

Christ Crosses Lines

Proverbs 25:21-22

3/5/26

Pure heroism occurred the first night of Hanukkah at the Bondi Beach Jewish celebration in Sydney, Australia on December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Two Islamic State inspired terrorists began shooting at this Jewish celebration of among 1000 people in attendance. Many civilians ran at the gunman to wrestle away the weapons. Nurses, lifeguards and by-standers rushed toward the attackers and tended to the care of those wounded. Some were wounded, some were killed to protect the lives of others. Costly compassion. Crossing lines of safety, risking their own lives to protect others.<sup>1</sup>

For Lent Christ's Holy Spirit leads me to preach about Christ's Costly Compassion. For God to be with us, God chooses to experience death! Christ's Costly Compassion. God chooses to cross the line of eternal to timebound to be with us. Christ's Costly Compassion.

Why do we exist? How does God respond to a sinful and broken world?

Let's hear the answer to these questions from Proverbs 25:21-22: If your enemies are hungry, give them bread to eat, and if they are thirsty, give them water to drink, <sup>22</sup> for you will heap coals of fire on their heads, and the Lord will reward you.

If you are thinking, 'I have heard this 'heaping burning coals on their heads' language before' you are correct: Paul uses this Proverb in Romans 12, when he reminds Christians to overcome evil with good!" "To heap burning coals on their heads" is poetic language to dramatically visualize an igniting of conscience, sparking remorse, change of mind not physical harm. Christ's costly compassion changes hearts through generosity!

That brings us to point 1, "Compassion doesn't require agreement; it recognizes shared humanity." Sofia and Boris Gurman, Ahmed Al-Ahmed, these heroes crossed lines of safety seeing shared humanity. What lines in your life is Christ calling you to cross to change hearts thru generosity? Compassion is often costly.

In our next story, Jesus heals an enemy soldier's servant. The healing of the enemy immediately follows Jesus preaching the Sermon on the Mount where he teaches, "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."-Matthew 5:44

Let's hear Christ crossing lines in Matthew 8:5-13.

Praise be to God that Jesus never says, "Oh, I can't be seen with you!" "Do you know what that person has done?" "Will being associated with you tarnish my reputation?" In fact, it does harm Jesus' reputation, for He is criticized with hanging out with tax-collectors and sinners (Matt 9:10-13). Christ crosses lines of reputation to save us.

---

<sup>1</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2025\\_Bondi\\_Beach\\_shooting](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2025_Bondi_Beach_shooting)

 *Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church*  
WORSHIP • SERVE • GROW

Jesus is not threatened by difference. You would think that Jesus would be concerned about our sinful nature rubbing off on Him! We parents warn our children to be aware with whom they are hanging out. For good reason because our peers have a huge influence on us. Simple analogy, where do children learn language accents? Parents or peers? Peers. Look to immigrant children. Jesus is not threatened by difference because He knows where He comes from and knows where He is going. For us not to be threatened by difference, we must know and practice who we are in friendship with Jesus Christ. This will heighten confidence and reduce anxiety across the board.

Jesus knows who He is: a beloved child of God. Think of Jesus temptation with the devil. It all revolves around identity. The devil keeps saying, "If you are the Son of God..." That's all our temptation. To overcome the identity temptation, we must practice Jesus' faith of prayer and worship to not be threatened by difference!

Jesus is not threatened to help a conquering enemy soldier. Because Jesus has faith, He is able to see faith in those who differ from Him. We must not be threatened by difference but train to see faith in those who differ from us. Christ calls us to cross lines to be people of reconciliation.

God's Kingdom is not limited to cultural, political or social lines. We must follow our Lord's Way in this tumultuous world that we live. In terms of culture, "it's the way we do things around here." Let's pursue best practices shaped by Jesus Christ. In terms of politics, let's not be threatened by difference but recognize shared humanity. In terms of social lines, if your enemies are hungry feed them, if they are thirsty give them something to drink for in this way we will change hearts through generosity!

The whole story of Jesus centers on Christ's costly compassion, Christ crossing lines to save us. If you do not know Jesus as Lord of your life, He is with us this very moment. Invite the Lord to live in you. Jesus lives to live in us. Once you have received Christ, ask yourself, "Who do I find the hardest to see with compassion- and what might it look like to trust God at work in them?" This is how we will practice Christ's Costly Compassion. Christ calls us to cross lines. Much like that horrific and heroic night on Bondi Beach, many times we must run toward danger to save other lives.

Love,  
Pastor Curtis