

True Love Serves

last week's message

God is the source of true love and we must receive it to pass it on to others. It is not driven by feelings or emotions. It is not just words, but action. This week, we shall see the other side of love that comes from the heart of God: **TRUE LOVE SERVES.**

Jesus Describes the Love that Serves (Luke 10:30-37)

Jesus had an encounter with a lawyer who asked Him how to inherit eternal life (Luke 10:25-27). Jesus then tells the lawyer and those standing around about the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37). In the parable, the priest and the Levite had no mercy nor compassion for the half dead man by the side of the road while the Samaritan saw a man in need, and he responded. All of them saw the need but the priest and the Levite failed to serve with love. Unless we see the need as greater than our personal priorities, we will never serve with love.

- **The Samaritan saw the stranger with compassion (v.33).** His heart was filled with pity and pain. We need to have a heart of God to see the needs of people around us and to act in service. It is seeing others as more important than yourself. Love sees beyond self and willingly serves.
- **The Samaritan shared his possessions when he saw the need (v.34).** Serving in love means sharing our possessions too. Part of our possessions is time. The Samaritan was willing to give time. He most likely was on a journey for business and this detour certainly cost him money and time. True love always costs. If there is no cost, there is no love.
- **The Samaritan went out of his way to save the person (v.35).** He was so concerned with this man's life that he made all the necessary arrangements to ensure that he will be saved. So much like what Jesus has done for us. He paid every debt and promises to return. Every time we serve others for Jesus, we are doing it for Him (Matthew 25:40). One of the best ways we can meet other people's needs is by sharing the gospel message that saves. That is the greatest need of others that we can serve in the love of Jesus.

this week's memory verse

[Love] bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails; but if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away; if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is knowledge, it will be done away.

1 CORINTHIANS 13:7-8



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Jesus Demonstrate the Love that Serves (John 13:1-12)

Jesus Himself demonstrated love to His disciples by serving them until the end.

- **Jesus saw the need and acted on it.** No one was willing to do the task of washing of the feet and there was no servant around. He had compassion and affection in His heart for His disciples and as the Master did this act of love to be an example. Jesus set aside His comfort, His position of authority, and His heavenly role. He is the Creator, Rabbi, Teacher, Master, Son of Man, Son of God, Messiah, King, Lord, and Savior; yet He took on the role of the lowest slave.
- **Jesus modeled humility.** In a world filled with sinful pride, Jesus shows us that the greatest is the one who serves others in humility. Jesus' act of washing the dirty feet of the disciples is symbolic of His final act of dying on the cross where He will wash away and save us. More than washing the dirt of their feet, Jesus was cleansing the dirt of sin that stained their hearts and souls. Today, we need to confess our sins directly to Jesus (1 John 1:9) for our cleansing. The symbol of "washing dirty feet" teaches us that we need to come to Him daily to be cleansed of the sins we commit as we walk in this world.
- **Jesus served unconditionally.** He willingly served Judas, Peter, and the other disciples who either betrayed Him, denied Him, or abandoned Him in His suffering. Jesus will lovingly keep reaching out to you desiring that you accept His gift of love.

Knowing about these things but doing nothing is useless. Jesus said that the blessings come in the doing (John 13:17). Obeying what He teaches is where the real blessing is. Jesus is counting on you to be His hands, His feet, His mouth, and His heart in the lives of others.

discussion questions

Who and how will you specifically serve those in your family today?

In the midst of this crisis with limited access to others, what will you do to extend personal service virtually?

Who are the people outside your family whom you know are hurting or in need and what will you do to serve them in love?





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