

# Wisdom Unlocked: The Ways of God

S#4 Episode #10 Braving the Mess



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How do we practice the way of Jesus when we're bumping into people that hard to love, and people that we disagree with? What does love require of us? The parable of the Good Samaritan teaches us to love regardless, and we do that by practicing the spiritual discipline of seeing, engaging people's mess and show compassion even when it's risky.

## The Simple Act of Seeing

Makoto Fujimara - *Art and Faith* - "Most of the time, we are trained not to see but to categorize and move on. It's our basic survival mode."

Mother Teresa - "I have learned over a lifetime to see Christ in everyone."

Are we willing to see people in ways that transcend our categories?

Are we willing to make decisions against our schedules that allow us to really see?

Are we willing to take actions that defy cultural expectations?

## The Brave Act of Engaging the Mess

Community is messy because people are messy. Miracles are messy because life is messy. Examples: Mark 7 - man who was deaf and mute, Mark 8 - blind man, John 9 - blind man, John 11 - Lazarus

Proverbs 14:4 "Where there are no oxen, the manger is empty but from the strength of an ox come abundant harvests."

You can have a neat and tidy life if no one is in it. But growth comes, abundance comes, harvest comes when we are willing to brave the mess. Listen well, disagree freely and love regardless.

Are we willing to make decisions against our comfort? Are we willing to make decisions against our convenience?

## The Risky Act of Showing Compassion

Love requires that we stop operating out of fear. Love requires that we stop worrying about what might be lost.

Are we willing to make decisions against our security - whether that's financial, relational, vocational, reputational.

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Love requires that we stop keeping score of what love requires of us.  
We take risks, we embrace uncertainty, we do hard things.

## Suggested Resources

- [Satellite Bible Atlas: Road from Jerusalem to Jericho](#) (video)
- [Loving Your Neighbor Who is Like You](#) (Lois Tverberg) (blog post)
- [The Parables: Jewish Tradition and Christian Interpretation](#) (Brad Young)
- [Jesus through Middle Eastern Eyes](#) (Kenneth Bailey)
- [Windows into the Bible](#) (Marc Turnage)

Heather Zempel serves at [National Community Church](#). Her book [Community is Messy](#) is available [here](#).

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