

SERMON SERIES: The Best Summer Ever

SPEAKER: Ryan Lingbloom

DATE: August 4, 2024

Sermon Title

“Love”

Introduction

This week we continued our series called Best Summer Ever. During this series, we will explore the passage of 2 Peter 1:5-8 to help us close the gap between who we are now and who Christ is calling us to be. This week’s focus is *Love*. Jesus— through his life, death, and resurrection, demonstrated the love that we are called to live out each and every day. As believers, it is crucial for us to add to our faith the *love* of Jesus for the people we interact with.

- What is your favorite love story? Could be from a book, a movie, a song, etc. Why is that your favorite?

Seek the Word

- 1 Corinthians 16:14 tells us to “Do everything in love”. But this means more than just telling someone you love them, or knowing it in your mind. What do you think it means to do things “in love”?
- Read the story of Jesus, Simon the Pharisee, and the weeping woman in Luke 7:36-50. Take note as you read of the difference in posture and attitude between Simon the Pharisee and the woman. What stands out to you about how Jesus interacted with them?
- Jesus taught hard truths all throughout his ministry, and this interaction is no different. Yet it is clear that Jesus treats both Simon and the woman with love. How does Jesus show love to each of these people, and in what ways can we emulate that?

Go Deeper

Galatians 6:2 says “Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.” Oftentimes, we are hardwired to push back against things that we are told to do, even if they are good things to be doing. What goes through your mind when you think about the fact that loving people like Jesus is a command, not an optional thing for believers? Does it provide comfort, challenge, or something else and why?

Talk About It

- Ryan told us that “to love people, we have to see people” and then challenged us to think about that person in our life that maybe we have been overlooking. Who came to mind when you heard him say that? What about them has made you not see them?
- Simon challenged Jesus by saying that if only Jesus knew who the weeping woman was— a sinner— then he would not let her do what she was doing. Simon devalued this woman because of her past mistakes and sin. Yet Jesus forgave her sins because of her faith, and rebuked Simon for his attitude towards her. Which of these two people do you relate to the most? The sinful woman in need of a savior, clinging to the feet of Jesus, or the “upright” believer who is wondering how to love someone so broken? (Be honest with this, not to feel guilt or shame, but to be able to invite Jesus into your situation.)
- How “interruptible” are you in your daily life? Are you constantly hurrying and on the go, unable to slow down and see the people around you? What can you do to take some steps back and allow for more moments in your day to *love* people like Jesus, even when it is inconvenient?
- As noble as our intentions may be, we still cannot fix every problem and serve every need. But, like Ryan reminded us, when we love like Jesus we can definitely serve one need. Think about the people you interact with on a daily basis. Maybe it is a family member, a coworker, the cashier at your grocery store or gas station. What is a need that you see in that person that you know could be served by loving them like Jesus? How can you go about loving them in that way this week?

Wrap Up

Reminder: To love people, we have to see people. Jesus was a busy guy, but he was always present. He made himself available for people and loved them even when it might not have fit into his schedule. As Christians, we are called to imitate Christ and add *love* to our faith, showing the love of Jesus to everyone we come into contact with.

Challenge: As scary as it may seem, make this your prayer this week, “*God, please show me one person to love like you today. Present me with opportunities to show them that love and imitate Christ when I come into contact with them.*”

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

John 13:34-35