



## KNOW, LOVE, SERVE THE MISSION AND HEART OF OUR CHURCH

September 1st, 2019

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### BIBLICAL TEXT(S)

*"You cannot separate knowing Jesus from the life of Jesus."*

—Pastor David

*"Some of us are trying to follow Jesus with all of our might but our hearts are still unaffected by Him. To love Jesus is to be affected by the man."*

—Pastor Debrianna

*"When we serve others, we reinstate their dignity as people God loves."*

—Pastor Lizzy

### MAIN TEXTS:

*"Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent." (John 17:3)*

*"And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life." (1 John 5:11-12)*

*When one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume. As she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them.*

*When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner."*

*Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to tell you."*

*"Tell me, teacher," he said.*

*"Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?"*

*Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven."*

*"You have judged correctly," Jesus said.*

*Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little." (Luke 7:36-47)*

*"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.*

*"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'*

*"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'*

*"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'" (Matthew 25:31-40)*

### SUMMARY

Our mission is to know, love, and serve Jesus and help others to do the same. This week, we had three of our young leaders share on what it looks like to do these three things. These are the central callings of the church.

To know Jesus isn't just to know about Jesus, it's to have a personal relationship with him. It's not about intellectually agreeing to a set of beliefs. It's about coming to know a person, Jesus. Loving Jesus should be motivated by what God has done for us. We shouldn't love out of fear, but in response to God's great love for us. This love should be a force driving us to be bold as we display our love for God in the world through our speech and actions. Serving others shouldn't be an obligation. We shouldn't try to serve to make ourselves feel better about ourselves or to try to "fix" others. Instead, we should recognize that we are broken people called by God to serve our broken world by displaying the same love that God has for us to others. When we know, love, and serve Jesus, we fulfill the mission he's given us.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

*These questions are designed to help you lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage and the speaker's message, helping them understand and apply the teaching.*

## LEAN IN

***These are icebreaker/warm up questions, mostly just to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.***

1. Have you ever known a lot about a person or group (i.e. crush, band, celebrity, etc.), but haven't known them personally? Who was it and why were you so interested in them?
2. Has love ever driven you to do something crazy? What was it?
3. Who do you know that is a great example of servant leadership?
4. What example or story stood out to you in Sunday's sermon?  
Why was it significant to you?

## LOOK DOWN

***These are questions on the passage and observations about what's been read.***

***Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max***

1. According to John 17:3, what is eternal life?
2. Read 1 John 5:11-12. How do we gain eternal life?
3. What details in Luke 7:36-47 display the woman's love for Jesus?  
What details display Simon's lack of love?
4. How did those in Matthew 25:31-40 serve Jesus?  
Which groups of people did they serve?
5. What does Matthew 25 tell us is the reward for those who serve?

## LOOK OUT

***These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today.***

***Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max***

1. The two verses from John and 1 John stress that we can experience eternal life by knowing Jesus. How can you tell when someone knows Jesus?
2. What is the difference between knowing about something/someone and truly knowing something/someone? How do these two types of knowing manifest themselves?
3. What forces can drive someone to appear that they love God? Will it look different if someone is motivated by fear or by gratitude? How can you tell the difference?
4. The woman who washed Jesus' feet with her hair did a risky thing by entering a Pharisee's home and openly showing her affection. How have you seen people love Jesus in a similar, courageous fashion today?
5. In Matthew 25, Jesus mentioned several types of people that have been served (hungry, thirsty, naked, stranger, sick, in prison). Where are there people that meet this description today? Where do you encounter them in your day to day life?  
Where do you hear about them?
6. Who do you know that is serving the hungry, sick, etc.? How do they do this?

**DISCUSSION  
QUESTIONS,  
CONT.****LOOK IN**

*These are questions that help you consider personal application.*

*Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max*

1. In your life right now, do you know a lot about Jesus or do you know him, actively seeking a relationship with him? (No shame if you currently know about him, many of us go through periods in our lives when that is the case). What could you do to pursue a relationship or deepen your relationship with him?
2. What is driving your love of God? Is it fear, gratitude, or something else?
3. What bold thing could your love of God be calling you to do?
4. How are you serving the hungry, thirsty, naked, stranger, and the prisoner?  
What could you do to more actively serve these people?
5. What feelings/circumstances hold you back from serving?

**LIVE IT OUT**

*These action steps help apply this week's message to day to day life.*

*Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.*

1. What can you do this week to deepen your relationship with Jesus, to come to know him more?
2. How can your group pray for you as you seek to love God more deeply and for the right reasons?
3. What small step can you take this week to serve others?

*NOTE: On the following page (for most weeks) you will find a set of sermon notes created by Charissa Burns, an artist who calls B4 home. We include them purely for your enjoyment and encouragement, courtesy of Charissa. You can follow her on the 'Gram @charissaburnsstudio*

9-1-2019

Know Jesus

John 17:3 - Eternal Life is Knowing Jesus!

"Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent."

In knowing Christ ... eternal life is available NOW!

Spending times of honesty & consistently with Jesus - hope and relationship will help during tough times.

I John 5:11-12

We cannot separate eternal life from relationship with Jesus.

↳ It is not knowing about Jesus & what he has done... It is knowing him.

Jesus being in us ... the deepest parts of us & our lives

LOVE JESUS

Luke 7:36-47

- Love requires an affected heart
  - Jesus loves us first.
  - to love God is to be affected by what he has done & will do.

- Love requires vulnerability.
  - not transparency which is saying "you can see me, but not touch me and affect my heart!"
  - Vulnerability is saying "here I am, see me, affect me, change me!"

- Love requires risk and cost.
  - Will you yield & surrender your life?

Are you still affected by God's love?

We need to allow ourselves to move from transparency to vulnerability

Hold our dear things with open hands to Jesus.

Serve Jesus

Matthew 25

As Christians we are called to be servants.

- Serve so others ask "why would you help or do this for me?"

Serving the forgotten and letting them know they are loved ... truly loved ... no matter what Jesus loves them!

- Let others know they are loved, they are not a project, it is not out of duty ... it is out of love.

What does it look like to serve broken people as broken people who know who will heal us?

↳ if we followed God in serving fully how would that change our community?

