

Whatever It Takes

Break The Rules (Week 4)

LifeNotes

TALK IT OVER

Main Idea

Often, we must break the rules to obey the law of love.

Key Scriptures

A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. So many gathered that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. Some men came, bringing to him a paralytic, carried by four of them. Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus and, after digging through it, lowered the mat the paralyzed man was lying on. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven."
Mark 2:1-5

Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." Mark 12:29-31

When we seek first to fulfill the law of love, we will do whatever it takes.

Obeying the law of love may mean:

1. Breaking social norms.
2. Breaking the rules of tradition.
3. Breaking the rules of men.

Start talking.

- We have said during this series, "When our desire for what could be overwhelms our distaste for what is, we will do whatever it takes." When have you seen this in your life?
- What are common things people say they want to change?
- What are the common reasons change hasn't happened?

Start thinking.

- Read Mark 2:1-5. As Pastor Joel described the scene, what might have been the thoughts and/or emotions the men had to face and/or wrestle with?
- Why were they so driven to overcome the obstacles in their way?
- Read Mark 12:29-31. How did the men in the Mark story honor these two commandments?
- How does "leading with love" sometimes result in breaking the rules?

Start sharing.

- How do "social norms" impact your ability to fulfill Jesus' law of love?
- What traditions have become obstacles to bringing others to Jesus?
- What "rules of men" are in opposition to the law of loving God and loving others?
- Why are these three obstacles difficult to overcome?

Start doing.

- Break the rules of social norms and begin speaking boldly about your faith and your church. Invite one person/family to church this week.
- Ask God to help you view others as he does; as dearly loved children in need of his salvation. Demonstrate love practically to one person that may make you uncomfortable this week.

Closing prayer.

Father we admit, we often hold back from doing whatever it takes to bring others to Jesus. Give us the wisdom and courage to fulfill your law of love in all those you bring into our lives. Strengthen our love for you that we might be willing to overcome any obstacles and break whatever rule stands between you and a saving relationship with others. Amen.