

MEN'S LIFE BLOOMINGTON & GOD @ WORK

Tuesday, November 27, 2018

Words at the End of Life — John 13:34, 35; Acts 2:46, 47; John 15:9 – 17 and 1 John 3:11

Overview: When we know our life is coming to a close, we are not going to waste words. What we say in those closing years, months, days or hours will be some of the most important of our life.

Hearing Our Stories: DG Elmore

Segment Questions:

- If you could tell your best friends and family only two things before you die, what would you tell them?
- What do you think the disciples were thinking as Jesus is speaking to them in the upper room about a new commandment of loving one another and abiding in His love?
- In what ways do you see John 13:34, 35 as a new model of love?
- What is one of your favorite stories of how Jesus demonstrates or illustrates love?
- How do you think Jesus evaluates the maturity of believers and how does that compare to how you measure a person's spiritual maturity?

Action Questions:

- What do you think makes loving one another — even other believers — so challenging?
- Think of one person who is hard to love, or “unlovable,” or an enemy. How can you demonstrate love to that person today or grow in love for that person today?
- Think of one non-believing friend. How can you love that person closer to Jesus this week?

Personal Prayer:

Introduction

Have you ever gone through the exercise of writing your obituary, or sitting down to think about how you would live life if you knew you only had five years to live? These are powerfully focusing exercises. When I have done these exercises it focuses my mind on who I want to be now and what I want my legacy to be after I die.

Early in Jesus' ministry he tells us in the sermon on the mount that we should love our enemies and in the discussion about the great commandment, Jesus says, "and the second is like it, that you shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Then, in John 13 to 17, we have Jesus' last words on earth to his best friends and his consistent message over and over again is LOVE.

John 13:34, 35 "A new commandment I give you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you are to also love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

In the early church, nothing was written down. The church was expanding rapidly and they only had oral stories and the Holy Spirit to help them grow in Christ, and the gospel of Jesus spread like wildfire because people were so attracted to the power of Christ as displayed in the love the believers had for one another.

Acts 2:46, 47 Every day they continued to gather together by common consent in the temple courts, breaking bread from house to house, sharing their food with glad and humble hearts, praising God and having the good will of all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number every day those who were being saved.

John 15:9 – 17 "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. These things I command you, so that you will love one another."

Love is not only the mark of a disciple of Jesus, but it is the key to evangelism.

In **1 John 3:11** (NET) For this is the gospel message that you have heard from the beginning: that we should love one another.