

Reclaiming the *Forgotten* Gospel of Jesus

by Charlie Stuart

FOR JESUS, LOVE IS ACTION

Beyond “thoughts & prayers” to Acts of Jesus Love

by Charlie Stuart | May 15, 2021

When Jesus said “Love” He meant the action(s) that results from love, not a feeling or emotion. In marriage expressing love for the other in words is perfected in actions to serve each other selflessly and without thought of any recognition or reward. This applies to our love for our children. You might recognize this as a definition of agape love which is how Jesus loves us.

Growing up in the church I was taught that “love is all you need.” Looking back, I see now that using the word “love” without defining what it looks like in the life of a follower of Jesus was a mistake. It allowed the hearer to fill in their own definition, and in the absence of the biblical definition that should have been taught and modeled like Jesus did, the church believed it had done what they could. What was missing was what was present in the disciples who walked with Jesus and in the early church, known as “the way.”

In my recent book, *Reclaiming the Forgotten Gospel of Jesus*, I addressed the love shown by Jesus as actions but did not go into depth around the concept. This is what I seek to do in this article.

Jesus came to usher in the kingdom of God on earth. This is clear from His first public sermon recorded in Luke —

^{17b} He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ Then he began to say to them,

“Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” (Luke 14:17b-21 NRSV)

And in His last words recorded in Matthew, Jesus commanded His disciples, and through them, us, to take personal responsibility for ushering in the kingdom of God on earth —

^{18b} “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:18-20 NRSV)

The underlined phrase in verse 20 is the key. This is our role. It is our responsibility. Without us there is no “plan B.”

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You will want to review the next four elements included in Jesus = Love in Action. They are available in PDF by clicking on the titles below.

[THEY WILL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS BY OUR ACTS OF JESUS LOVE](#)

[THOSE IN NEED NOT TOO FAR FROM HERE](#)

[ACTS OF JESUS LOVE](#)

[PLAN FOR ACTS OF JESUS LOVE](#)

Remember that reclaiming the complete Gospel of Jesus, the Christ, begins with the church embracing the life and teachings of Jesus as being a full part of that Gospel; and that when Jesus spoke of “love your neighbor” He was speaking of showing selfless love by our acts, not just with thoughts or prayers.



Charlie Stuart

A longtime lay leader and Bible study teacher, he is the author of *Reclaiming the Forgotten Gospel of Jesus*, and resides in Orlando, Florida. In too many churches, Charlie believes, the salvation Gospel of Christ all there is to being a Christian, but this ignores the life and teachings of the Gospel of Jesus who also came to show us how to usher in the kingdom of God on earth. Charlie’s book is a challenge to churches to fully embrace the complete Gospel of Jesus, the Christ.