

# Love God, Love Each Other, Serve The World

August 25, 2024

Welcome to the Beamsville Church of Christ online ministry. This week's message is titled, "Love God, love each other, serve the world." Thank you to Rhonda, Ed, Barb, and Dawn for being part of the video. The scripture reading is Matthew 17, verse one to five. Happy birthday this week to Jan.

## Welcome, Announcements, Prayer

Good morning and welcome everyone. Today is Len's birthday. Usually sits over here, so if they come in late, we'll give them a hard time. And today is also Robin's birthday and she would like to tell you how old she is. You want to tell us? Yes, she is 11 years old. Not yet though. So is she still acts a little bit young for 11? Well, you'll just forgive her because she's not 11 yet. And Mary and Brian have an anniversary this week.

Great Lakes Christian High School is hiring female dormitory parents and a physics and technology teacher. I don't see too many people here who qualify as a physics teacher. Some of us are definitely qualified to be parents.

Wednesday evening Bible study is the Psalms of Jesus and we had our first session last week and it was excellent and please join us. So it's really, it's worthwhile.

And pray for people who are mourning the Kirkland family. We went to the funeral yesterday for Phyllis and the Cook family. They had, I don't know if they've had their funeral yet. It's in September for Madeline. And always keep the Ellis and Whitfield and Smith families in your prayers as Kendra died.

Oh, you know how I said Len was gonna show up and you could say happy birthday to him. Well, he just showed up so say happy birthday Len. He is here. And Len, you're almost sharing it with Robin but you don't look like you're quite the same age because she's got more hair than you so she might be older. Anyway, anyway.

So let us pray. And when I, I've been doing a lot of writing prayers down based on scripture and this prayer is based on Philippians 2 and I think it's a fitting prayer for this morning. So pray with me based on Philippians 2.

God, our prayer is that through you we will be strong enough to face life trials and that you will be with us in the comfort to us. Thank you for your spirit living in us and for the fellowship we have with each other. May we be kind and compassionate in all that we do. May we be one with each other in thought, in love, in soul and in mind. May we look to others interests before our own. May we be your servants who are motivated with a desire to serve you with our bodies, our possessions and our souls. In Jesus name, amen.

## Communion

It was a typical school day, Great Lakes, a decade or so ago. And I was in my classroom early in the morning to greet students. And Max comes walking into the class, a resident Korean spiritual prophet. And he says to me, "Mr. Ed, what is this about Jesus anyways? Why is he so special? Is he really from the real God?" And I said, "Max, he's different than all of those religious leaders that have come down through the ages people follow. Because you see, he died. But he was resurrected." Max said, "Mr. Ed, that's a good answer."

Rhonda mentioned that we had been to a couple of funerals lately in the last month or so. And a couple of things that really stood out to me during these funerals, that these people who were being remembered and grieved over were people, two women who were people of faith. They loved God. And they loved people. The theme of our lesson today, they loved God and they loved people. They were missed. And people were sad that they had gone. But like Jesus being resurrected, there is hope for our resurrection of sorts, a spiritual resurrection, that when we pass from this life, that we will have another life. And the scriptures promise us that it's going to be grand. The descriptors of heaven, streets laden with gold, lots of imagery that's sort of beyond our imagination. And it's going to be even better than that.

Well, Jesus, when he was talking to his disciples in John chapter 14, recorded in John chapter 13, he was predicting his betrayal and his death. Chapter 14 at the beginning, he comforts his disciples, do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God and trust in him. Believe also in me. For in my father's house are many dwelling places. If it were not so, I would have told you, because I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and will take you to myself. So where I am, you may be also. And where am I going? Where I am going, you know the way. Thomas said, Lord, we do not know where you are going. So how would we know the way? Jesus said to him, I am the way. I am the truth. I am the life. No one comes to the Father but through me.

Well, a little later on in Jesus' journey, Mary, Magdalene, and Mary go to the tomb. And there's a great earthquake occurred for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled away the stone and sat on it. The angel's appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were like as white as snow. The guards shook, paralyzed with fear of him, and became like dead men. But the angel said to the woman, do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, but who has been crucified. He is not here. He has risen, just as he said, come, see the place where he was lying. Then go quickly and tell the disciples that he has risen from the dead. And behold, he has gone ahead of you into Galilee. So often when we have communion, we focus on the death. We focus on the sacrifice. That's good. But you see the punctuation point on this whole process. He was risen. He was risen.

So Max asked a good question. And the answer is he is risen. And I love the song, number 169 in your book, Celebrate Jesus, Celebrate. Celebrate Jesus, Celebrate. He is risen. He is risen. Let us celebrate. As we commune today, we remember this great sacrifice that God in the flesh came to this land, made himself known to us. And he lived a life when he was asked lots of times, what do I have to do to be saved? What's the law say? Love God and love your neighbor as yourself. And he was risen to punctuate the fact that he is God in the flesh. And we have hope. Like those folks at

those funerals that I've been to, they have hope for a resurrection of sorts when this life is over. Praise God. Let's pray.

Our Father in heaven, we cannot imagine the level of love that you have for us, that you would send a part of yourself to this world to show us and to tell us and to be an example for who you are and what you're about. And ultimately, to show us a way to live a life that honors you and honors your creative ability and your intelligence and your love and your compassion. We might emulate those characteristics of you in our feeble kind of way as we follow you. But we're thankful for this sacrifice. But we're thankful also that Jesus rose from the dead. We give evidence of your power and your promise. As we partake of these emblems today, we celebrate your death. And we celebrate your son's resurrection. And it's in his name we pray. Jesus the Christ, our Savior. Amen.

## Reading

### Matthew 17:1-5

The reading today is from Matthew 17 verses 1 to 5. "After six days, Jesus took with him Peter, James, and John, the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah talking with Jesus. Peter said to Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah. While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the clouds said, this is my son, whom I love. With him I am well pleased. Listen to him."

## Sermon

### Love God, Love Each Other, Serve The World

Good morning everyone. I just have a brief message I'd like to share with you today. That's a preacher's joke. We're brief. Usually when the minister says it's going to be brief, it's 45 minutes, but that's not going to happen today. I just want to share a message because it's our motto in our church, which is loving God, loving each other, and serving the world. When you come into the church building, you'll see that sign. Loving God, loving each other, and serving the world. But it's more than a slogan, and so what I'd like to do is just kind of talk about this. Loving God, loving each other, and serving the world.

There's so many scriptures that we could use today, and I'll be using some of them. First of all, loving God. It's spoken many times. In Matthew chapter 12, 18 and following, speaking of God, Matthew writes these words. Here is my servant whom I love. Or Psalm 106. Praise the Lord and give thanks to the Lord for His love endures forever. It never stops. It's always there. See, part of us is part of God. The nature of God is put into each one of us. And remembering God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, and that we are part of all of that.

So speaking of God, Matthew says, here is my servant whom I love. And in the Old Testament, Psalm 106. Praise the Lord and give thanks to the Lord for His love endures forever. Psalm 138. I will praise you, O Lord, with all my heart. May all the kings of the earth praise you. In our Bible class this morning, we were looking at kings and so forth, and how the king thought he was the Lord of all things. And of course, that's not the case.

So in Matthew 22 and 37, Jesus said, love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. And it's easy to just kind of rabbit that off. But to stop and think about it, it's quite profound to love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength. And how do you do that, especially when life is difficult and challenges are all around us? But it's to remember that we love God with all of our soul, mind, and strength, because that's how God loves us. Psalm, pardon me, Matthew 22 and 37, Jesus said, love the Lord your God with all your soul, your mind, and your strength. Why? This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it, which is love your neighbor as yourself. And then he says these words, all of the law and the prophets hang on these two commandments. Loving God. It's a profound and beautiful thing.

So in John 13:34 and 35, again, very familiar scriptures, talking about love. And it's Jesus who's speaking. And he says, a new command I give you, pardon me, love one another. But it's more than that. A new command I give you, love one another as I have loved you. So you must love one another. Can we somehow quantify what that means? God's love? How do you articulate that? The love of God. God loving us. It's so difficult to articulate the love that God is pouring into our life every minute of every His promise, I will never leave you. I will never forsake you. I am with you always. And I love you more than you could ever imagine. What an amazing God we So he pours out his love into all of our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us. And then loving each other.

Matthew five and 43. You have heard that it was said, love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I tell you, love your enemies. Pray for those who persecute you that you may be sons and daughters of your father. It's interesting how we have great stories where this is demonstrated from Saul, who was persecuting Christians, who becomes Paul, who was one of the great evangelists, preachers of all kind, all time. Persecutor to being persecuted because he was sharing the word of God. And then in the book of Luke chapter six and verse 27 and following, Jesus said, I tell you who hear me, love your enemies. Man, that's difficult to do. And do good to those who curse you and pray for those who mistreat you.

And then verse 32, if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. Then your reward will be great and you will be sons and daughters of the Most High. Sons and daughters of God, the Father, God, the Son, and God, the Holy Spirit. He is our Father. And he's with us right here and right now because he promises, I'm always with you. I'll never leave you. I'll never forsake you. Now, there may be times when we feel like he's But do you trust God or you trust yourself? God who says, I love you and always will.

So he says, I tell you, hear me, love your enemies. Do good to those who curse them and pray for those who mistreat you. Difficult to do. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. Then your reward will be great and you'll be sons and daughters of the Most High. Be merciful as your Father is. Merciful. If only we could be as merciful as Jesus. So loving each other is a constant all through scripture.

John 14. Again, very familiar passages of scripture. Sometimes we can memorize the scriptures but forget how beautiful these scriptures are because it's not just reading the scripture, it's putting it into practice.

Jesus said, don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God. Trust also in me. Difficult. Difficult. Don't let your hearts be troubled. When you have a young child who has a fever or an illness or someone is in hospital dealing with traumatic issues, it's not always easy. Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God. Trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house. If it were not so, I would have told you. And I'm going there, Jesus said, to prepare a place for you. He's preparing a place for you. Because if I go there and prepare a place for you, I'm going to come back and take you to be with me so that you may also be where I'm going. Many of us have lost loved ones. But the promise and the assurance of Jesus is very real. We know where they are. With him. And one day, that will be our turn. And one day, the great victory sound will take place for all.

I am the way, Jesus said, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really knew me, you'd know my Father. And the more we know of Jesus, the more we know of the Father. And Jesus said, if you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father and he will give you another counselor to be with you forever. The Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept the Holy Spirit because it neither sees him or knows him. But the Holy Spirit lives with you and will be in us, be in you. God, the Father, God, the Son, God, the Holy Spirit, always with us. I will not leave you as orphans. I will come to you, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and the promise of Jesus. And maybe some of you today are facing this. Now is your time of grief. But I will see you again. And you will rejoice and no one will take away your joy. Many of us have gone to funerals. Many of us have gone to family funerals. Sometimes the bereavement is so overwhelming, we can't even put words to it until we remember the promise of Jesus. Our sweet, wonderful, magnificent preacher Kendra is with the Lord. And she has left us so many messages of love and faith and truth.

One day it will be our turn to see Jesus, to see God face to face and with loved ones again. You will never leave us as orphans. He says I will not leave you as orphans. I will come to you, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and the promise of Jesus. Now is your time of grief. But I will see you again. And you will rejoice and no one will ever take your joy away. It will always be there. If Jesus said it, I believe it. And then in John 16, I love this. I can just see the apostles, followers, eyes opening when Jesus says, you know, think a loud voice. You believe at last.

And Jesus said a time is coming and has come when you'll be scattered each to your own home. You will leave me all alone. Yet I am not alone for my father is with me. I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. Many many of us have met people that they've gone through horrific tragedies, but somehow there is this competence. There's this. It's okay. It's okay. God has never left us. He never will. But in this world, you'll have trouble, but take heart. I've overcome the world. And when you were lonely, remember God, the Father, God, the Lord, the Spirit, all of these things. And you think of the wonderful words of Scripture, the fruit of the Spirit who God Love and joy and peace and patience and kindness and goodness and faithfulness and gentleness and control. And then he encourages us to put these into practice on a daily basis.

And so when Paul writes to the Church of Philippi, he says, in the peace of God, which transcends all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. And then he says, finally, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is lovely and admirable, if anything is excellent or praiseworthy, think about all these things that we've just said. And the God of peace will be with you. And if Jesus said, and Paul says that the God of peace will be with us, then the

God of peace is with Never leaving us, never forsaking. Sometimes we forget, we want to figure it all out. Sometimes it's just God is with us. He'll always be with us. Sometimes it's so difficult when loved ones pass, but we do know that we will see them again.

So loving God, serving the world, Jesus said, whoever serves me must follow me. And where I am, my servant also will be. My father will honor the one who serves me, meaning Jesus. And so Paul writes in chapter one, Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ. I am a servant called to be an apostle of God.

And then in Philippians, if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, and I hope we have a lot of encouragement because we're united in Christ. If any comfort in his love, and I hope that we all have comfort in God's love, and any compassion, then make my joy complete by being like minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Don't do anything out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. But in humility, consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. When we talk about better than ourselves, it's sharing ourselves as best we can. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus. It's easy to read it. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus. I can tell you that that doesn't happen in my life every day.

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus, who being in very nature, God did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself taking the very nature of a servant, being And being found in human likeness and being found in appearance as a man. And he humbled himself and became obedient to death, even death on a cross. And the death of the cross was for us. The gift of God, the Father, God, the Son and God, the Holy Spirit, who gave his life for us and will come again someday and will be together again. And here's what he says. Therefore, because of all of this, God exalted him to the highest place, gave him the name that is above every name, that the name of Jesus is Every knee should bow. You think if Jesus came into this building today, what would we do? I'm pretty sure we would bow. I would bow. God asks us to persevere.

In the book of Jude, he says, not Judas, the book of Jude, he says, but dear friends, remember what the apostles of all our Jesus Christ foretold. They said to you in the last days, there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires. These are men who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Holy Spirit. They don't have the Holy Spirit. But dear friends, listen to these words. Build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit. When we're praying, we're praying to God, we're praying to Jesus, we're praying to the Holy Spirit.

So in conclusion, says, and in him who was able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy to the only We are praying to God, our Savior, be glory, majesty and power through Jesus Christ, our Lord, before all ages. And then listen to this now and forevermore. And then the finally says these words. Amen and Amen. Isn't the promises, the promises of God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit so incredible, even this very day. Amen.

## Closing

Romans.

"Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to the gospel and to the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages, but is now disclosed and through the prophetic writings is made known to all of us Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God to bring about the obedience of faith, to the only wise God through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forevermore. Amen."

Have a good week.

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