



LOVE IN ACTION

— LUKE 10:38-42 —

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Luke 10:38-42 (NKJV)

Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named **Martha welcomed Him into her house.** ³⁹ And she had a sister called **Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word.** ⁴⁰ But Martha was **distracted with much serving**, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me."

⁴¹ And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are **worried and troubled about many things.** ⁴² But **one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part,** which will not be taken away from her."

Luke 10:38-42 (NKJV)

John 11:1-7 (NKJV)

Now a certain man was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha. ² It was that Mary who anointed the Lord with fragrant oil and wiped His feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick. ³ Therefore the sisters sent to Him, saying, "Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick."

⁴ When Jesus heard that, He said, "This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it."

⁵ Now **Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.** ⁶ So, when He heard that he was sick, He stayed two more days in the place where He was. ⁷ Then after this He said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again."

John 11:1-7 (NKJV)

Introduction

a) Members of the family of God

- members of the household of God
(*Ephesians 2:19*)
- household of faith
(*Galatians 6:10*)



Ephesians 2:19-20 (NLT)

So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. **You are members of God's family.** ²⁰ Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus Himself.

Introduction

a) Members of the family of God

Do you feel:

- lonely in church?
- disconnected in church?



Introduction

b) Love one another in feet washing



John 13:34 (NKJV)

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; **as I have loved you, that you also love one another.**

John 15:12 (NKJV)

This is My commandment, that **you love one another as I have loved you.**

Introduction

- b) Love one another in feet washing
 - Jesus also showed by example
 - wash one another's feet as He had done so for His disciples



Introduction

- b) Love one another in feet washing
- family context from which we can glean important lessons on how to love another



Introduction

c) Love one another as a family

- family which has that kind of love relationship
- love one another as brothers and sisters in the family of Christ



1 Peter 3:8 (NKJV)

Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; **love as brothers**, be tender-hearted, be courteous;

Introduction

- c) Love one another as a family
 - Many of us are closer to friends in church (or members of the household of faith) than our own siblings.



Proverbs 18:24 (NKJV)

A man who has friends must himself be friendly,
But **there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.**

Three Lessons

- 1) Hospitality creates fellowship**
- 2) Inclusivity in conversation**
- 3) Vulnerability in suffering**

(1)
Hospitality creates fellowship



John 11:38 (NKJV)

Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named **Martha welcomed Him into her house.**

1) Hospitality creates fellowship

- Martha made fellowship with Jesus happen by extending hospitality to Jesus.
- love in action on the part of Martha
- We are encouraged to practise hospitality.



Romans 12:10-13 (NKJV)

Be **kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love**, in honour giving preference to one another; ¹¹ not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; ¹² rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; ¹³ **distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.**

1) Hospitality creates fellowship

- Be ready to take people in.
- Hospitality means the friendly reception and treatment of guests or strangers; the quality of receiving and treating guests and strangers in a warm, friendly and generous way.



1) Hospitality creates fellowship

- Hospitality may be a lost art among us.
- challenge we face is to welcome people into our church family or our cell-family



1) Hospitality creates fellowship

- allowing newcomers to invade our cosy comfort zone:
 - diluting the existing relationships
- We are not loving the newcomers.
- We are not loving one another.



1) Hospitality creates fellowship

- Start thinking of practising hospitality as a way of loving one another as commanded by the Lord.



Romans 12:10&13 (NKJV)

Be **kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love**, in honour giving preference to one another . . .

¹³ distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.

1) Hospitality creates fellowship

- opening your heart, your home and comfort zone to others
- open our cells to newcomers



1) Hospitality creates fellowship

- placing Christ at the centre of our relationship as a church or cell family
- Extending hospitality is laborious work.



1) Hospitality creates fellowship

- We see the fellowship of labour in Martha (*Luke 10:38-42*) and in Jesus (*John 11:1-7*).
- Jesus accepted the hospitality of Martha and found Himself in the home of Martha and Mary.



1) Hospitality creates fellowship

- Jesus did not criticize Martha for her hospitality but for her fretting and over-concern over many things.



1) Hospitality creates fellowship

**Extend hospitality to one another.
Also learn to engage in conversation
with one another.**



(2)
Inclusivity in conversation



2) Inclusivity in conversation

- “Mary, who also sat at Jesus’ feet and heard His word.”
- fellowship of conversation
- whilst Martha was fretting over with many things



2) Inclusivity in conversation

- engaged Jesus in the conversation by speaking and then exercise the discipline of listening
- love in action on the part of Mary



2) Inclusivity in conversation

- It means a lot to have others talking to you.
- can show love by initiating conversation



2) Inclusivity in conversation

- Listening to someone is an important way of expressing love for that person.
- practise inclusivity in our conversation:
 - drawing others into a conversation



2) Inclusivity in conversation

- Mary may have chosen the better part but she failed in doing the other part of helping Martha in her work before the conversation and including Martha in the conversation.



2) Inclusivity in conversation

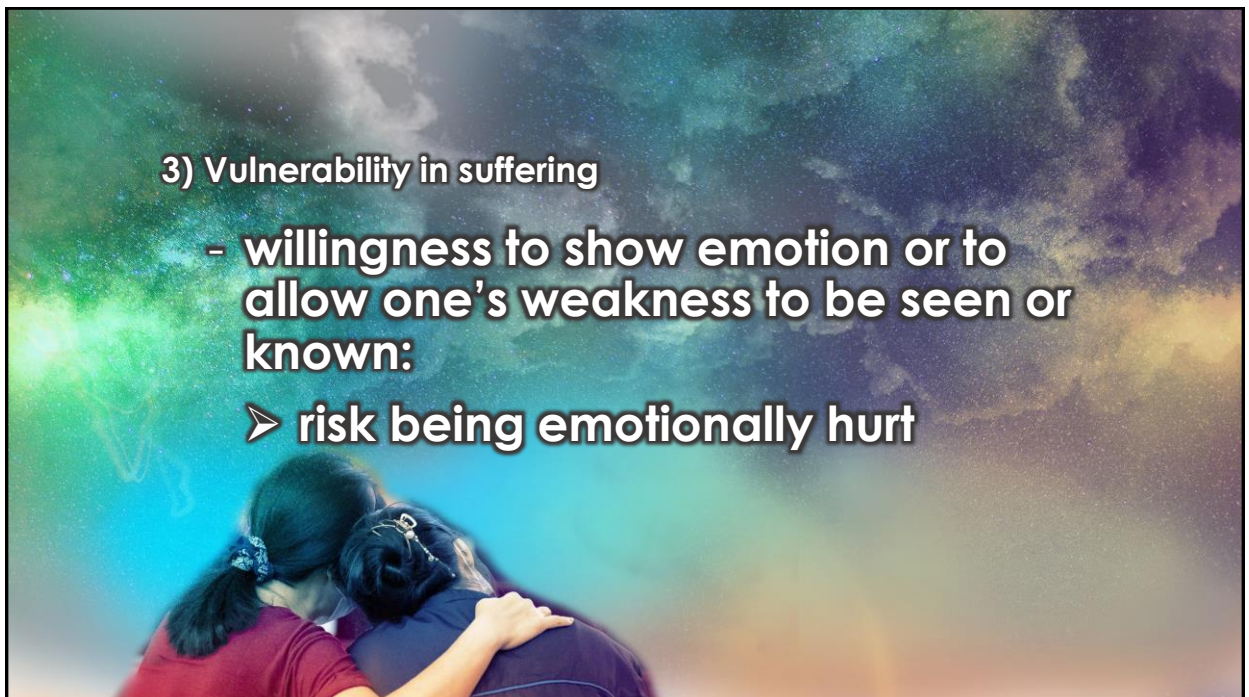
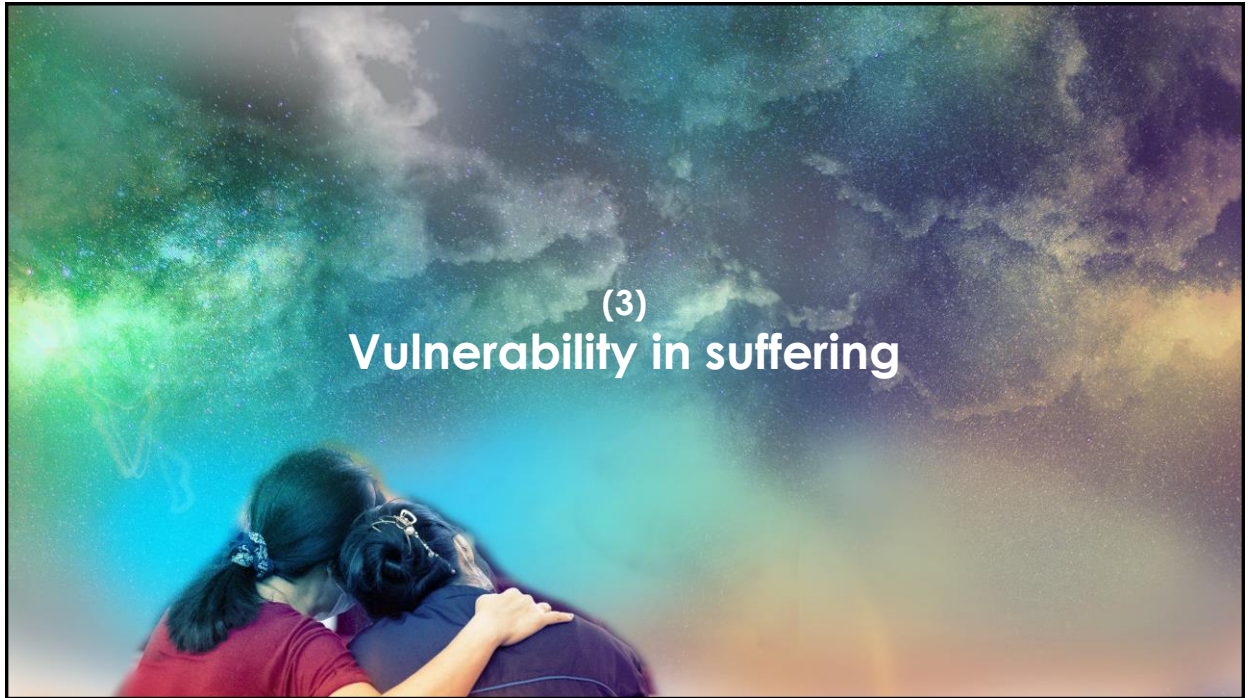
- the conversation could not have taken place without working at hospitality to invite Jesus to the house



2) Inclusivity in conversation

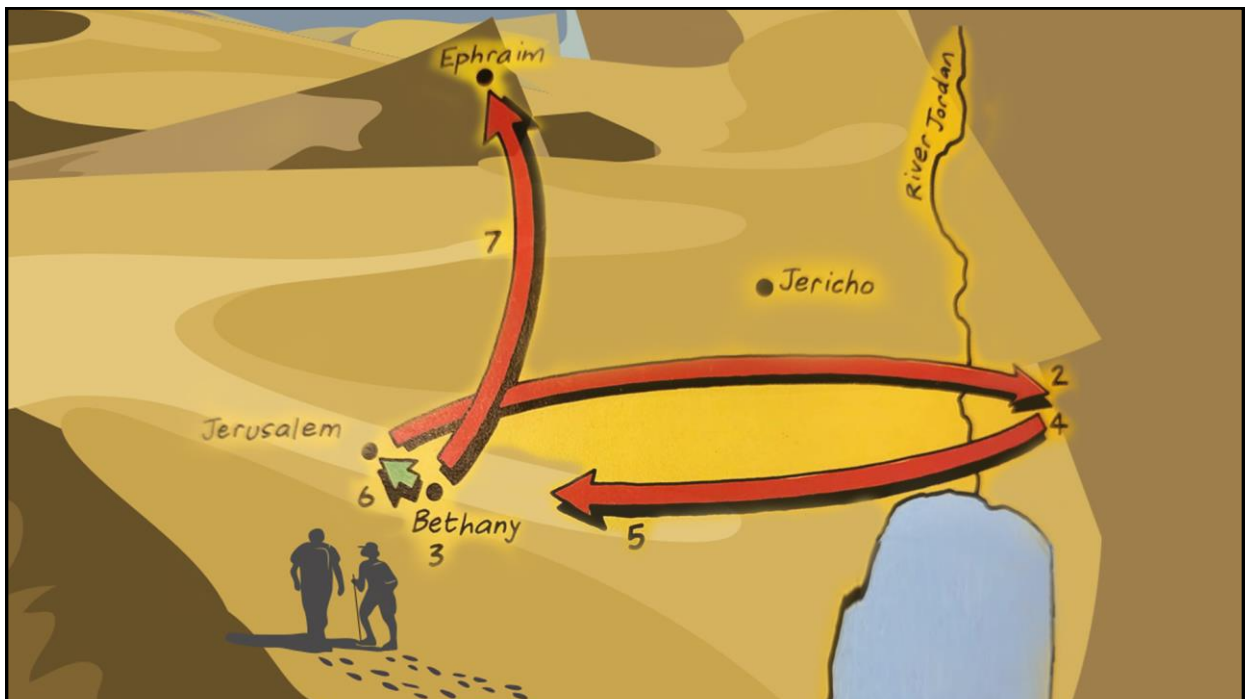
Loving one another motivates the practice of hospitality and the discipline of conversation.





John 11:3 (NKJV)

Therefore the sisters sent to Him, saying,
"Lord, behold, **he whom You love is sick.**"



Luke 7:6-7 (NKJV)

Then Jesus went with them. And when He was already not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to Him, saying to Him, **“Lord, do not trouble Yourself, for I am not worthy that You should enter under my roof.”** ⁷ Therefore I did not even think myself worthy to come to You. But **say the word, and my servant will be healed ...**

Luke 7:9-10 (NKJV)

When Jesus heard these things, He marvelled at him, and turned around and said to the crowd that followed Him, “I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!” ¹⁰ And **those who were sent, returning to the house, found the servant well who had been sick.**

John 11:32-37 (NKJV)

Then, when Mary came where Jesus was, and saw Him, she fell down at His feet, saying to Him, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³ Therefore, **when Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her weeping, He groaned in the spirit and was troubled.**

³⁴ And He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to Him, "Lord, come and see."
³⁵ **Jesus wept.** ³⁶ **Then the Jews said, "See how He loved him!"** ³⁷ And some of them said, "Could not this Man, who opened the eyes of the blind, also have kept this man from dying?"

John 11:32-37 (NKJV)

3) Vulnerability in suffering

- Jesus was deeply moved.
- despite the fact that He knew that Lazarus would be raised from the dead
- In that moment of vulnerability, Jesus wept.

3) Vulnerability in suffering

- We do need to fellowship in the suffering of others.
- vulnerability in sharing sufferings

3) Vulnerability in suffering

- Jesus made a house visit in order to share the sorrows of those He love.
- It was love in action.

3) Vulnerability in suffering

**Let us learn to comfort one another,
console one another, with the comfort
and consolation that we have received
from God in our own tribulations
and troubles.**

(2 Corinthians 1:3-7)

Conclusion

Conclusion

- There is commitment to work at the welcome by Martha.
- There is commitment to work by Jesus.
- As for fellowship of suffering, sometimes we just need the Lord to soften our hearts.

Ephesians 4:32 (NKJV)

**And be kind to one another,
tender-hearted**, forgiving one another,
even as God in Christ forgave you.