

PLEASANT VIEW PROCLAIMER

May 8, 2022

Even When You Don't Want To (John 13:34-35)

I struggle with the idea of preaching a "Mother's Day" sermon for several reasons, and my initial inclination this week was to simply continue our series on James. However, my mind kept going to a lesson I learned from my mother on the true nature of love, and that thought has compelled me to share it with everyone this morning. The lesson I learned came from an occasion where I hurt her, so it is not the most pleasant memory to focus on, but at the same time it left a mark on me I will never forget.

When I was a teenager, especially an older teenager, my mom was my best friend. My perception is that this is an age when many kids are trying to assert their independence and work to put a little distance between themselves and their parents. I was the exact opposite with my mom. We did everything together, and I treasured spending time with her. The last thing on earth I wanted to do was hurt her in any way.

On one occasion during graduation season, she had purchased a graduation gift for someone that I did not know. She was very busy and asked if I could drive it over to their house and deliver it to them. When I was a teenager, I was PAINFULLY shy, and the prospect of going over to a house of strangers and knocking on their door terrified me. It wasn't a rational fear, but it was a real fear to me. Because of this, I essentially refused to go, and she had to give up doing something else to have time to take the gift to them herself.

When she got home, I saw her in our utility room, and she was crying because she had asked me to do something for her that I would not do. Seeing her tears cut me to the heart, but I still tried to explain how much fear I had in the thought of doing what she had asked. Her response to me is the lesson I will never forget:

**"Love for someone means doing things for them
even when you don't want to" ***

The statement hit me like a ton of bricks and has made a huge impact on my life. While the words came from her, this lesson did not originate with her, because this is exactly the type of love the New Testament says will define those who are followers of Christ. This is the essence of agape love.



*"The righteous shall be glad
in the Lord, and trust in
Him. And all the upright in
heart shall glory"*

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bible class topics

*A mother who always cares,
A mother who's always there,
A mother who always prays,
A mother who always stays
When things get rough,
When life gets tough,
When all is just
too much to bear,
God's word she shares.
God's light she shines.
So blessed God made
this mother mine.*

**I'm sure similar words to these have been used by some in a predatory way to try and convince others to do things that are immoral or impure, and that is obviously not the intent behind this lesson.*

When Jesus was with his disciples in the upper room in John 13, just after He had washed their feet, He gave them a “new commandment” concerning love (agape). The core of this commandment is found in verse 34:

“just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another”

This same idea is echoed by Paul in Ephesians 4 and 5. In the last part of chapter 4, Paul is calling on his readers to “put off your old self” (22) and “put on the new self” (24). This involves giving up the ways of your past life and embracing the way of Christ, especially in the ways we interact with others. In summarizing this at the beginning of chapter 5, he tells them to:

“walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us”

This is the standard of agape love for a follower of Christ, that we are to love others in the same way that Christ loved us. It is obvious that Christ’s demonstration of love included a sacrifice as Paul alludes to when he says, “gave himself up for us,” (5:2) but this was more than just the sacrifice of His body, it was the sacrifice of what he wanted to do. Consider His prayers in the garden of Gethsemane just before His crucifixion. Matthew 26, Mark 14, and Luke 22 all record that Jesus asked:

“let this cup pass from me”

Jesus did not WANT to die. Yet, he did it anyway. This is the same lesson I learned from my mother. To show true love to others, sometimes we must do things we do not want to do. This is sacrificial love! This is agape love!

John is dealing with this same idea in his first letter when he says, “By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers (3:16).” To this he adds an example concerning those who do not use their resources to help others in need and asks, “how does God’s love abide in him (17)?” He goes on to say, “let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth (18).” Consider this...We may not always feel like doing things for others who are in need, but true agape love reflected from Christ will compel us to act anyway, **even when you don’t want to.**

PRAYER LIST

- Sympathy for the family of **Ethan Pennington**, who passed away Tuesday
- **Vicki Roberts** is in the hospital with covid and pneumonia
- **John Hayes** is scheduled for cataract surgery May 10
- **Nick Phifer’s** stem cell transplant is scheduled for the 18th, and his mother will be the donor.
- **Isabel Johnson** is at home recovering from a stem cell transplant.
- **Faye Waller** is in Ahava Healthcare in Clarksville
- **James Craig** is home undergoing rehab
- Continue to pray for **Delores Coleman, Ann Reed, Rosemary Douglas, Gaynell Walker, Rebecca Brown, Kristine Garrett** and **Jim Sims**

SERVING TODAY (May 8, 2022)

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Read: L. Gregory
Prayer: J. Walker

WORSHIP

Read: S. Shatto
Wait On Table: C. Baker
Serve: J. Demonbreun, R. Mayo
Prayer: M. Reed