

Sermon #2: How He Loves

16 Nov 2025

BREAKING THE ICE

- *Think of a time when someone showed you love that was merciful, complete and/or fearless. What did that feel like? How did it change you?*

UNDERSTANDING THE TRUTH

Last Sunday, Nov 10th, Pastor Charles made the following statements about love:

- Love is a command
- Loving like Jesus is sacrificial
- When we love we reveal God's character
- Love is the true marker of a disciple
- Love is the measure of spiritual maturity

The following questions arise from Pastor Brandon's message

1 John 4:16-18

1. Verse 16 states, "we know and rely on the love God has for us." What does 'know and rely' mean?
2. How do Matthew 5:43-48, Luke 6:27-36 and Romans 5:8 help us understand "God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him." (vs. 16)
3. How is love made complete (vs. 17)?
4. John is writing to believers. What judgement does vs. 17 refer to?
5. How many times do you read the word 'fear' in verse 18? How many times do you read the word 'love' in that verse? What is the correlation between the two?
6. Why does John say that "the one who fears is not made perfect in love"?

Micah 7:18-20

1. Compare the description of God in Exodus 34:6-7a to Micah 7:18-20.
2. God is love, what attributes about God are stated in Micah 7:18-20? List them.
3. In verse 18 anger and mercy are both mentioned. What do we learn about anger and mercy?
4. How does Micah describe the way God handles our sin? What does this reveal about His heart and how He loves us?
5. Micah states, "You will" in verse 19 and 20. What is Micah confident God will do?

SEEING JESUS CHRIST

Jesus is hanging on the cross. He has been awake through the night, questioned and accused by those determined to condemn Him. His closest friends have abandoned Him. He has been beaten, mocked, and spit on. Though the charges against Him were false, the sentence was death. He carried his cross, was nailed to it, and is now struggling to breathe. Yet, from the cross He prays, "Father forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." If this is how Jesus loves, and if "there is no fear in love," then how are we called to love others?

- When we look at Jesus on the cross, loving and forgiving even those who harmed Him, what does this reveal about the state of our own affections toward others, and what attitudes or excuses do we need to surrender so that our love can begin to look more like His?

MAKING IT MATTER

1. When you recall who God is and the promises He has made, how does that reshape your attitude toward others and grow your desire to love them well?
2. John says that to live in love is to live in God. After reading John 15:1-8, how does abiding in Christ transform your affections and produce a different kind of love in you?
3. Think about a time you fought to protect yourself from what you considered would be harmful to you. How did you respond to the people you were engaging with in that situation? Did it display the love from I John 4:16-18?
4. Can you think of times when fear made it difficult to love someone fully? What did that reveal about your trust in God's love?

PRAYING FOR GOD'S POWER

"This is the confidence we have before him: If we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have what we have asked of him." 1 John 5:14-15.

When we pray according to God's will it engages the power and guidance of God to bring about our transformation. If we apply these things in our own strength, then it is just legalistic obedience. But, when we humbly ask God to change us and empower us according to His will and by His Spirit, it becomes transformational AND it glorifies God.

Ask people to share one key, specific application from today's lesson that they want God to bring about in their life. Then take time to pray for each other in these areas.