



Learning To Love Like Jesus

A teacher of the Law asked Jesus what was the greatest commandment? Remember what Jesus told him? *Love God with all your heart, mind, body and soul.* But Jesus didn't stop there. The second commandment was *love your neighbor as yourself.* Jesus is telling us that nothing in life is more important than how we treat people. You may be thinking, which is more important, loving God or loving people? John says the way we demonstrate our love for God is by the way we treat people around us. *For if a man says, I love God, and hates his brother, he is a liar...* Let's look at Jesus to learn how to genuinely love one another.

The Love Of Jesus Is Observant.

Jesus saw people; not their sin, not labels, certainly not their color, or their national origin, but people and their needs. In John nine, the Jewish community saw a blind sinner; the Apostles saw a theological question (*who sinned this man or his parents?*); but Jesus saw a blind man in need of sight. In Jericho (Luke nineteen) the crowds saw a tax collector to despise and hate, but Jesus saw a potential child of God that could be forgiven. When we look at people, what do we see? It's possible to become so focused on labels that we lose sight of the people behind them. What happened when Jesus looked past the labels? A blind man was healed; the glory of God was demonstrated; salvation came to Zaccheus and his house. We are not likely to teach or influence others, if we will not try to understand where they are in life and how they feel. Look with the eyes of Jesus!

The Love Of Jesus Is Compassionate.

In Mark one, a man came along covered with leprosy. He fell to the ground begging Jesus for help. Jesus reached out, touched him and immediately the leprosy disappeared. Mark says, *Jesus was moved with compassion.* In Matthew nine, Jesus had compassion on the crowds because they were like sheep without a shepherd, so he taught them. In Matthew fourteen, His compassion resulted in the sick being healed. Genuine compassion results in our being involved in the lives of others. James says that a "Go, keep warm and well fed" faith is dead. But pure religion is caring for orphans and widows. Note that Jesus touched the leper. Are there some lepers where you work? In your church, in your family? Will we touch them, like Jesus?

The Love Of Jesus Is Forgiving.

In John eight, Jesus encounters an adulterous woman. Her accusers asked Jesus what should be done with her. But Jesus, who could see through their trickery, shamed them into leaving her alone. Then - sweet, sweet words to her ears - *"neither do I condemn you, go now and leave your life of sin."* Religion without forgiveness is ugly! When we would rather point to the sins of others, rather than forgive them, our religion has turned ugly. There is nothing that will cause another to see Jesus in us quicker than our willingness to forgive like Jesus.

God is love, and Jesus came to show us what genuine love is and how it is demonstrated on a daily basis. Now that we know, our challenge is to love as He loved. *Amen?*

-Randall Caselman, *Lifelines*, Bella Vista Church of Christ - Bella Vista, AR

In the dark? Follow the Son!

News & Notes

SYMPATHY: To the family and friends of Ruby Kenney at her passing this past week. She was a faithful member of this congregation for many years. God bless and comfort those who sorrow.

MOVED: Ione Asher has moved to the Stone Pear Pavilion at Fox in Chester.

CARE BOX: For Derek Thompson serving in the military in the Middle East. Items will be collected until Wednesday, Nov. 26th. See Nancy Hadley for items needed. Collection box is in the foyer.

CARE & SHARE BEARS: Each Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. Join the ladies to help make bears for children.

PANTRY: Canned vegetables. Time is running short to bring a frozen turkey to help those in need this Thanksgiving season. Do what you can to help.

LADIES WORK DAY: Saturday, Dec. 13th, 9:00 a.m. at the Multipurpose Building to prepare baskets for the elderly and shut-ins.

REMEMBER WITH PRAYERS & CARDS: The following have had recent surgeries: Randy Beagle, Ella Beagle, Michelle Hanlon, Bobby Sheville, Bette Gentry (will have radiation soon).

OTHERS WITH PHYSICAL PROBLEMS: *City Hospital(Skilled):* Ella Beagle. *Ruby Memorial Hospital, Morgantown:* Marilyn Sprout. *At Home:* Bobby Sheville, Bette Gentry, Gene Miller, Randy Beagle, Blondina Orr, Virginia Rickerd, Bertha Seman, Pauline Clutter, Dan Williams. Don't forget to encourage others confined to their homes and in nursing homes. They are listed on the bulletin board.

TOO BUSY

I knelt to pray, but not for long ... I had too much to do.
I had to hurry and get to work ... For bills would soon be due.
So I knelt and said a hurried prayer ... And jumped up off my knees.
My Christian duty was now done ... My soul could rest at ease.

All day long I had no time ... To spread a word of cheer.
No time to speak of Christ to friends ... They'd laugh at me I'd fear.
No time, no time, too much to do ... That was my constant cry.
No time to give to souls in need ... But at last the time - the time to die.

I went before the Lord, I came ... I stood with downcast eyes.
For in His hands God held a book ... It was the book of life.
God looked into His book and said ... "Your name I cannot find."
"I once was going to write it down ... But never found the time."

- Author Unknown -