



SOUTH  
SHORE  
community church

## Next Level Love

A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. **2** They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. **3** Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them.

**4** Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. **5** When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, “Son, your sins are forgiven.”

## Next Level Love

**6** Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, **7** “Why does this fellow talk like that? He’s blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?”

**8** Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, “Why are you thinking these things?”

**9** Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up, take your mat and walk’?

# Next Level Love

**10** But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” So he said to the man, **11** “I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.” **12** He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this!”

Mark 2:1-12

# Next Level Love

What do you call that kind of love?

- Not your ordinary, convenient, always comfortable or “I’ll do just enough to get by” kind of love.
- Next level, go out of your way, sacrificial kind of love. The kind of love that Jesus modelled when He walked this earth, when He died on a cross.

# Next Level Love

It's a love that makes a difference. A love that makes an impact. A love that touches a heart and changes a life.

Our love gauge for people should be at the same level as our love gauge for God. The two should both match.

# Next Level Love

“We love because He first loved us. If anyone says, “I love God yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. And He has given us this command: Whoever loves God must love his brother.” 1 John 4:19

- The one distinguishing mark on the lives of all Christians should be the mark of LOVE. It should be tattooed on their lives for ALL TO SEE no matter where they go, no matter what they do.

# Next Level Love

- We are called to be carriers of the Father's love into our world...
- We must take “**OWNERSHIP**” of this fact if we are going to make an impact for the Kingdom of God.
  - Owners see things differently. They take responsibility. They don't wait for someone else to do it.
  - Owners pull up their sleeves and get involved. They focus on others. They see the mission as their own personal mission!

# Next Level Love

- Some opportunities are accidental; some must be intentional and deliberate.
- So you won't miss opportunities...
  - Become a better “noticer”. Pay attention to the people around you. Keep an eye on your world as you walk through your day.
  - Offer to help. Go out of your way if you have to. Be willing to go the extra mile.

# Next Level Love

Our presence and our time matters and has the potential, in the hands of Jesus, to be a game changer in someone's life.

# Next Level Love

- Prayer can be a powerful way to carry God's love into a person's life, if used in a sensitive way.
- Many people are open to prayer. They actually want and need God's help. Don't shy away from asking to pray for people about an issue or problem they or a loved one has.

# Next Level Love