

Loving Like Christ

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19:41-44

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The Heart of Jesus 19:41-44

Jesus had just received the praise of the crowds welcoming him like a king into Jerusalem. Normally this would be a time of celebration and wonder as the Son of God rides into Zion with power (one who is mighty to save) and humility (on a donkey). As a Pharisee rebuke this show of worship, Jesus acknowledges that creation itself will shout out if the crowds were silenced. This was a moment for the ages!

Yet, shortly after, Jesus' sees the city. He knows that it will reject Him. He can see the devastation both spiritually and physically that will follow. He weeps! Celebration is followed by incredible sorrow. Jesus truly loves these people. In less than a week, the crowds in Jerusalem will shout for his crucifixion, and yet He shows love, compassion, and empathy for them.

We are to reflect the heart of Jesus! As we look over our city and valley, do we weep over the fact that there are so many who are spiritual dead and suffering? Is your heart impacted by this reality? Have you been moved to action?

May God so move in our hearts, as we study His love for others, that we are transformed to look, feel, and act more like Jesus.

“Jesus, make us to see through your eyes. Let us feel the weight of the spiritual darkness of our city. Bring tears to our eyes and determination to our hearts. Use us to bring your Gospel to these broken people.”

Jesus States His Purpose – 4:18; 5:32; 9:56; 19:10

How would you summarize these verses?

How does His purpose place him in the homes of tax collectors and into friendships with ‘sinners’?

How does His purpose shape your actions? The actions of the church? Your relationships?

Jesus Confronts and Loves the Legalist

When we interact with others we do so with limited information. All we have to respond to is their words, expressions, body language, and tone. Jesus can interact with others on a completely different level. Jesus sees the heart and knows the true issues in a person's life. He can see a humble heart and he can see a hard heart. As Jesus interacts with religious leaders, he comes into contact with a large number of hard hearts – people who hate Him and his Father (while claiming allegiance to God). Individuals who have lead his people astray and are trying to deny Him as the coming Messiah.

The religious leaders were emphasizing the law and additions they had made to the law (found in a book they put together called the Talmud) as the foundation for their acceptance before God and preeminence over their fellow man. In essence, they cut the mercy and grace out of the equation. In their system, they no longer needed to look up to the Lord for salvation. They simply needed to look in the mirror. Finding salvation and acceptance before God through the law is legalism. Expecting others to live up to these man-made standards for God's favor is a false Gospel and spiritually abusive. Jesus is loving, but He must also clean up this mess of false teaching and abuse of God's people. Salvation is found in the work of Christ, not the accomplishment and works of man.

Jesus Demonstrates He is the Son of Man 5:17-26

What was the Pharisees response to Jesus forgiving sins?

Would this have been the right response if Jesus was not the Son of God?

How did Jesus clearly demonstrate to them that He was the Son of God and therefore did have the authority to forgive sins?

How did Jesus demonstrate patience and mercy with the Pharisees?

Jesus Came for the Sinner 5:30-35

Why did the Pharisees avoid eating with the 'sinners'?

Why did Jesus eat with the tax collectors and 'sinners'? When was the last time you associated yourself with someone that others look down upon?

What did Jesus teach the Pharisees in this interaction?

How did Jesus differentiate himself from John?

What did Jesus intend to teach the Pharisees in this interaction?

In these first interactions with the religious leaders, was Jesus harsh or tough on them?

How can we be a church that opens our arms to everyone in our society? How do we have an open seat for everyone and still pursue holiness as a church?

How can we better extend both grace and truth in our church?

Jesus, Lord of the Sabbath 6:1-11

What did Jesus teach them about the Sabbath?

“Son of Man” is a difficult title to define. It may reference Daniel 7:13-14, a vision that seems to reference the Son of Man as the coming Messiah. Jesus is the primary one to refer to himself as the Son of Man. We are forced to assume that either Jesus’ audience understood the reference or Jesus was using a term that was intentionally vague to keep his identity a partial mystery, so that people would need to observe his works to clearly see his true nature.

The rules of the Sabbath were given by God. If Jesus is the Lord over the Sabbath and its regulations, then what must be true about Jesus?

6-11 – What was the intention of the Pharisees?

Did Jesus fear the rejection of the Pharisees?

In the response of the Pharisees, how do we see their hatred towards Christ and lack of compassion towards their common man?

Jesus Confronts the Pharisees 11:37-54

Jesus has demonstrated his deity in multiple ways. Jesus has given the Pharisees many opportunities to believe. Now Jesus begins to publically rebuke the Pharisees for their sin. Why is this an appropriate next step?

How have the Pharisees cleaned the outside of the cup? What does it mean to clean the inside of the cup?

Are we still tempted today to focus on the outside of the cup? According to 1 John 1:8, what is true of the inside of our cup?

Why is it important that we continually check the motives and intentions of our heart? How do we do this?

45 – Was Jesus accomplishing his goal?

47-51 – What will be charged against this generation? Why?

How had the sins of the Pharisees hindered others?

How has this interaction with the Pharisees changed in tone from the first interactions?

53-54 – What did the Pharisees intend to do?

As we study Jesus' interactions with people, we will see that his response is based upon the hearts of his audience. The Pharisees had rejected Christ on multiple occasions. They had devoted themselves to a life of self-promotion, destroying their faith and the faith of many who followed their lead. Jesus in these later interactions would not focus on working miracles to show his authenticity. He now spoke directly to their hard and sinful hearts. He rebuked and condemned their sin. When sin is exposed it can either create a contrite heart of repentance or it can further harden an already hard heart.

When do we need to hear hard words? Who in your life can speak these to you?

The Nature of the Kingdom of God 17:20-37

“In the Jewish mind, the expression, “Kingdom of Heaven” referred not so much to any particular period, as in general ‘the Rule of God – as acknowledged, manifested, and eventually perfected” (Edersheim).

An Analysis of 119 passages in the New Testament where the expression “**Kingdom**” occurs, show that it means:

- The Rule of God – 34 times
- Manifested in and through Christ – 17 times
- Is apparent in and through Christ – 11 times
- Gradually develops through hindrances and persecution – 24 times
- Triumphant at Second Coming – 12 times
- Perfected in World to Come – 31 times

17:20-21 - The Pharisees saw the Kingdom as a future Kingdom distinct from Christ. Jesus clearly teaches that the Kingdom is defined as His rule and reign over all things.

17:22-37 – There is an ‘already, not yet’ nature to the Kingdom of God. It is already in their midst (21), and yet there is another day yet to come (24) – both are connected to the presence of Jesus. There is a clear change in the nature of Jesus’ first coming (recorded here in Luke) and a time in the future when Jesus returns again.

Describe what we learn about the present work of the Kingdom in Jesus’ earthly ministry:

What do we learn about the day when Jesus returns? What will it be like in that day?

The Rich Ruler 18:18-30

18 - What do we learn about this man from his question?

19 – Why would Jesus ask this question and make this statement?

What does Jesus expose about the ruler’s heart through the conversation?

This man was seeking heaven, but He was not seeking after Jesus. The rich young ruler did not understand the nature of the person standing in front of him. He wanted to be justified through

obedience. Jesus showed him that he lacked the capacity to be fully obedient and earn his way to eternal life. Jesus is more than a teacher, moralist, or religious leader. He is our Savior. We always come to him empty handed. There is nothing we can contribute to our salvation. How should this change our perspective on good works in evangelism? In measuring spiritual growth in the life of a Christian?

What did this young man need to understand? How did Jesus direct his heart?

What is Legalism? Do we struggle with Legalism?

It is important to remember that we are all prone to rely upon our works for security, approval, and acceptance before God and man. Like the rich young ruler, we all realize (on some level) that we fall short and experience the shame of our failed efforts. Shame can lead us to the cross and the plea for forgiveness and a new heart, or shame can lead us to comparison, isolation, or blame.

In comparison, we will add even more laws and rules to the list that God has given to create a way to grade ourselves versus others. Our hearts seek to hide or numb our shame by comparing our own perceived holiness to those who hold to lower standards. Holding ourselves or others to this man-made set of rules, in order to find acceptance and approval instead of the cross alone = LEGALISM. Any attempt to use good works to atone, appease, or find acceptance before God is a movement towards legalism. Legalism minimizes Christ and his work by attempting to emphasize our work.

This process kills churches and individuals. It obscures the Gospel and minimizes Christ. May God continue to heal us from our legalism and ongoing attempts to work around Jesus instead of running to Jesus!

Jesus Ministers to the Hurting and the Outcast

Welcomes the Children 18:15-17 (Sermon #1, February 4)

What did the disciples' response tell us about their view of the value of infants and children?

"Although it is easy to romanticize about children with respect to this periscope, such qualities as "innocence," "openness to the future," and "trusting" are not the first ones that come to mind when reviewing general perception of children in the first century. WE have already noted the high mortality rate about young children; added to this is the simple observation that children were viewed as "not adults." They might be valued for their present or future contribution to the family business, especially in an agricultural context, but otherwise they possessed little if any intrinsic value as human beings" (Green, 650)

What is Jesus teaching us in these verses?

How can wonder, wholehearted trust, and amazement continue to be a part of our Christian life even years after becoming a Christian?

It is important to notice the juxtaposition between the rich ruler and children. One would naturally think that the ruler deserves a seat at the table and the children should be brushed aside, yet, the kingdom of God is changing all of their perceived values. "Jesus is asking his followers to embrace a topsy-turvy system of values and to extend respectful service to that social group most often overlooked. The rationale for such behavior is straightforward. It grows out of a transformed sense of how the world works, one based on the power of the kingdom of God to deconstruct those worldly systems and values that stand in opposition to God's project" (Green, 651).

Women Ministering with Jesus 8:1-3

Who all were included as Jesus' traveling companions?

Who helped support the ministry?

What are some conclusions we can draw about the presence and role of women in Jesus' ministry?

How does Jesus show how much he values women?

Spends Time with Martha & Mary 10:38-42 (Sermon #2, February 11)

What did Martha focus on when Jesus arrived?

Where did Mary focus her attention?

How did Jesus respond to these decisions?

We have this same decision before us everyday – get wrapped up in the details of life or to sit at the feet of Jesus. How are you doing at sitting at the feet of Jesus?

What can we learn about spiritual brother and sister relationships from Jesus' friendship with these women?

A Sinful Woman 7:36-50

Where was Jesus dining? What are some of the things we have learned about the Pharisees up to this point? How did they view themselves?

The Pharisees most likely would not have even invited a woman to sit at the table. What a surprising turn of events to have this woman enter the room and take over the attention of the entire group and Jesus the honored guest. What do you think they were thinking when she entered the room?

Why was she weeping? What was she communicating to Jesus through all of her actions and emotions?

What is your emotional response to your thoughts of Jesus?

Are you willing to let others see those emotions?

Who would you rather be in this account, reclining at the table or anointing Jesus' feet with your tears?

What did the 'religious' folks have to learn from this 'sinner'?

What would happen if our church had an influx of our city's 'sinners'? What could we learn from that experience?

How does this account continue to teach us about Jesus' view, appreciation, and compassion for women?

Women play a major role in Luke's narrative:

- *Elizabeth (1:5-7, 13, 24, 25, 36, 40-45, 56-61)*
- *Mary (1:26-56)*
- *Anna (2:36-38)*
- Peter's mother-in-law (4:38-39)
- *Widow of Nain (7:11-17)*
- *Sinful woman (7:36-50)*
- *Women who minister (8:1-3)*
- Hemorrhaging woman (8:43-48)
- *Martha and Mary (10:38-42)*
- *Crippled woman (13:10-17)*
- *Parable of the woman with lost coin (15:1-8)*
- *Parable of widow and judge (18:1-8)*
- Widow's mite (21:1-4)
- Women at the crucifixion (23:49, 55-56)
- Women at the tomb (24:10-11)
- *Report of women at the tomb (24:22-24)*

Women were at the center of many of Jesus' illustrations, and as we see in the list above, Luke has many unique details on this theme. Italicized are unique to Luke (Bock, 710).

Summarize what we learn about Jesus' view of women and relationships with women?

What are ways that we can better love, honor, and serve the women in our church?

How can men pursue friendships with their sisters in Christ while maintaining purity of heart and intent? Women, what do you feel like your brothers need to hear in their desire and attempt to grow in this area?

Offers Peace to the Anxious 12:22-34

We have never had access to more amenities and comforts than we do here today in America. Yet, “anxiety has become the number one mental health issue in North America. It’s estimated that one third of the North American adult population experiences anxiety unwellness issues” (Anxiety Disorders Association of America).

We often believe things that provide comfort and convenience will lead to peace and joy. How is comfort and convenience different than peace and joy?

22-32 – What perspective does the Lord give to ease anxiety and worry?

How can more ‘stuff’ equal more stress and anxiety?

33-34 – What is a proper view of our possessions? How does this kill anxiety?

How can we go from being tight fisted with a strong grip on our possessions to holding our possessions with an open hand?

What is your next step?

How does this perspective influence our point of view on our children, spouse, and grand children?

What holds you back from truly believing in God’s love, protection, and provision in your life?

Frees People from Demonic Possession & Oppression

8:26-39 – Describe the man who lived in the tombs:

How did the demons respond to Jesus?

What was the end result for this man? What did Jesus ask him to do in verse 39?

Why would the other people have asked Jesus to leave?

From this passage, what do we learn about demons? Do you suppose this could still happen today?

From this passage, what do we learn about Jesus?

9:37-43 – Does Satan have any compassion for children? How would you describe the wickedness of the enemy?

How did Jesus remove the demon?

43 – How did the people respond? How did Jesus' power over the enemy point to the coming of the Kingdom of God?

The Widow's Offering 21:1-4

What is the difference between the rich and the widow?

When was the last time you gave out of your nest egg instead out of your surplus?

What holds you back from being more generous? What does this tell you about your view of God?

Ten Lepers 17:11-19

What does this passage teach us about the Kingdom of God?

What does thankfulness to Jesus look like today?

All of us were spiritual lepers! How much time do we daily or weekly spend at the savior's feet in thanksgiving and prayer?

How can we grow in our praise, thanksgiving, and prayer?

Jesus' Family 8:19-21

This may feel like a diss on Jesus' immediate family, but what is Jesus trying to teach us about family?

Of course, our immediate family is very important (Ephesians 5:22-6:9; Colossians 3:18-25), but our spiritual family is considered just as important. What would it look like to live out this balance between our physical and spiritual families?

At Bible Center, our groups provide environments to connect with your spiritual family. What is your next step in getting more connected?

The Parable of the Good Samaritan – 10:25-37

25-29 – What is the context of the parable?

29 – What was the Lawyer trying to accomplish?

What do you know about Samaritans?

In present day language, this story would be about a Baptist pastor, a missionary, and a member of Isis (the Samaritan). Which of these would you expect to stop and help you?

Who was the true neighbor in this parable? How then are we to show neighborly love? To whom?

How did the lawyer probably feel after hearing the parable? Did he justify himself?

Did Jesus make his point? How?

Everyone who understands this parable will be convicted and realize that they can do a better job and loving the people in their life. Everyone should be loved, not just those who we deem 'lovable'.

What are some other ways that the Kingdom of God turns societal and political norms on their head?

The Prodigal Son 15:11-32 (Sermon #5, March 4)

15:1-2 – Who is listening to the parable? What is their attitude and perspective on Jesus and His ministry?

Parables are told with a particular audience in mind and with a desired response. How does this parable strike at the heart of the grumbling Pharisees?

Who become angry in the parable? Why?

What does the father teach the older son? What does Jesus teach the Pharisees?

The Lost Sheep 15:1-7

How does this parable effect the ministries of the church? How do we reflect the heart of Jesus in our priorities as a church?

5 – How does Jesus return the sheep to the fold?

7 – When was the last time you shared the Gospel with someone and helped them climb on the shoulders of Jesus?

Parable of the Lost Coin 15:8-10

What is the main point of this parable?

Describe God's joy over a repentant sinner:

The parable of the lost coin is one of three parables in Luke 15 all emphasizing the same main point. Read through the chapter and write down what Jesus' emphasize to the people:

Why would Luke devote an entire chapter to just this one subject?

Why would Jesus give multiple parables to communicate the same main point?

How can we better communicate same point to our Bible Center family?

Spends Time with Levi and Tax Collectors 5:27-32 (Sermon #6, March 11)

Tax collectors were public enemy #1. They would over charge and keep the extra. How did Levi respond to Jesus' invitation?

What does Levi do for his friends after he meets Jesus?

Do we have people in our life we still need to introduce to Jesus? When could you invite them into your home?

Why was Jesus never concerned with the perceptions and judgments of others?

Zacchaeus 19:1-10

Describe the difference between Zacchaeus' response to Jesus versus the response of the Pharisees:

How did Zacchaeus respond to his sin?

How did Jesus respond to Z?

It is awesome to see this man of wealth forsake all things for the sake of Christ. If Jesus came over for dinner, what sin in your life would you need to confess to Him?

What was the result of Jesus eating dinner with this 'sinner'?

When was the last time you spent time with a 'sinner'? Do you make it a priority to spend time with non-Christians?

10 – Why did Jesus come? How should his purpose be reflected in your life?

Tries to Visit a Samaritan Village 9:51-56

Jews would go out of their way to avoid contact with Samaritans. Samaritans felt the same way about Jews. Why would Jesus intentionally try to spend time in a Samaritan village?

Jesus Invites All to the Table 14:15-24 (Sermon #7, March 18)

What happened to those who were first invited?

What kind of excuses did they give? Have you heard these before?

How did the master feel about the report of the servant?

What did the master do?

Who is Jesus inviting to the banquet?

Jesus Heals the Sick and Broken

What would it communicate to people who saw Jesus healing others? Why was this such an important part of his ministry?

Simon's Mother-in-law 4:38-40

How did Jesus spend his entire day?

What was the result of Jesus being known as a healer?

A Leper 5:12-16

Did anyone ever touch a leper? Why not?

How did Jesus display his compassion by touching this man who was both contagious and unclean?

Why did Jesus want the man to show himself to the priests? How was this an act of grace and evangelism towards the present-day priests?

Why did Jesus want this man to tell no one except for the priests?

What would happen to Jesus' teaching and preaching ministry if everyone only wanted to be healed?

A Paralytic 5:17-26

Whose power did Jesus use to heal?

What did the paralytic man's friends do to put him in front of Jesus?

How much effort are you putting into placing your friends at the feet of Jesus?

The Centurion's Servant 7:1-10

Would the centurion had been a Jew or Gentile?

How did Jesus respond to the centurion's faith?

Have you ever shown faith that would marvel the Son of God?

Did Jesus even need to touch the servant in order to heal him? What does this tell us about his power?
What did this tell us about the centurion's faith?

A Dead Son 7:11-17

What made this healing so miraculous?

What did Jesus demonstrate to the onlookers?

How did they respond to what they had seen?

How do we see Jesus' love and compassion in this healing?

Jesus Works Great Miracles

We have already studied how Jesus heals the lame and makes the blind to see. All of these are incredible miracles over God's normal pattern of healing. In addition to healing, Jesus will do other miracles that demonstrate his lordship over the laws of nature.

Calms a Storm 8:22-25

What is the first thing that Jesus did when he got on the boat? Does it surprise you that Jesus was tired?

Did the storm wake up Jesus?

What do you think it would have been like to watch Jesus verbally rebuke the winds and the waves and then to watch them obey? How does this reality affect your perspective on the winds and waves in your life?

What did Jesus say to the disciples? How could they have shown more faith?

How did the disciples respond to what they witnessed?

Why would Luke have recorded this miracle?

How do we see both Jesus' humanity and deity here in this passage?

Feeds 5000 9:10-17

Where was Jesus teaching? What was happening to the crowd?

There were about 5000 men. This does not include women and children. There were easily over 10,000 people there listening to Jesus. What did that crowd learn about Jesus that day?

What should be your heart's attitude when you ask for provision from your Father?

How many baskets were left over? How many disciples were there? What did each disciple get to experience that day?

Jesus Heals Many 6:17-19

Why would healing have been such a big part of Jesus' ministry? What does this teach us about the heart of Jesus?

What does this teach us about Jesus' view and engagement into the total human condition?

For centuries, there has been a platonic view of mankind – a separation of body and spirit / material and immaterial. How does Jesus destroy this view?

What if He would have just taught without healing? How would that have informed people about the character and nature of Jesus and His ministry?

The church is the continuation of Jesus' ministry. How must this impact our understanding and design of our ministries?

Jesus' Prayer Life

Prayer in Jesus' Ministry 4:42

This text is parallel to Mark 1:35 "And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed." What do we learn about Jesus' prayer life from these verses?

Why do you think Jesus would go to a desolate place to pray?

Why did he value prayer above sleeping in? When was the last time you set your alarm clock earlier in order to get up and pray?

What day this week could you wake up earlier to spend time in prayer?

Luke 5:16 – His mission was to seek and save the lost (19:10). How would withdrawing to desolate places benefit his mission?

Was popularity ever an excuse to not spend time with the Father? Is busyness a valid excuse for us?

Where is a place where you can get away from everyone to pray? Is there a desolate place in your house?

Luke 6:12 – How do you think Jesus felt healing the multitudes, teaching, and ministering to crowds all day long?

Why didn't he just get a good night sleep instead of a night of prayer?

What was the huge decision he made in the morning (6:12-16)?

What does Jesus by example teach us about prayer and big decisions?

Have you ever spent a night in prayer? Often times because of physical weakness it is hard to do this alone. However, a group of people praying together can often last the night. Is it possible for you to organize a time like this?

The Lord's Prayer 11:1-13

This version of the Lord's Prayer is a little shorter than the Matthew version. What is the first thing that Jesus does in verse 2?

"Your Kingdom come" – What is Jesus praying to happen? Should we continue to pray for the same?

3 – What does Jesus ask for? Is it an extravagant request?

How is praying for daily bread different than praying for the newest model of a particular car?

4 – Why is confession a part of our prayer life? Why is it important to pray for protection from temptation (James 1:14)?

5-8 – What is the point that Jesus is trying to make in these verses?

9-13 – What kind of gifts can we trust our Father to give us?

Is there a promise of good gifts without asking?

The Persistent Widow 18:1-8

What does Jesus teach us about prayer from this passage?

What are the things in your life that you have been praying for consistently?

How could others help you remain faithful to making these requests?

22:40 – How often do you pray for purity?

What temptations are you facing in life? Are they a central part of your prayer life?

22:44 – In His most emotionally difficult moments on earth – what was He doing?

What does Jesus teach you about Himself from this verse?

What does He teach you about prayer? In times of agony, pain, or distress, what must be our response?

41-44 – Does God always answer a prayer in the manner that you request?

Is God's way always the easy way? What will happen if we think God's goal for us is an easy and tragedy-free life?

Summarize what you have learned about prayer by watching the life of Christ: