and the right place to enter into that which GOD HAS CALLED YOU TO!

Look what happened in the above examples with Jesus... this was not by coincidence folks..... Jesus was at the right time, at the right place, and the Blessings that flowed were immense! ONLY GOD CAN DO THAT GANG! You and I CANNOT DO THAT – We can't do it - We need the Holy Spirit to guide us!

So finally, I want to show you what we can do..... As our Acts of Service aside [on a more personal note]

in helping move people to new destinations,

in providing assistance to others,

in teaching others,

in training others;

What can we do? Our Acts of Service take on the added context of what we do in Worship – Tithing – Prayer – and Demonstrating God’s Love for your Fellow-Man.

These are acts that we have been told by God in the Scriptures to perform:

Worship: 23 Sing to the LORD, all the earth; proclaim his salvation day after day.

24 Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.

25 For great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods.

26 For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the LORD made the heavens.

[1 Chronicles 16:23-26]

Tithing:

Tithing/giving is intended to be a joy and a blessing. Sadly, that is sometimes not the case in the church today.

Tithing is an Old Testament concept. The tithe was a requirement of the Law in which the Israelites were to give 10 percent of the crops they grew and the livestock they raised to the tabernacle/temple (Leviticus 27:30; Numbers 18:26; Deuteronomy 14:24; 2 Chronicles 31:5).

In fact, the Old Testament Law required multiple tithes—one for the Levites, one for the use of the temple and the feasts, and one for the poor of the land—which would have pushed the total to around 23.3 percent. Some understand the Old Testament tithe as a method of taxation to provide for the needs of the priests and Levites in the sacrificial system.

The New Testament nowhere designates a percentage of income a person should set aside, but only says gifts should be “in keeping with income” (1 Corinthians 16:2). Some in the Christian church have taken the 10 percent figure from the Old Testament tithe and applied it as a “recommended minimum” for Christians in their giving.

But here is the KEY: Every Christian should diligently pray and seek God’s wisdom in the matter of participating in tithing and/or how much to give (James 1:5).

Above all, all tithes and offerings should be given with pure motives and an attitude of worship to God and service to the body of Christ. “Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful

giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Prayer:

Prayer is conversation with God; the intercourse of the soul with God, not in contemplation or meditation, but in direct address to him. Prayer may be oral or mental, occasional or constant, ejaculatory or formal. It is a "beseeching the Lord" (Ex. 32:11); "pouring out the soul before the Lord" (1 Sam.)

So When we look at Acts of Service [in particular as a means to show the love of Christ] whether it be for your spouse, your love, or a fellow human being - Recognize a couple of things.....

It is not YOU who dictates the Time, the Place, and the Blessings that will be provided from this..... It is God who is acting.... He is ALLOWING YOU to enter into a very secret domain of His where He is pouring out His Blessing and wants to do a work in this person's life – THRU YOU.

So, in closing, I want you to GO – BE THE BLESSING – ACT AS GOD WOULD HAVE YOU ACT – MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF OTHERS

Which brings me to the question I have for you;

Allow me to be a Blessing to you - To somehow make a difference to you – I would ask each of you to consider this;

Are you saved? Have you given your life to Christ? Do you know that if you died today you would be in Heaven with Him for all Eternity?

Or do you need to rededicate your life today; Select a better path to get back in touch with the Lord who provides for your needs; acts upon your prayer requests; and provides you the necessary direction – His direction - for your continued growth and maturing as a Christian.

The Altar is open for you to come and to allow me to pray for you.