

Love One Another

May 19, 2019

Our Savior's Way

Pastor Labuhn

This morning is the 5th Sunday in the season of Easter. In our appointed Gospel reading for today, John 13:31-35, we find Jesus in the upper room with His disciples just before his betrayal. Amazingly, He knelt down to wash their feet, and then He shared with them that one of them would betray Him. And even after Jesus says to Judas Iscariot, ***“What you are going to do, do quickly”*** and Judas left them, the rest of the disciples still didn't fully understand what was happening. But Jesus moves forward in His mission to talk to them about a love to glorify.

Last week in his sermon, when Pastor Mann talked about love, it was easy to imagine the kind of love that has been given to a mother, especially one who cares for her children. But today, I also want to think about glory. What comes to your mind when you think about glory?

Do you imagine a shining light or beautiful view of nature? Like a glorious morning sun that shines across the ocean, or a quiet, wooded valley. Do you imagine an occasion like a great celebration that is overflowing with joy? Or do you think about great power and distinction? Like our nation's flag that is nicknamed “Old Glory,” because it calls to mind heroic achievements and the honor that goes with it? According to the dictionary, the word glory is praise, honor, and distinction as well as thanksgiving when worshipping God. Because God is the most glorious of all.

In our Gospel reading for today, when Jesus says to His disciples, ***“Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in Him...”*** He said this to share with them that He was going to glorify God by His death. While Jesus lived His life glorifying God in the things He said and did, as we know He also went on to glorify God through His resurrection. But resurrection can't happen without death and by His death on the cross, Jesus brings to our attention the Glory of God.

In doing so, He reveals who God is – who loves the world enough, that not only does He send His Incarnate Word made flesh to reveal to us His will for our lives, but also sends Him to be a sacrifice of love in order to redeem us from all our sins. This is a sacrificial love that is most glorious

to us because it's Christ's self-sacrificial love on the cross, where God's glory is best revealed to us.

Jesus, through the oneness of the Father's will, God through His death in order that we can glorify God by remaining true to Him. You see, in the middle of telling His disciples of His coming glory, He also says to them, ***"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."*** (v.34)

While Jesus said that this was a new command, and we know that it is because He said it, the content is not new. Because God Himself once told Moses to say to the people of Israel, ***"You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord."*** (Lev. 19:18) This "old" command given to the people of Israel ensure that they would remain God's covenant people. In other words, do this and you will live as one of God's people.

Still, this "new" command given by the Lord Jesus is different in that it has a different purpose. The "new" command is given to His disciples so that they can give glory to God through words and actions. We know that they are already part of the family of God because Jesus addresses them using the words, "little children." Being part of the family of God, if they want to glorify God as one of His redeemed children, they ought to love one another. But this "new" command also has a new extension. Jesus also says, ***"...love one another; just as I have loved you.."***

The "old" command simply said to "love your neighbor as yourself." In doing so, Jesus goes further by saying that if we want to glorify God, we ought to love with a self-sacrificial/agape love. This self-sacrificial love is the kind of love that glorifies God and sets us apart from others as a follower of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Here's a video that's been prepared for you this morning...

Motivated by His Love, God just doesn't leave us to ourselves to witness this self-sacrificial love of Jesus. He gives to us His Spirit through baptism to remind us of the glorious love that Jesus shares with us through His death and resurrection. His Spirit helps us to live a new life in that love and empowers us to share Christ's self-sacrificing love with one another as well as with others, regardless of how they respond. Because His love knows no bounds, we love "anyway" so that God might be glorified.

In 1968, Dr. Kent Keith wrote the “Paradoxical Commandments.” These commandments were later rewritten by Mother Teresa for the children in Calcutta so that they might set themselves apart. She entitled it “Anyway.”

- People are often unreasonable, illogical and self-centered. Forgive them anyway.
- If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives. Be kind anyway.
- If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some true enemies. Succeed anyway.
- If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you. Be honest and frank anyway.
- What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight. Build anyway.
- If you find serenity and happiness, others may be jealous. Be happy anyway.
- The good you do today will often be forgotten. Be good anyway.
- Give the best you have, and it will never be good enough. Give your best anyway.
- In the final analysis, it will be between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway.

God loves each of us with an eternal love that’s beyond all understanding. It’s amazing to us because of His love that we’re able to love one another “anyway.” We can even Love to Glorify. In doing so we also fulfill our mission at Our Savior’s Way, which is to glorify God and make disciples for Jesus by: forming relationships, experiencing Jesus together, and sharing God’s love.

In Jesus Name. Amen.

Sermon Notes – Love One Another

1. (T/F) The setting for the Gospel reading for today allows us to understand what was happening before Jesus was arrested, beaten and crucified.
2. When I think about the word "Glory" I think about:
3. Jesus said, "Now is the Son of _____ glorified, and God is _____ in Him...."
4. Resurrection can't happen without _____ and by His _____ on the cross, Jesus brings to our attention the _____ of God.
5. Jesus' _____ love is most glorious to us because it's Christ's self-sacrificial love on the cross where God's glory is best _____ to us.
6. Jesus says "A new _____ I give to you, that you _____ one another; just as I have loved you, you also are to _____ one another."
7. Why is this a new commandment?
8. Motivated by His _____, God just doesn't leave us to ourselves to _____ this self-sacrificial love of Jesus.
9. We can even _____ to _____.