

PAUL E. MILLER

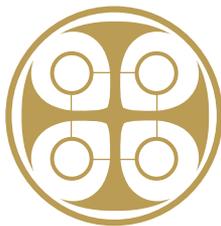
LOVE

WALKED

AMONG

US

Learning to Love  
Like Jesus



Small Group  
Study Guide



## CHAPTER 1 — LOVE LOOKS AND ACTS

### READING

Introduction and Chapter 1 or pages 21-26 (finish with section “He Never Loses Sight of Her”)

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Why do you think Miller emphasizes that Jesus expresses compassion after *looking* at the widow of Nain?

Is there a situation in your life in the last week in which you intentionally noticed something, after which compassion grew in your heart and you were able to be helpful in some way?

Now think of a situation in which you struggled to love someone. How could Jesus’ three-step pattern of “Look. Feel. Help.” (p. 28) prompt you to love in this situation?

## CHAPTER 1 — LOVE LOOKS AND ACTS

### SERMON QUESTIONS – MARK 11:12-33

In Mark 11:12, when Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the temple, what might have been on his mind as he “looked around at everything”?

From Mark 11:27-33, what’s helpful to you about how Jesus responded to the priests, scribes, and elders?

### HYMN – VERSES 1-5

Ancient Irish poem, c. 8th cent.

SLANE

Traditional Irish melody



1. Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
 2. Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;  
 3. Be thou my bat - tle shield, sword for my fight;  
 4. Rich - es I heed not, nor man's emp - ty praise,  
 5. High King of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art—  
*I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;*  
 be thou my dig - ni - ty, thou my de - light,  
*thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:*  
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun!



thou my best thought by day or by night,  
*thou my great Fa - ther, I thy true son;*  
 thou my soul's shel - ter, thou my high tow'r;  
*thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,*  
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
*thou in me dwell - ing, and I with thee one.*  
 raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.  
*High King of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.*  
 still be my vi - sion, O Ru - ler of all.

## CHAPTER 2 — LEARNING HOW TO *SEE* PEOPLE

### READING

Chapter 2 or pages 29-31

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

In what situations in your life are you tempted to look away? (Examples: when my spouse is grumpy, my kids are lazy, or when my coworker needs help again.)

What does looking away actually do in these situations? What would looking require you to do?

As you begin to notice others more intentionally, what changes do you notice in yourself? What if there are none, or what if seeing doesn't produce compassion?

## CHAPTER 2 — LEARNING HOW TO *SEE* PEOPLE

### SERMON QUESTIONS – MARK 12:1-12

Is there some area in your life where, like the tenants in this parable, you know what you are thinking or doing is wrong but you continue in it obstinately?

One scholar has said that the parable of the wicked tenants is virtually a recapitulation of the entire Bible's storyline including God's intention to bless the world through the builder's rejection of the stone which becomes the cornerstone!

### HYMN – VERSES 1-3

*The Book of Psalms for Singing, 1973*

CORNERSTONE

Leonard R. Payton, 1998



1. That stone is made head cor - ner - stone which the build - ers did de - spise.  
2. O bless - ed be the one who comes, comes in Je - ho - vah's name;  
3. Thou art my God; I'll give thee thanks. My God, I'll wor - ship thee.



This is the do - ing of the Lord and  
the bless - ing from Je - ho - vah's house up -  
O thank the Lord, for he is good; his



won - drous in our eyes, and won - drous in our eyes.  
on you we pro - claim, up - on you we pro - claim.  
grace will end - less be, his grace will end - less be.



This is the day the Lord has made; let us be glad and sing.  
The Lord is God, and he to us has made the light a - rise;

*D.C. al Fine*



Ho - san - na, Lord, O give suc - cess! O Lord, sal - va - tion bring!  
O bind ye to the al - tar's horns with cords the sac - ri - fice.

## CHAPTERS 3-5 — COMPASSION BLOCKERS

### READING

Chapters 3-5 or “The Secret of Compassion” on pages 44-46

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

In which relationships in your life does judging tend to block compassion?

Miller writes, “The better we think we are, the less we can love” (55). How does realizing we don’t have it all together free us to love others?

“Good and true things can blind the legalist,” which can make legalism hard to self-diagnose. Discuss with the group some of your personal, extra-biblical rules. For example: People shouldn’t \_\_\_\_\_ (e.g., waste money, be shy, talk loudly), but they should \_\_\_\_\_ (e.g., eat right and exercise).

## CHAPTERS 3-5 — COMPASSION BLOCKERS

### SERMON QUESTION — MARK 12:13-17

In this passage, with one sentence, Jesus put the question of living under Caesar in its place - a distant second behind the most important question of living in the kingdom of God. Where might you be misplacing your loyalties?

### HYMN — VERSES 1, 3, 7

Isaiah 9:2-8, John Morison, 1781

LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN

Nikolaus Herman, 1480-1561



1. The peo - ple that in dark - ness sat a glo - rious light have  
 2. To hail you, Sun of Right - teous - ness, the gath - 'ring na - tions  
 3. For thou their bur - den dost re - move and break the ty - rant's  
 4. To us the Child of hope is born, to us the Son is



seen; the light has shined on them who long in  
 come; they joy as when the reap - ers bear their  
 rod as in the day when Mid - ian fell be -  
 giv'n, and on his shoul - der ev - er rests all



shades of death have been, in shades of death have been,  
 har - vest trea - sures home, their har - vest trea - sures home.  
 fore the sword of God, be - fore the sword of God.  
 pow'r in earth and heav'n, all pow'r in earth and heav'n.

5. His name shall be the Prince of Peace,  
 The Everlasting Lord,  
 The Wonderful, the Counselor,  
 The God by all adored,  
 The God by all adored.

6. His righteous government and pow'r  
 Shall over all extend;  
 On judgment and on justice based,  
 His reign shall have no end,  
 His reign shall have no end.

7. Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray,  
 And make us yours alone,  
 Who with the Father ever are  
 And Holy Spirit, one,  
 And Holy Spirit, one.

## CHAPTERS 6-9 — COMPASSION REFRESHERS

### READING

Chapters 6-9 or pages 67-70

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

From chapter 6, Miller recounts how piously-held habits like frugality and efficiency threatened to hinder his showing compassion to his daughter (68). What little habits or beliefs can block your compassion?

From chapter 7, do you typically confront people, or do you tend to shy away from speaking honestly? What is one example? And how is it like or unlike Jesus' pattern?

From chapter 8: When, according to Miller, does Jesus get irritated? Why is this okay?

From chapter 9: Describe a situation when you tried to be honest but realized, too late, that you should have been quiet. What happened?

## CHAPTERS 6-9 — COMPASSION REFRESHERS

### SERMON QUESTION — MARK 12:18-27

The one who is familiar with the Bible and the power of God, as Jesus was, will always be able to give an answer for the hope he has in the Gospel (1 Peter 3:15). Do you tend to be ready to speak of hope?

### HYMN — VERSES 1-3

Ernst Homburg, 1605-1681

JESU, MEINES LEBENS LEBEN

Johann Georg Albinus, 1687



1. Christ, the life of all the liv-ing, Christ, the death of death, our foe,  
2. You have suf-fered great af-flic-tion and have borne it pa-tient-ly,  
3. Then, for all that bought my par-don, for the sor-rows deep and sore,



Christ, your-self for me once giv-ing to the dark-est depths of woe:  
e-ven death by cru-ci-fix-ion, ful-ly to a-tone for me;  
for the an-guish in the gar-den, I will thank you ev-er-more,



through your suf-fring, death, and mer-it life e-ter-nal I in-her-it.  
for you chose to be tor-ment-ed that my doom should be pre-vent-ed.  
thank you for the groan-ing, sigh-ing, for the bleed-ing and the dy-ing,



Thou-sand, thou-sand thanks are due, dear-est Je-sus, un-to you.  
Thou-sand, thou-sand thanks are due, dear-est Je-sus, un-to you.  
for that last tri-um-phant cry, praise you ev-er-more on high.

## CHAPTERS 10-11 — HONEST LOVE

### READING

Chapters 10-11 or pages 103-106

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

From chapter 10: Think about one relationship in your life that feels strained and do some “beam research.” What especially bothers you about the other person, and do you notice that you do some of the same things? Or better yet, consider asking him or her: “If there were one thing about me you could change that would improve our relationship, what would it be?” Be sure to listen carefully!

From chapter 11: In what areas are you willful (wanting your own way)? Ask the Holy Spirit for help in answering this, but don’t be afraid to ask your spouse or a close friend!

## CHAPTERS 10-11 — HONEST LOVE

### SERMON QUESTIONS – MARK 12:28-34

What does it mean in practical terms for you not to know the Scriptures and the power of God?

What did Jesus mean by saying to the teacher of the law that he was “not far from the kingdom of God”?

### HYMN – VERSES 1-6

#### May the Mind of Christ, My Savior

1. May the mind of Christ, my Sav-ior, live in me from day to day,  
2. May the Word of God dwell rich-ly in my heart from hour to hour,  
3. May the peace of God my Fa-ther rule my life in ev-'ry-thing,  
4. May the love of Je-sus fill me as the wa-ters fill the sea;

by his love and pow'r con-trol-ling all I do and say.  
so that all may see I tri-umph on-ly through his pow'r.  
that I may be calm to com-fort sick and sor-row-ing.  
him ex-alt-ing, self a-bas-ing: this is vic-to-ry.

5. May I run the race before me,  
strong and brave to face the foe,  
looking only unto Jesus  
as I onward go.

6. May his beauty rest upon me  
as I seek the lost to win,  
and may they forget the channel,  
seeing only him.

## CHAPTERS 12-13 — SAYING “NO” IN LOVE

### READING

Chapters 12-13 or pages 143-146

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

From chapter 12, we tend to think that love means saying yes to every need or demand that comes along. What does Jesus' example teach you?

From chapter 12 and John 2:1-11: How did Jesus respond to the strong-willed people around him in the story of the wedding at Cana?

From chapter 13: Miller writes, "...what sucks me in repulses Jesus" (141). What do you think he means? In what kind of things do you find life instead of in Jesus?

## CHAPTERS 12-13 — SAYING “NO” IN LOVE

### SERMON QUESTION — MARK 12:35-44

In this passage, what impresses you about the widow’s actions?

### HYMN — VERSES 1-2, 4

#### May the Mind of Christ, My Savior

1. May the mind of Christ, my Sav-ior, live in me from day to day,  
2. May the Word of God dwell rich-ly in my heart from hour to hour,  
3. May the peace of God my Fa-ther rule my life in ev-'ry-thing,  
4. May the love of Je-sus fill me as the wa-ters fill the sea;

by his love and pow'r con-trol-ling all I do and say.  
so that all may see I tri-umph on-ly through his pow'r.  
that I may be calm to com-fort sick and sor-row-ing.  
him ex-alt-ing, self a-bas-ing: this is vic-to-ry.

5. May I run the race before me,  
strong and brave to face the foe,  
looking only unto Jesus  
as I onward go.

6. May his beauty rest upon me  
as I seek the lost to win,  
and may they forget the channel,  
seeing only him.

## CHAPTERS 14-16 — WANTING TO LOVE IN DARK PLACES

### READING

Chapters 14-16 or pages 147-151

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

From chapter 14: Reflect on a time when you moved away from someone in their sin or selfishness. Then think about a time someone moved toward you in your selfishness. What happened to you and the other person in each of these?

From chapter 15: Miller writes that the hardest part of love is wanting to love in the first place (161)! Recall a time when you knew what loving someone would require of you and you chose not to love? What stopped you?

From chapter 16: Think of a time when you focused on your own circumstances and stopped looking at Jesus. How did you begin to sink? How at other times has Jesus surprised you when you kept your eyes on him in the midst of a storm?

## CHAPTERS 14-16 — WANTING TO LOVE IN DARK PLACES

### SERMON QUESTION — MARK 13:1-37

Jesus tells his disciples in this passage not to be surprised by the dark place of suffering. What are the implications of this for the way we live as Christians?

### HYMN — VERSES 1, 4, 6

Isaiah 9:2-8, John Morison, 1781

LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN

Nikolaus Herman, 1480-1561



1. The peo - ple that in dark - ness sat a glo - rious light have  
 2. To hail you, Sun of Righ - teous - ness, the gath - 'ring na - tions  
 3. For thou their bur - den dost re - move and break the ty - rant's  
 4. To us the Child of hope is born, to us the Son is



seen; the light has shined on them who long in  
 come; they joy as when the reap - ers bear their  
 rod as in the day when Mid - ian fell be -  
 giv'n, and on his shoul - der ev - er rests all



shades of death have been, in shades of death have been.  
 har - vest trea - sures home, their har - vest trea - sures home.  
 fore the sword of God, be - fore the sword of God.  
 pow'r in earth and heav'n, all pow'r in earth and heav'n.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>5. His name shall be the Prince of Peace,<br/>         The Everlasting Lord,<br/>         The Wonderful, the Counselor,<br/>         The God by all adored,<br/>         The God by all adored.</p> | <p>6. His righteous government and pow'r<br/>         Shall over all extend;<br/>         On judgment and on justice based,<br/>         His reign shall have no end,<br/>         His reign shall have no end.</p> |
|--|---|

7. Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray,  
 And make us yours alone,  
 Who with the Father ever are  
 And Holy Spirit, one,  
 And Holy Spirit, one.

## CHAPTERS 17-18 — COMPLETE COMPASSION

### READING

Chapters 17-18 or pages 197-201

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

From chapter 17: In loving people, do you tend to favor being compassionate or being honest? Give an example if you can.

From chapter 17: Miller quotes Napoleon: “Everything in [Jesus] astonishes me. His spirit overawes me, and his will confounds me” (192). In what ways has Jesus astonished you in this chapter or this study?

From chapter 18: Is there an area in your life where you want to reach out to someone but, like Isabelle’s mom, you find yourself saying, “I just can’t”? If you feel comfortable, share with the group something about your struggle.

## CHAPTERS 17-18 — COMPLETE COMPASSION

### SERMON QUESTION – MARK 14:1-11

The actions of the anonymous woman in this passage displayed an unreserved love for Jesus. How can we discern between what might be an extravagant commitment to and love for Jesus from an action or gift that might be unwise?

### HYMN – VERSES 1-2, 5-6

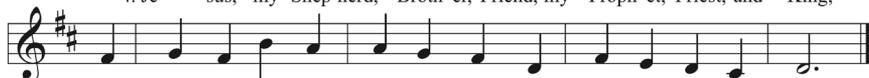
John Newton, 1779

ST. PETER

Alexander R. Reinagle, 1836



1. How sweet the name of Je - sus sounds in a be - liev - er's ear!
2. It makes the wound-ed spir - it whole, and calms the trou - bled breast;
3. Dear Name! the rock on which I build, my shield and hid - ing place,
4. Je - sus, my Shep-herd, Broth-er, Friend, my Proph-et, Priest, and King,



It soothes his sor-rows, heals his wounds, and drives a - way his fear.  
'tis man - na to the hun - gry soul, and to the wea - ry rest.  
my nev - er - fail - ing trea - s'ry filled with bound-less stores of grace;  
my Lord, my Life, my Way, my End, ac - cept the praise I bring.

5. Weak is the effort of my heart,  
And cold my warmest thought;  
But when I see thee as thou art,  
I'll praise thee as I ought.
6. Till then I would thy love proclaim  
With every fleeting breath;  
And may the music of thy name  
Refresh my soul in death.

## CHAPTERS 19-20 — LOVE'S LOWER PLACE

### READING

Chapters 19-20 or pages 210-214

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

From chapter 19: Recall a time when you saw someone willingly take the lower place. What was unusual about his or her actions? What happened as a result?

According to Miller, why are we “allergic to the lower place” (209)?

Miller writes, “We need faith to believe that God will take care of us when others don’t” (213). How does humility require faith? Why is the lower place safe?

From chapter 20: What strikes you about knowing that Jesus experienced the pain of rejection?

## CHAPTERS 19-20 — LOVE'S LOWER PLACE

### SERMON QUESTION — MARK 14:12-52 (SERMONS FROM 3/8 & 3/15)

Peter in this passage is overly confident! Consider asking someone close to you and praying about any willful tendencies you may have by considering where you need to take a more modest “lower place”.

### HYMN — VERSES 1, 4-5

Ancient Irish poem, c. 8th cent. SLANE Traditional Irish melody



1. Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
 2. Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;  
 3. Be thou my bat - tle shield, sword for my fight;  
 4. Rich - es I heed not, nor man's emp - ty praise,  
 5. High King of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

naught be all else to me, save that thou art—  
*I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;*  
 be thou my dig - ni - ty, thou my de - light,  
*thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:*  
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun!

thou my best thought— by day or by night,  
*thou my great Fa - ther, I thy true son;*  
 thou my soul's shel - ter, thou my high tow'r:  
*thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,*  
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
*thou in me dwell - ing, and I with thee one.*  
 raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.  
*High King of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.*  
 still be my vi - sion, O Ru - ler of all.

## CHAPTERS 21-22 — LOVE'S COST

### READING

Chapters 21-22 or pages 232-235

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

From chapter 21: In each phase of Jesus' final few hours, we see him love. Which interaction stands out to you? Why?

From chapter 22: Share an example, large or small, when someone graciously substituted himself or herself for you—perhaps by paying a debt or doing a difficult task for you. What benefits did you receive? How did your relationship change because of this person's action?



## CHAPTERS 23-24 — LOVE'S HOPE

### READING

Chapters 23-24 or pages 248-253

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

From chapter 23: Miller writes that “Through the Spirit, we receive the very character of Jesus—his instincts, his heart, his boldness” (245). Where have you seen an inkling of this in your own life?

What impresses you about Mother Teresa’s statement on page 248 about her work with the poor: “We are doing it with Jesus, for Jesus, to Jesus.”?

## CHAPTERS 23-24 — LOVE'S HOPE

### SERMON QUESTIONS – MARK 15:1—16:8 (SERMONS FROM 3/29, 4/3, & 4/5)

What do you think led to one of the thieves hanging on a cross next to Jesus to ask for his help?

When Jesus ascended, he left us with a mission. What hope do you have of contributing to that mission?

### HYMN

Ancient Irish poem, c. 8th cent.

SLANE

Traditional Irish melody



1. Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
 2. Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;  
 3. Be thou my bat - tle shield, sword for my fight;  
 4. Rich - es I heed not, nor man's emp - ty praise,  
 5. High King of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,



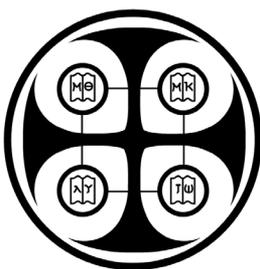
naught be all else to me, save that thou art—  
*I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;*  
 be thou my dig - ni - ty, thou my de - light,  
*thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:*  
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun!



thou my best thought — by day or by night,  
*thou my great Fa - ther, I thy true son;*  
 thou my soul's shel - ter, thou my high tow'r:  
*thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,*  
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
*thou in me dwell - ing, and I with thee one.*  
 raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.  
*High King of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.*  
 still be my vi - sion, O Ru - ler of all.



# REDEEMER

---

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2111 Alexander Avenue, Austin, TX 78722 | (512) 708-1232 | [redeemerpres.org](http://redeemerpres.org)