

MEN'S LIFE BLOOMINGTON & GOD @ WORK

Tuesday, March 14, 2017

Lead with Love

John 13:34-35*; Luke 10:25-37; John 8:3-11

**A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."*

Definition: God's highest value is love. The scriptures tell us that God is love (1 John 4:8), and He tells us to love our wives as Christ loves the Church, and to love our neighbor, and to love one another and to love our enemies. Godly leaders don't lead with power or intimidation. Godly leaders lead with love.

Segment Questions:

- Gary Chapman authored *The 5 Love Languages*. Which do you most naturally use to demonstrate love to people you work with – Words of Affirmation, Acts of Service, Giving Gifts, Quality Time or Physical Touch?
- What does it mean to you to lead with love?
- How do you think loving God and loving our neighbor, coworker, or enemy are like each other?
- How do you think the woman in John 8 felt as the men encircled her with stones in their hands? How do you think she felt when Jesus didn't join the rest of the crowd and condemn her?

Action Questions:

- Whether at work, at home or in the community do you find it difficult to lead with love? What is your "go to" leadership style – with your wife, with your children, with coworkers, with subordinates? How can you demonstrate leading with love instead?
- Select a coworker or a person you see regularly and tell us how you can demonstrate love to that person this week.
- Is there a person or a group of people that you find particularly difficult to love? How can you move towards loving the person (or the people)?

Lots of people throw around the word love. “I love that color on you.” “I love my new car.” “I love you.” Jesus does a whole lot more describing and showing love than he does saying the word love.

When the scripture says in 1 John 4:10, “This is love: not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins,” I think about how I respond to people who don’t love me and don’t like me. I don’t know about you, but I find certain people hard to love and especially people who don’t like me. It is hard for me to get my mind wrapped around the idea that as unlovable as I am, God loves me more than I can imagine – and not because I loved him or showed him any sort of interest or desire. Even as messed up as I am he loves me.

Let’s look at how Jesus describes and shows love.

Luke 10:25 – 37

²⁵ And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” ²⁶ He said to him, “What is written in the Law? How do you read it?” ²⁷ And he answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.” ²⁸ And he said to him, “You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live.”

²⁹ But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” ³⁰ Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. ³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. ³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. ³⁴ He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵ And the next day he took out two denarii^[a] and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, ‘Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.’ ³⁶ Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?” ³⁷ He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” And Jesus said to him, “You go, and do likewise.”

John 8:3 – 11

The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst ⁴ they said to him, “Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. ⁵ Now in the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?” ⁶ This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. ⁷ And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, “Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her.” ⁸ And once more he bent down and wrote on the ground. ⁹ But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. ¹⁰ Jesus stood up and said to her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” ¹¹ She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.”