

## 40/ 50 Days of Love – Part 3

### LOVING LIKE JESUS

John 13:12-17

Then he said, “Do you understand what I have done to you? You address me as ‘Teacher’ and ‘Master,’ and rightly so. That is what I am. So if I, the Master and Teacher, washed your feet, you must now wash each other’s feet. I’ve laid down a pattern for you. What I’ve done, you do. I’m only pointing out the obvious. A servant is not ranked above his master; an employee doesn’t give orders to the employer. If you understand what I’m telling you, act like it—and live a blessed life.

The best way to learn anything is to learn by a model. When we see somebody else doing it and go, “Oh, that’s how you do it! I’ve got that!” Who is the best example for love? Jesus was the only person with perfect love, with perfect understanding of relationships. In John 13 Jesus said, “*I’m giving you a new commandment, love each other in the same way that I have loved you.* Jesus says the way I love you is the way I want you to love other people. John 13:15 “*I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you.*”

You can’t be gracious to others if you haven’t felt God’s grace. You can’t be merciful to others if you haven’t felt God’s mercy. You can’t be loving to others unless you understand how much God loves you. When you get that, It’s going to be a lot easier for you to love others.

Today we’re going to do two things. We’re going to look at how much God really does love you. Then we’re going to look at how God wants you to pass it on to others.

- I. First, we must accept others the way Jesus accepts me.
  - A. Followers of Jesus ought to be the most accepting people in the world.
    1. The deepest wounds are the wounds of rejection.
    2. Those are the things that hurt the most.
      - a. Maybe you’ve been betrayed.
      - b. Maybe you’ve been belittled.
      - c. Maybe you were told that you were never going to amount to anything.
      - d. In those deep wounds of rejection are your deepest hurts.
    3. We’ve all had them.
      - a. Some from parents.
      - b. Or peers on the playground.
      - c. Or partners.

- d. from professionals in your career.
- B. Most of what you do is a combination of trying to be accepted, and trying to avoid rejection.
  - 1. It affects the kind of clothes you wear.
  - 2. It affects the way you style your hair.
  - 3. It affects the kind of car you drive,
  - 4. the career you choose,
  - 5. how you relate to other people –
- C. People will do crazy, crazy things to be accepted.
  - 1. Remember when you were dared to do something you really didn't want to do?
    - a. They'd say "I dare you to do this."
    - b. So you did it anyway.
  - 2. There is this myth out there that if I could be perfect then everybody would love me.
  - 3. Friends, that's just wrong.
    - a. Jesus was perfect.
    - b. No matter what you do, somebody's not going to like you.
  - 4. So the starting point in learning to love is realizing how much God accepts you.
- D. John 6 *"The Father gives me my people. Every one of them will come to me, and I will always accept them."*
  - 1. That means all the time.
  - 2. It's not a conditional acceptance.
  - 3. Do you realize that Jesus accepted you?
    - a. You can be a Christian, and never really feel accepted by God.
  - 4. Where that comes from is not from God.
    - a. It comes from un-pleasable parents.
    - b. You grew up with conditional love.
    - c. "I love you if... Or I love you because... you do these things."
    - d. So we learn conditional love.
  - 5. But God says, no, I just love you, period!
  - 6. Not because of who you are but who I am.
  - 7. Because of what I've done.
  - 8. Not because of your conduct, but because of my character.
- E. So we have to love the way that God loves us.

1. God says, I love you unconditionally.
  2. If you haven't got your parents' approval by now, you aren't going to get it.
  3. It has nothing to do with you, it has everything to do with them.
  4. But, you don't need it to be happy!
  5. The Bible says this "*Even if my mother and father forsake me the Lord will receive me.*"
  6. Titus 3:7 "*Jesus treated us much better than we deserve. He made us acceptable. He made us acceptable to God and he gave us the hope of eternal life.*"
  7. How does he make us acceptable?
    - a. By his grace.
    - b. It's not based on performance.
- F. God wants you to do that with other people
1. The difference between acceptance and approval.
  2. Jesus loves you and accepts you, doesn't mean he approves of everything you do.
  3. You can accept someone without approving of what they do.
  4. A good example is the woman caught in the act of adultery. They bring her before Jesus and said. What will you do about it?
  5. Jesus says, "Ok, anybody who has never sinned, you get to throw the first stone."
  6. He's giving acceptance, not approval.
  7. Then in the private he looks at this woman and says, "Where are your attackers?" And she says, "They're all gone, Lord."
    - a. He says, "*Neither do I condemn you. Go and sin no more.*"
  8. That's what you need to do with other people around you.
    - a. You don't have to approve of everything, everybody does.
    - b. But you do have to accept them.
- G. The Bible says that God chose to accept us.
1. He *chose* to accept us and make us acceptable to God.
- H. That's what he expects you to do for others.
1. Romans 15:7 "*Accept one another, then, just as Christ*

*accepted you.”*

- I. Loving like Jesus means I've got to accept other people the way Jesus accepts me.
  
- II. I must value others the way Jesus values me.
  - A. How valuable are you?
    1. I'm not talking about what your worth.
    2. I'm talking about your self worth.
    3. You are infinitely valuable to God.
      - a. First, God created you.
      - b. Second, Jesus died for you.
      - c. Third, he puts his Spirit within you.
      - d. Fourth, he wants you for eternity.
    4. That's how valuable you are to God.
    5. Jesus said in Luke 12 *“Are not five sparrows sold for two small coins? Yet not one of them escaped the notice of God*
    6. Then he says this *“Even the hairs on your head have all been counted! Do not be afraid. You are worth far more than many sparrows.”*
  - B. What makes something valuable?
    1. The first is who made it.
      - a. *We are God's masterpiece, God's workmanship created in Christ Jesus to do good works which God prepared in advance for us to do.”*
    2. Value depends on what someone will pay.
      - a. How much is your house worth?
      - b. Whatever anybody will pay for it.
      - c. 1 Peter says *“He paid for you with the precious life blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God.”*
      - d. How much are you worth? Look at the cross.
    3. You are valuable because God made you and you are valuable because Jesus paid for you.
  - C. Here's how much Jesus loves you.
    1. *“Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion for the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you. See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands!*
      - a. See the scars.
      - b. This is how much I love you.

2. Now Jesus says I want you to treat everybody else that I love like that
  - a. Even the people you can't stand.
3. How do you do that?
  - a. 1 Peter 2:17 *Treat everyone you meet with dignity.*"

D. So look at the second homework assignment.

1. "This week I will affirm the value of ..."

III. I must forgive others like Jesus forgives me.

A. God doesn't get even with us.

1. I did hear this week about a guy who everything went wrong in his life. On one day his wife walked out on him, his kid got suspended from school for drugs, he got fired and he smashed his car. He gets out of his car and he looks up into heaven and he goes, "Why me, God? Why me? Why me?" He hears this voice from heaven that says, "Because some people just tick me off!"
2. Is that the way God really responds to us?
3. So God says learn to forgive others.

B. What's God really like?

1. Is.43:25 *SAYS "I am the God who forgives your sins and I do this because of who I am. I will not hold your sins against you."*
2. He's planed to do this for a long time.
3. *"Long ago, even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes."*
4. Even before you were born, God was already planning to forgive your sins.
5. So that's why God can say this *"There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."*
6. Jesus gave his life so we can be forgiven.
7. The Bible says this in Colossians 3:13 *"You must make allowance for each other's faults and forgive the person who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others."*
8. And Jesus said this in Luke 6 *"Do not judge and you will not be judged. "Do not condemn," Jesus said, "and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven."*

- C. If you're going to become a world class lover
  - 1. you have to accept people the way God accepts you,
  - 2. value people the way God values you,
  - 3. forgive others the way God forgives you
- IV. Believe in others like Jesus believes in you.
  - A. You start believing what Jesus says about you instead of what other people say.
  - B. 1 Corinthians 13 *"If you love someone you will be loyal to him no matter what the cost. You will always believe in him. Love believes. You will always believe in him. Always expect the best of him, and always stand your ground defending him. Love believes. When everybody else believes the worst, love believes the best."*
    - 1. It's exactly what Jesus did.
      - a. Jesus looked at people and he didn't see what they were. He saw what they could become.
      - b. He saw their potential.
    - 2. Think about this. Jesus trusted the future of the entire world to twelve fishermen.
      - a. The angels say, "Jesus, you died for all humanity. How are you going to spread the good news?"
      - b. *I gave it to these eleven guys.* And the angels are going, "What's your plan B?"
    - 3. Let me show you a series of verses. *"If you have faith as small as a mustard seed you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there and it will move.' Nothing will be impossible to you."*
    - 4. *"Everything is possible for him who believes."*
    - 5. Jesus says *"The truth is, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works because I'm going to be with my Father."*
    - 6. If you're going to be a believer, believe not only in Jesus but believe in each other.
    - 7. That's what the church is for. We believe in each other and we help each other through tough times and we are a family.
    - 8. *"Let us consider how we may spur one another on to love and to good deeds."*

Psychologists tell us that your self image, is largely determined by what you think the most important person in your life thinks about you.

You should make Jesus Christ the most important person in your life. He says you are valuable. You are acceptable. You are lovable. You are forgivable.

Fred Craddock is a pastor. He tells the story of the time he was vacationing in Gaitlenburg, Tennessee. Fred and his wife were seated at a table in a restaurant and an old man came up to them and asked, "Are you folks on vacation?" "Yes," said Fred, "and we're having a good time." The old man said, "So, what do you do for a living?" Fred said, "I'm a preacher." "Oh!" said the old man. "Let me tell you a preacher story."

He sat down by them. The old man said, "I was born an illegitimate child. I never knew who my father was. It was very, very hard on me growing up. The kids in school made fun of me. When I walked around our little town I always felt people were staring at me and looking at me and saying, 'I wonder who's the father of that boy.' One day a pastor came to town. I had never gone to church but I decided I'd go to church and hear this guy. And he was good. So I kept going back. But each time I went to church I'd come in late and I'd leave early so I wouldn't have to talk to anybody. Then one Sunday I got so caught up listening that I forgot to leave early. Suddenly I felt a heavy hand on my shoulder. When I turned, that big tall pastor was standing there looking at me and he said, 'What's your name, son? Whose boy are you? I just shook when I heard those words and I heard that question. But before I could say anything that pastor said this, 'I know who you are. You're the son of God!'" The man said, "You know, those words changed my life."

The old man got up and he left and a waitress came over and said, "Do you know who you were talking to?" "That's Ben Hooper. Two time governor of Tennessee."

A man learned he was the child of God and it changed his whole direction. He learned he was valuable and acceptable and lovable and forgivable and. It changed the rest of his life. And all the opinions of other people didn't matter.

I know without a doubt you've had wounds in your life. You need to make Jesus Christ the most important person in your life and start filling your mind with what he says. You can't love others until you know how much God loves you. Ephesians 3:18 *"May you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep God's love really is."*

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### **LOVING LIKE JESUS**

John 13:12-17

- I. First, we must \_\_\_\_\_ others the way Jesus accepts me. (accept)
  - A. \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus ought to be the most accepting people in

the world. (Followers)

Titus 3:7 *“Jesus treated us much better than we deserve. He made us acceptable. He made us acceptable to God and he gave us the hope of eternal life.”*

II. We must \_\_\_\_\_ others the way Jesus values me. (value)

A. How \_\_\_\_\_ are you? (valuable)

1 Peter says *“He paid for you with the precious life blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God.”*

III. We must \_\_\_\_\_ others like Jesus forgives me. (forgive)

A. God doesn't get with us.(even)

Luke 6 *“Do not judge and you will not be judged. “Do not condemn,” Jesus said, “and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven.”*

IV. We must \_\_\_\_\_ in others like Jesus believes in you. (believe)

A. You start believing what Jesus says about you \_\_\_\_\_ of what other people say. (instead)

1 Corinthians 13 *“If you love someone you will be loyal to him no matter what the cost. You will always believe in him. Love believes. You will always believe in him. Always expect the best of him, and always stand your ground defending him. Love believes. When everybody else believes the worst, love believes the best.”*

### **Prayer:**

Thank you Father, that you can heal broken hearts and bitter memories and damaged self esteem and even the tears that are falling right now. Thank you. Thank you that we matter to you. Thank you that patterns can be erased and curse can reversed. Thank you that you turn nobodies into somebodies. Jesus, I ask that you help people today, help them begin to see themselves through your eyes of love. Thank you that we can depend upon your love.