

Loving Like Jesus Loves Me, pt.2, 40 Days of Love

8.28.16

Introduction

1. Gal.5.6 – The most important thing is faith expressing itself in love.
2. I want you masters, blackbelts, champions, authorities in loving others.
3. The best way to learn is through an example – “John 13.34” We learn through the example of Jesus.
4. You can't really love others like Jesus until you first understand and experience how much God loves you (Heart of Sonship School is so important). You give away what you are. When you understand how Jesus loves you it gets much easier to love others.

Accept others like Jesus accepts me

1. Deepest wounds we receive are the wounds of rejection from parents, to the playground to peers. Most of what we do is a combination of trying to be accepted by others and trying to avoid rejection.
2. There is a myth that says if I can just be perfect enough then you'll accept. Jesus was perfect and look how it ended for him. You will never be accepted by everyone.
3. We talk about accepting Jesus, but the fact is that he has accepted us – “John 6.37”
4. Some of you grew up with un-pleasable parents, it was never enough...even today some adults are trying to get their parent's approval...if you haven't got it by now, you never will.
5. Titus 3.7 – Jesus treated us much better than we deserve. He made us acceptable to God and He gave us the hope of eternal life.
6. We're accepted by God, not b/c of our ability, sinlessness, etc but b/c of His grace & I am to have that same response to others.
 - a. To accept others does not mean I approve of their behavior
 - b. Understand the difference between “Acceptance & Approval”
 - c. The Woman Caught In Adultery – John 8. Js doesn't pound her into the ground...love doesn't rub it in, love rubs it out. He didn't approve of her behavior but he did accept her.
 - d. “Rom.15.7”
 - i. Knowing that I have been chosen and accepted by God makes my heart soar...just as knowing Stephanie chose me makes my heart soar and know that I am special.
 - ii. How do you show that you accept people? Look at them and listen...focus your attention on them. Listen to their fears & doubts and don't be dismissive.
 - e. Homework: This week I will show acceptance to... . These are EGR's (Extra Grace Required).
 - f. How accepting of you are difficult or different people

Value others like Jesus values me

1. How much are you worth? Not net worth, but self-worth.
2. You are worthwhile to God. First, God created you; second, Jesus died for you; third, God put the HS in you; fourth, he wants you to be with him for eternity.
3. “Luke 12.6-7”
4. What makes something valuable?

40 Days of Love – Part 2

- a. Values depends on who made it
 - i. Faberge egg vs hand painted Easter Egg
 - ii. Painting
 - iii. So who made you?
 1. “Eph.2.10”
 2. Literally, we are God’s masterpiece or poiema “poem”. You are a God’s poetry. Think about the significance of that statement? Great poetry captures the heart and soul. It is unique and powerful as are you according to how God has created you.
 - b. Value depends on what someone will pay.
 - i. How much is your house worth? Antique collection? Comic books? What someone is willing to pay for it.
 - ii. “1 Peter 1.19”
 - iii. You want to know how much you are worth to God? Look at the cross. With arms spread open the Father said, “You are worth this much?” The cross proves your value to Jesus.
 - iv. Appl – some were told that you aren’t worth anything...nothing but trash...useless...that is nothing but a lie. You ARE valuable to God; He gave His Son to get you back into relationship with Himself. The Father said, “Go get them Son...bring them back to me.”
 - c. Appl – This is how God wants us to value one another
 - i. 1 Pet.2.17 says, “Treat everyone with dignity.” Everyone.
 - ii. How do you do it? By looking and listening to them.
 1. Doing what James says, “Quick to listen and slow to speak.” Challenge you in your conversations to ask questions of others and look them in the eye
 2. Being polite and courteous to those who provide some level of customer service – waiter, drive through attendant, cashier, etc. Every person has value; is a treasure.
5. Homework assignment: This week I will affirm the value of... .

Forgive others like Jesus forgives me

1. Some of you have believed the lie that God is just mad at you...every problem that you think that God is getting even with you...in other words, God is carrying a grudge.
2. “Is 43.25”
 - a. God wants to forgive. He is patient towards us waiting for us to repent and come to Him.
3. “Eph.1.4”
 - a. Even before you were born, He already decided to forgive you. God already knew what you were going to do today and He planned to forgive you.
4. “Rom.8.1”
5. “Mt.26.28”
6. Once I know that I am forgiven then I must forgive others
 - a. “Col.3.13” – Make allowances b/c d is incredibly patient with us.
 - b. “John 3.16 & 17” Jesus didn’t come to condemn the world and neither should we. God has not given us the ministry of condemnation, but reconciliation.
7. Story from previous message “loving with an arrow or hook?” but I did not use it. A bitter enemy becomes a son and this is the attitude we should have for all.
 - a. Matt 18.33

40 Days of Love – Part 2

8. Homework: Who do you need to forgive?

Believe in others like Jesus believes in me

1. All around you are people with low self esteem. They don't believe in themselves or God given abilities. Everyone has insecurities – things we're troubled by, uncertain about... . The younger you were when you experience rejection the more serious it is in your life.
2. 1 Cor.13 is the chapter we're studying in all our ABFs and Wednesday small groups – get in one b/c you will miss much of what this 40 Days of Love is trying to accomplish.
3. The LB paraphrases 1 Cor.13 this way: If you love someone, you will be loyal to him no matter what the cost. You will always believe in him, always expect the best of him and always stand your ground in defending him.
4. This is exactly how Jesus saw his disciples back then and even today. He did not see what they were but what they would become. He saw then and now how you turn out in the fullness of life.
 - a. Ex of a child that you knew would one day become the president of the US; you would look at them with great hope and encouragement every day; you wouldn't beat down on them, etc. Why? B/c you know who the child is and the outcome.
 - b. It is the same with us – God knows who you are as his child and what you will be.
5. Consider the words of Jesus:
 - a. Mt.17.20 – If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, "Move from here to there" and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.
 - b. Mk.9.23 – Jesus said, "Everything is possible for him who believes."
 - c. Mt.21.21 – Then Jesus told them, "I assure you, if you have faith and don't doubt you can do things like this and much more..."
 - d. John 14.12 – The truth is, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father.
 - e. Appl – God believes in you, but they are only possible by the empowerment of the Holy Spirit in your life.
6. We need to believe in each other that way. We need to look at each other not with where each person currently is, but who they are in Jesus now and who they will be in eternity.
 - a. Rom 1.12 says, "I want us to help each other with the faith we have. Your faith will help me and my faith will help you."
 - b. This is why you need to be closely connected with other believers. Some weeks we get the faith kicked out of us. You're dead, doubting, depressed, discouraged and maybe in despair and you need the encouragement of others
 - c. Heb.10 says, "Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially as His return is drawing near."
7. Homework: Who in your life needs someone to believe in them... somebody that's discouraged and maybe falsely accused or other people disregard. I want you to encourage them and tell them you believe in them.
8. Psychologists tell us that our self image is determined by what you think the most important person in your life thinks about you. So as your pastor, I am telling you that you need to make Jesus the most important person in your life. He says you are valuable, acceptable, lovable and capable. You need to stop listening to those recording from the past or the discouraging people around you. It doesn't matter what others say b/c the most important person in the universe says, "I love you."

40 Days of Love – Part 2

Conclusion

Fred Craddock Story

Fred Craddock is a pastor. He tells the story of the time he was vacationing in Gaitlenburg, Tennessee. Fred and his wife were seated at a table in a restaurant and an old man came up to them and asked, “Are you folks on vacation?” “Yes,” said Fred, “and we’re having a good time.” The old man said, “So, what do you do for a living?” Fred said, “I’m a preacher.” “Oh!” said the old man. “Let me tell you a preacher story.”

He sat down by them. The old man said, “I was born an illegitimate child. I never knew who my father was. It was very, very hard on me growing up. The kids in school made fun of me. Growing up, I didn’t have any friends at all. When I walked around our little town I always felt people were staring at me and looking at me and saying, ‘I wonder who’s the father of that boy.’ I spent a lot of time by myself. I didn’t have any friends. One day a pastor came to town. Everybody was talking about how good he was. I had never gone to church but I decided I’d go to church and hear this guy. So I went. And he was good. So I kept going back. But each time I went to church I’d come in late and I’d leave early so I wouldn’t have to talk to anybody. [sounds like a lot of you.] Then one Sunday I got so caught up listening that I forgot to leave early and the service ended and the people stood up and I couldn’t get out the door. Suddenly I felt a heavy hand on my shoulder. When I turned, that big tall pastor was standing there with his hand on my shoulder looking at me and he said, ‘What’s your name, son? Whose boy are you? Whose son are you?’ I just shook when I heard those words and I heard that question. But before I could say anything that pastor said this, ‘I know who you are. I know who your family is. You have a distinct family resemblance. You’re the son of God!’” The man said, “You know, those words changed my life.”

The old man got up and he left and a waitress came over a little bit later and said, “Do you know who you were talking to?” Fred said, no. She said, “That’s Ben Hooper. Two time governor of Tennessee.”

A man learned he was the child of God and it changed his whole direction. It changed his destiny. He learned he was valuable and acceptable and lovable and forgivable and capable. It changed the rest of his life. And all the opinions of other people didn’t matter any more.

I know without a doubt you’ve had wounds in your life. You’ve been hurt, no doubt. They’re wounds from rejection by peers and parents and all the other people I’ve talked about. God cares. I care. This church cares. You need to make Jesus Christ the most important person in your life and start filling your mind with what he says. That is the starting point for love. You can’t love others until you know how much God loves you. Ephesians 3:18 *“May you have the power to understand, as all God’s people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep God’s love really is.”*

Prayer:

Thank you Father, that you can heal broken hearts and bitter memories and damaged self esteem and even the tears that are falling right now. Thank you. Thank you that we matter to you. Thank you that patterns can be erased and curse can be reversed. Thank you that you turn nobodies into somebodies. Jesus, I ask that you help people today, these dear friends of mine, you help them begin to see themselves through your eyes of love. Thank you that we can depend upon your love.

40 Days of Love – Part 2

Now you pray. In your heart say this, “Dear Jesus Christ, help me to see myself the way you see me. Thank you for creating me. Thank you for loving me. Thank you for dying for me. I don’t understand it all but thank you that you accept me and that you value me. And that you forgive me and that you believe in me. I want to believe in you. I want to trust you. Help me to care more about what you think of me than what other people think. May the truth set me free.”

With our heads still bowed I want you to repeat these truths aloud after me: “Because of Jesus I am acceptable. I am valuable. I’m lovable. I am forgivable. And I am capable. Jesus, help me to see myself through your eyes of love. And help me to see others the same way. Amen”

SCRIPTURES

Jesus: “I’m giving you a new commandment: Love each other in the same way that I have loved you.” John 13:34 (GW)

“I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you!” John 13:15 (NLT)

1. ACCEPT OTHERS LIKE JESUS ACCEPTS YOU

those the Father has given me will come to me, and I will never reject them John 6:37 (NLT)

“Jesus treated us much better than we deserve. He made us acceptable to God and gave us the hope of eternal life.” Titus 3:7 (CEV)

God did not send his son into the world to condemn it, but to save it. John 3:17 (NLT)

“Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you.” Rom. 15:7 (NIV)

Action Step

This week I will show acceptance to _____

love

Someone who irritates you or is hard to

2. VALUE OTHERS LIKE JESUS VALUES ME

“Are not five sparrows sold for two small coins? Yet not one of them has escaped the notice of God. Even the hairs of your head have all been counted! Do not be afraid. You are worth far more than many sparrows.” Luke 12:6-7 (NAB)

40 Days of Love – Part 2

“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” Eph. 2:10 (NIV)

“He paid for you with the precious lifeblood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God.” 1 Peter 1:19 (NLT)

“Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you. See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands!” Isaiah 49:15-16 (NIV)

“Treat everyone you meet with dignity.” 1 Peter 2:17 (MSG)

Action Step

This week I will affirm the value of _____

worth

Someone who has low self-

3. **FORGIVE OTHERS LIKE JESUS FORGIVES ME**

“I am the God who forgives your sins, and I do this because of who I am. I will not hold your sins against you.” Isa. 43:25 (GN)

Long ago, even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. Ephesians 1:4 (NLT)

“There is now NO condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” Rom. 8:1 (NIV)

“This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.” Matt. 26:28 (NIV)

“You must make allowance for each other’s faults and forgive the person who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.” Col. 3:13 (NLT)

Action Step

This week I will offer forgiveness to _____

of guilt or shame

Someone who has hurt you or is carrying a load

4. **BELIEVE IN OTHERS LIKE JESUS BELIEVES IN ME**

If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you. Matthew 17:20 (NIV)

Jesus said, “Everything is possible for him who believes.” Mark 9:23 (NIV)

“Then Jesus told them, “I assure you, if you have faith and don’t doubt you can do things like this and much more...” Matt. 21:21 (NLT)

40 Days of Love – Part 2

“The truth is, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father.” John 14:12 (NLT)

“I want us to help each other with the faith we have. Your faith will help me, and my faith will help you.” Rom. 1:12 (NCV)

“Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.” Heb. 10:24 (NIV)

Action Step

This week I will demonstrate trust in _____

Someone you see has potential for

growth: “I believe in you!”

“May you have the power to understand, as all God’s people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love really is.” Eph. 3:18 (NLT)

40 Days of Love – Part 2