

Costly

March 10 - 13

How much does it cost? A question that might be asked when trying to ascertain the value of something. Certainly, the price we are willing to pay for something determines value, that's how economies work.

That being said, the costliest things in life aren't things. It is relationships that demand the most from us, and their value is determined by our willingness to pay the price for attending to those relationships and keeping them healthy and strong. Another way to say this is that *love costs!* Love costs us our time, our effort, our attention; our investment in these gifts blesses our relationships.

Perhaps no bible passage states this as well as Paul's words from Philippians 2:

"If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient unto death."

Christ died so we might live, and so that we might know how much God loves us. And real love is costly; love calls us to hold on, to humbly seek and generously offer forgiveness. Love calls us to serve those we love with our best gifts, just as Christ has served us.

#REthinkILC Lent Photo for this week: Inspired by the word "**COSTLY**", take a photo and either put it on your social media with **#REthinkILC** or email it to kelly@immanuel.us by noon on Saturday, March 13.

REnew52 action for this week: SHARE. Take time this week to connect with your loved ones, find out how they are doing; share your highs and lows with one another.