

Presbyterian Church of Henderson

Worship Service 10:00 AM

August 9, 2020 (Facebook Premier)

Love Like That Series

Prelude **Kristin Jones, Director of Music**

Welcome and Announcements Pastor Eric Hoey

- [VIDEO] Love Like That discussion series, Sundays at 4:00pm. See me for login information
- Online Sunday school class on current issues, Sunday, 9:00am
- HCCO collection item for August is canned tuna
- Youth and children are to continue the worksheets in the bags that were delivered to their home.

Call to Worship

God lifts us from death to life preserves us for God's purposes through the compassion of Jesus Christ our Lord and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. With thanksgiving, praise the Lord!

Hymn PH 276 "Great is Thy Faithfulness"

1 Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not;
As Thou hast been Thou forever will be.

2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love. (Refrain)

Refrain:
Great is Thy faithfulness!
Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!
(Refrain)

Call to Confession

Let us confess our sins to the Lord of all, who is generous to all who call upon him.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Lord Jesus, we call upon you. Save us! We are intimidated by our circumstances, distracted from your purposes, drowning in doubts and fears. We are presumptuous about your will, belittling others and magnifying ourselves. We envy the blessings of others, secretly despising their dreams. We have hardened our hearts to the suffering of our brothers and sisters, feeding ourselves in face of the injustice that holds them captive. Lord Jesus, who searches our hearts, lift us from sin and help us to walk with you in faith, humility, and brotherly-sisterly love. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Our God sees all, knows all, forgives all, restores all through our Lord Jesus Christ. No one who believes in him will be put to shame, for everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Passing the Peace

Please take a moment to text someone now or in the future, "The Peace of Christ be with You!"

Special Music "The Gift of Love" (based on 1 Corinthians 13) Wayne and Kristin Jones, soloists

Prayer for Illumination

God of our present trouble and promised triumph, Open our eyes to see you in the midst of our struggles. Open our ears to hear your words of invitation and assurance. Open our minds to recall your wonderful works and miracles. Open our hearts to glory in your name and seek strength in your Word through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Reading Luke 19:1-9

He entered Jericho and was passing through it. A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today." So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner." Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much." Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham.

Second Reading Luke 10:28-37

But wanting to justify himself [an expert in the law], he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.' Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

Children's Sermon Pastor Eric

- I grew up in a home where the TV was always on.
- In fact it provided a background noise to all conversations and meals.
- Today the equivalent are phone with headphones.

- People put them on to escape the world.
- Let me say that is not the best thing for you
- *Psalm 46:10 Be still, and know that I am God!*
- God calls us to put the headphones away, and take the time to be still and listen for God.

SERMON “Love Like Jesus: Mindful”

Luke 19:1-9

- In 1999, Harvard researchers Dan Simmons and Christopher Chabris wanted to prove that we are often not attuned to our environment as much as we would like to be.
- In fact, we often miss what is directly in front of us.
- In the following video. Tell me how many times the people in the white shirts passed the ball. [video]
- When I first saw it, I was so fixed on getting the question correct, I failed to see the gorilla that walked into the middle of the court, thump his chest, and walked off.
- Only on the play back did I see it.
- For a variety of reasons, we often miss the obvious directly in front of us.
- According to Les Parrott in his book, *Love Like That*, another word for this is “MINDFULNESS.”
- Mindfulness is being able to see things in others no one else sees.
- Jesus looked at people in a way no one else did and demonstrated to us how to be mindful
- Today I want to look at two stories in Luke and show you how Jesus demonstrated mindfulness was mindful when many others failed to see the obvious.

To become more mindful:

1. See Past External - Luke 19:1-9

He entered Jericho and was passing through it. A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way.

- In the first century, any mention of a tax collector, eyes would roll backward, anger and blood pressure would rise above normal.
- If there was one person who was hated the most to the Jews, it was the local tax collector.
- These individuals were Jews who worked for the Roman government.
- Rather than the Romans collecting their own taxes, they hired Jews to collect from their own people.
- Tax collectors had the privilege of taking any amount they wanted from fellow Jews, giving a portion to the Roman government and keeping the rest for himself.
- As you can see, they became very wealthy.
- These Jewish tax collectors were deeply despised because they literally sold out their fellow citizens to their enemy, Rome, just to make a profit.

- One of those tax collectors was Zacchaeus.
- So Jesus enters Jericho, and he was passing through.
- Jesus came to a sycamore tree where Zacchaeus was up in the branches trying to get a better look at Jesus.
- Jesus called to him:

When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today." So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner."

- Notice how upset and angry the people of Jericho became, when Jesus paid any attention to Zacchaeus.
- But here is the lesson in this text—
- When everyone was repulsed by Zacchaeus, nobody saw Zacchaeus the way Jesus did.
- The mindfulness of Jesus treats this crooked and broken man with dignity.
- It sees that Zacchaeus, the man who sold his soul for money, is empty and alone.
- The mindfulness of Jesus sees that Zacchaeus no longer wants to live a life of dishonesty and greed, it sees He's done sinning against God and his own people.
- KEY: To become more mindful, we need to look beyond the externals of prejudice and judgement, and see a person the way Jesus did.

Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much." Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham."

- The text says that Zacchaeus wants to come out of hiding, pay back the people he's cheated, and follow Jesus.
- This is a dramatic conversion story because of the mindfulness of Jesus seeing what others didn't.
- If you were to look in other parts of Scripture, the mindfulness of Jesus become loud and clear:
 - Where others saw a paralyzed man, Jesus saw faith.
 - Where others saw a political traitor, Jesus saw a new disciple.
 - Where others saw crowds of harassing people, Jesus saw people being harassed.
 - Where others saw sinners, Jesus saw people in need of mercy.
- Could it be that we judge others all wrong, but deep inside certain behaviors that there is a person in need of hearing and experiencing the living grace of God?
- Q: Do you have the mindfulness to see the value in people to the kingdom of God rather than what everyone else sees?
- ILL: Our homeless population in Henderson. You can see them as drug addicts. People who cannot not be trusted. God forbid if our children were to come near! Or you can see them the way Jesus did with same struggles we all have and desperately in need of the love of God.

To become more mindful:

1. See Past Externals

2. Set Aside Personal Agenda - Luke 10:28-37

But wanting to justify himself [an expert in the law], he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.' Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

- The good samaritan is a story told by Jesus to answer the question of "who is my neighbor?"
- Remember an expert in the Jewish law asked the question to test Jesus how could he obtain eternal life.
- Jesus using the Socratic method answers his question by asking another question, "What is written in the law?"
- The lawyer quotes the Levitical law of loving God (Deuteronomy 6:5) and loving others (Leviticus 19:18)
- Jesus tells him to do the same.
- Now remember, the intent of the lawyer was to test Jesus.
- Then he asked Jesus, "Who is my neighbor?"
- When you think about it, the question was to determine the boundaries of how much love or more realistically how little love with which a person could get away and still have eternal life.
- This led to Jesus telling the parable of the good samaritan.
- The good samaritan is Jesus' story or parable to illustrate a point.
- It doesn't matter how many times you have heard this story
- The parable of the good samaritan is meant to be a jaw dropping, stop a person in their tracks kind of story
- From a cultural standpoint, any Jewish listener would be shocked by the story because another group of people the Jews despised were the Samaritans.
- The animosity between the Jews and the Samaritans could be traced all the way back to Joseph where the brothers despised him for being the favored one.
- Over the centuries the main reasons for the long standing hatred is because Samaritans were half breeds, and introduced foreign idols into their religious practices.
- Jews had no dealings with Samaritans.
- In this parable, the Samaritan becomes the model "hero" in the story in contrast to the busy religious leaders.
- The Samaritan was the least likely person who demonstrated compassion and generosity for the injured man.
- If you boil the story down to the simple lesson of the outsider helping a person in need, you will miss what Jesus is saying.
- REVIEW: a man leaving Jerusalem went down a road. This road had many caverns where robbers often hid.

- The man falls victim to the robbers, is beaten, and left half dead.
- On two occasions, two religious leaders, a priest and a levite who were traveling on that road, saw the injured man, and passed by on the other side of the road.
- The fact that the religious leaders “passed by on the other side” emphasizes that the religious leaders did not have the time or care to become involved with someone in need.
- They made the excuse, someone else will help the man.
- “I am too busy to get involved.”
- What Jesus is saying by telling the story — “Open your eyes, and see what the most religious and devout people in society are missing right in front of them!”
- Because of our personal agendas, we often cannot love like Jesus.
- This famous parable is telling us that regardless of the excuse, personal agendas must be put aside if you are going to be a loving person.
- Jesus is teaching us to be mindful.
- Les Parrott says, “We all struggle to set aside self-interest and let go of our personal agenda. Pride, not to mention our schedule—our agenda—seems to continually interfere with our loving efforts. No wonder Jesus relayed the story of the good Samaritan.”
- According to Les Parrott, the key to mindfulness is to put aside our own agenda.
- EX: I am totally guilty of this. Often times, we will be at church and agree as a family to go home. I would begin to walk out the door through the parking lot, and actually get into the car when I realize that I walked right past someone and did not take the time to say hello. Because I am agenda driven and tired, I often do not take the time to look for the needs around me or make connections along the way. As I am sitting in the car impatiently waiting for my wife. She probably took the time to chat with someone.
- Every time this happens, I am alone in the car waiting for the family, I often realize I much I need to learn from my wife that people are more important than than my personal agenda. That humbling reality hits me every Sunday.
- I need to be more mindful where ever I am and not matter how I feel.
- Because mindfulness is not about me, but to love like Jesus.

To become more mindful:

1. See Past External

2. Set Aside Personal Agenda

3. Mindfulness Applications

1) Take in more of God than ourselves

- When we take the time to put aside our self-focus, our own agenda, and clear our head to be more mindful, we will develop a quiet spirit to hear God’s whisper.
- Andrew Newberg and Mark Robert Waldman, How God Changes Your Brain: Breakthrough Findings from a Leading Neuroscientist tells us that the more we relate to God, the more we focus on loving like Jesus, the more our brain becomes attuned to hearing that still small voice.

2) Calm the chaos

- The catch is that we need to relax the tension around our busy agendas to make room for the subtle and intuitive promptings of God’s Holy Spirit.

- So to hear the small voice of God, we need to be in tuned to his Spirit.
 - *Psalm 46:10 Be still, and know that I am God!*
 - Being still does not necessarily mean retreating to a quiet place.
 - It means quieting our minds, even in the midst of chaos, by not striving so hard.
 - It means putting our minds at ease and letting God be God.
 - If God is on your mind, if you think about relating to God over time and learning to love like Jesus, your brain makes some surprising changes.
- 3) Ask God for wisdom
- When our minds are filled with clutter, we need to ask God for wisdom.
 - Les Parrott quotes Elizabeth Barrett Browning:
 Earth's crammed with heaven,
 And every common bush afire with God
 But only he who sees, takes off his shoes;
 The rest sit round it, and pluck blueberries.
 - *James 1:5 If any of you is lacking in wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and it will be given you.*
 - Wisdom is what enables us to see the big picture clearly.
 - It helps us become proficient at hearing God's whispers.
 - Les Parrott continues, "Wisdom enables us to take off our proverbial shoes as we cross holy ground and learn to love like Jesus.

Offering

Christ has freely given us the gift of grace and salvation. Let us therefore freely bring our generous gifts of gratitude to him.

*Prayer of Dedication

We give thanks to you, O Lord, for your sustaining presence and abundant grace. Receive now these gifts we bring to you out of your generous provision in our lives. May they be used to satisfy the hungry in famine, relieve the oppressed in time of trouble, and proclaim everywhere the good news of your Son, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Affirmation of Faith (Apostle's Creed)

Minister:

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, what do you believe?

All:

I BELIEVE in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People

God of favor and purpose,
 You have clothed us with a robe of righteousness.
 You have directed us to our destiny.

You are with us in our deepest pain, fear, and bewilderment.
You hear our cry when others turn a deaf ear and a cold heart.
You lift us from the depths of discouragement and walk with us over the troubled waters of life.

- We come to you now with confidence on behalf of the church, the world, and all in need.
- For the family of God, our sisters and brothers who belong to you throughout the world.
- For your church to fulfill its mission in the world, showing mercy, proclaiming your good news.
- For peace and order to permeate your creation, responding to your commands.
- For reconciliation among families, factions, and nations living in envy and conflict.
- For those betrayed, beaten, thrown down, or abandoned, those in bondage, fear, or distress.
- For the special needs of those whose names we remember now.

Clothe us with your favor and love; inspire us with dreams from you. Hold us up when we falter in the storm, and bring us safely to your promised place of rest and release, and now, with confidence as children of God, let us pray:

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory forever. Amen.

Hymn PH 384 O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go, vs. 1, 3, and 4

1 O love that wilt not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in Thee;
I give Thee back the life I owe,
That in thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.

3 O joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to Thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,

And feel the promise is not vain
That morn shall tearless be.

4 O cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from Thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
And from the ground there blossoms red
Life that shall endless be.

Benediction

The LORD bless you and keep you;
The LORD make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you;
The LORD lift up his countenance upon you,
and give you peace both now and evermore.

Postlude (please be seated for the postlude)