



September 29 – Loving Jesus Through... A Heart That Serves

If you have hung around Jesus followers for very long you know one of the calls on our lives is the call to love and serve others. Sometimes this can start to feel like a “requirement” of faith. But instead of it being something on the task list – join us this weekend as we take a look at what it looks like to love Jesus...through hearts that choose to serve, not because we have to, but because we get to!

Scripture:

Galatians 5:1-6, 22-25 So Christ has truly set us free. Now make sure that you stay free, and don't get tied up again in slavery to the law. ² Listen! I, Paul, tell you this: If you are counting on circumcision to make you right with God, then Christ will be of no benefit to you. ³ I'll say it again. If you are trying to find favor with God by being circumcised, you must obey every regulation in the whole law of Moses. ⁴ For if you are trying to make yourselves right with God by keeping the law, you have been cut off from Christ! You have fallen away from God's grace. ⁵ But we who live by the Spirit eagerly wait to receive by faith the righteousness God has promised to us. ⁶ For when we place our faith in Christ Jesus, there is no benefit in being circumcised or being uncircumcised. What is important is faith expressing itself in love...But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

John 13:1-5, 12-15 Before the Passover celebration, Jesus knew that his hour had come to leave this world and return to his Father. He had loved his disciples during his ministry on earth, and now he loved them to the very end. ² It was time for supper, and the devil had already prompted Judas, ³ son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. ³ Jesus knew that the Father had given him authority over everything and that he had come from God and would return to God. ⁴ So he got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist, ⁵ and poured water into a basin. Then he began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel he had around him...¹² After washing their feet, he put on his robe again and sat down and asked, “Do you understand what I was doing? ¹³ You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and you are right, because that's what I am. ¹⁴ And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet. ¹⁵ I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you.

Questions:

- When is a time when you served someone and it felt really good? Why did it feel good? What prompted you to serve in the way you did?
- When is a time when you let someone else serve you? How did it feel? What prompted you to say yes to letting yourself be served?
- When you think of Jesus' life, think of all the ways you know he served others. How many can you count? If you have no idea, take the gospel of Luke and read it – see how many times you count Jesus serving someone else. In today's text from John, Jesus says: *I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you.* Do you follow this call? If so how? If not – in what ways might you show Jesus you love him by following his example of a life of service?

Reading for the Week:

Monday: Mark 9:35

Tuesday: Matthew 5:14-16

Wednesday: John 13:34

Thursday: Acts 20:35

Friday: 1 Peter 4:8-10