



Radical Compassion

1 John 3:16-18

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What force is at work in a community when hearts are pruned open to the needs of the poor? How does the Gospel of Christ practically unleash people to live lives of radical compassion? Today, in light of these questions, we'll be taking a look at two case studies of radical compassion. First, we'll consider how the Gospel of Christ transformed the apostle John into a man of radical compassion. Next, we'll have the opportunity to hear from Marshall & Lesley Snider, founders of Bridgetown Ministries and Night Strike in Portland, as we share a bit of coffee and discuss together how the Gospel transforms us into people of radical compassion.

Case Study #1: John the Apostle

The apostle John was a young man known for his fiery zeal. His zeal was apparently so well known that it warranted him the nickname in his hometown, "Son of Thunder" (Mark 3:17). Although John was a radically committed follower of Christ, he also was prone to feelings of superiority and intolerance. So then, how did the "Son of Thunder" become the man who is known by many as the "Apostle of Love"? What power transformed the man who once asked Jesus to rain fire down on a Samaritan village into the man who wrote, "By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers." (1 John 3:16)? Perhaps the answer lies in the fact that John witnessed the compassion of Christ from the foot of the Cross (John 19:26-27)! The message of the Gospel reveals Christ's radical compassion for us and fills us with this same compassion for others. As our knowledge of Christ's compassion toward us becomes more intimate, our compassion toward others becomes more and more extravagant!

Case Study #2: Bridgetown Ministries (Marshall & Lesley Snider)

Seven years ago God prompted Marshall and Lesley Snider with a radical vision to put the compassion of Christ into action in the city of Portland. Each week since then, underneath the Burnside Bridge, Christians gather together to humbly exhibit the compassion of Christ to the poor of our city. As you listen to Marshall & Lesley share their heart for the church and our city, use the space provided to jot down the truths God wants you receive and the actions God is calling you to take!

Truths I Need to Receive Today:

Actions I Need to Take Today: