



Morning Star Las Cruces 2022 Discussion Questions

Service Date = May 15, 2022
Sermon Series: Two Gifts from Jesus
Sermon Title = Love
Sermon Text: John 13:31-35

Discussion Questions

1. What is the best gift you've ever received? The worst? What about the best gift you've ever given? The worst? What did you learn from these experiences?

2. How many times do you say the word "love" in a given day? Do you reserve the word for describing your affection or commitment to someone, such as a spouse or a child? Do you use the word in talking about an experience, such as hiking in the desert? Do you "love" tacos? What does the word "love" really mean to you?

3. Did anything about this week's worship service, "Two Gifts from Jesus: Love," surprise or challenge you? What was your takeaway from this week's message?

4. Read John 13:31-35. What is the new commandment that Jesus gives his disciples? Now read Deuteronomy 6:4-9. The commandment to love is part of the law that Jesus would have observed as a faithful practitioner of the Jewish tradition. What makes the commandment to love *new* in the way he presents it?

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5. Do people know you are a Christian before you tell them that you go to church or say the name of Jesus in front of them? How? What provides the evidence in your life that you are a follower of Jesus?

6. Read Matthew 22:34-40. In this passage, Jesus describes love as the *greatest* commandment. What does he include in this exchange that is not included in the passage from John 13? What difference does that piece make?

7. Read Matthew 5:43-48. Do you consider anyone to be an enemy? Does anyone consider you to be an enemy? What is the appropriate, Jesus-following response in these relationships? (*Reminder: An enemy is someone who is opposed or hostile to someone or something.*)

8. Pastor Amy said, "Hating our enemies destroys the world. Loving them can heal it." Do you agree or disagree? What does it mean to love our enemies in practical ways, in our homes, in our places of work, in our community of faith? (*Reminder: To hate is to feel intense or passionate dislike toward someone; to love is to will the good of another.*)

9. Do you truly trust that you are loved by God, just as you are? (Because you are.)

10. How might your group pray for you in the coming days?

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