

"Sir, we wish to see Jesus" — John 12:21

Do Something For Someone Else

Dee Bowman

The human character never functions at a higher level than when it is involved in doing for others. In what is often described as the Golden Rule, Jesus spoke of doing for others as you would have them do for you. In His great commandment concerning discipleship, Jesus spoke of self-denial as the key element. The so-called greatest commandment of all, says that love your neighbor is like unto the love of God.

Giving is the highest essence of human endeavor. "Greater love hath no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friend" (John 15:13). The Epistles are replete with charges that Christians should place the good of others before themselves (Philippians 2:4; Romans 12:10, etc.). Selflessness is a fitting description of our Savior who gave Himself for our sins.

Conversely, all sin is in some way connected to selfishness. Commands are disobeyed out of a selfish intention and that results in sin. Selfishness is at the root of all sin.

Care for one another is a sign of love. Looking past warts and imperfections toward usefulness and concern is a sign of love. Love promotes cooperation between those who genuinely care for Christ and His cause and prohibits useless wranglings and senseless quarrels.

Two elderly women suffered incapacitating strokes. One's left side was paralyzed, the other's right. Each had before been an excellent pianist, but was denied the privilege of playing on account of the stroke. The director of a nursing home where they were lodged knew of their common interest in the piano and introduced them. Soon they were making beautiful music—together, one playing the left hand, the other the right. Unselfishness promotes unity, makes bad situations good, brings happiness out of adversity.

There is no better way to actualize selflessness than to do something for someone else. It gets you outside of yourself. It projects you into the situations around you and, if motivated by love and concern, makes every circumstance and every situation better. And most of the time it costs nothing. And even if it does cost something, more often than not, it's worth the expenditure.

I ran across this years ago. Let me share it with you.

"The word is encumbered with sorrow and care,
With longing for happiness everywhere.
If then you could lighten the burden of life
And lessen its toil and its worry and strife,
Do something for somebody else.

We rush madly on in our daily careers,
And each take his measure of smiles and tears.
We flippantly mingle the bad and the good,
Nor seemingly care for the fact that we should,
Do something for somebody else.
Each play his small part in life's feverish game,
And scrambles for honor and riches and fame;
Grows selfish and craven and full of distrust.
Yet if we could truly be happy, we must,
Do something for somebody else.

Wear Masks

Today's

Schedule

The Lord's Day

8:00 - Assembly

Parking lot - Canopy

9:15 - Assembly

Parking lot - Canopy

10:30 - Assembly

Parking lot - Canopy

Oh, you who are full of complaining and fears,
Who think but of self through the slow-moving years.
Pray let me describe for life's fevers and chills,
Its mental and moral and physical ills,
Do something for somebody else.

Do something for somebody else and forget
Your own petty troubles—why worry and fret?
Let love in your heart be forever enshrined;
He loves most who gives most of self to mankind.
Do something for somebody else.” (Anonymous)

And could I add something else? It doesn't have to be something big. Sometimes just a smile to say “I care.” Sometimes just a hug or a pat on the shoulder to say, “You're special.” Sometimes just a simple smile or a “hello” or an “I understand” will do. Do something for somebody else. It all adds up. It all adds up to good.

Love, Love, Love.....

Bubba Garner

You don't have to go very long without hearing the word love. Somebody says, “I love this place” or “I love that car.” There are songs about love, poems about love, shows and movies about love. And you would think that a people who use the word so frequently would have a better concept of love. But we seem to be a generation consumed with just the opposite—hatred, anger, bitterness, wrath, malice, and evil intent. Perhaps we really don't know what love is or worse, we know what it is and are not practicing it.

Out of all the things Jesus could have left with His disciples, He chose a lesson that He knew they would never forget. It was not another sermon or parable or miracle; it was a demonstration of love. Just hours before His arrest, while the apostles were arguing among themselves, Jesus got up from the table where they were eating, girded himself with a towel and washed their feet (John 13). It is in this same chapter that Jesus tells us what love is and then tells us how to go practice it.

Love is a commandment. What did Jesus say after stooping to serve and washing their feet? “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another” (John 13:34). It was not a new suggestion or a new possibility or option. It was a commandment.

We must get past this idea that love is nothing more than an emotion that we cannot control or a feeling that we fall into or out of. Love is a decision, a choice, a commandment that you either chose to obey or disobey. “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God” (Deut. 6:5) is a commandment. “Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself” (Lev. 19:18) is a commandment. “Love one another even as I have loved

you” is a commandment. It is not just our hearts that are involved here. Love has to do with the will. Will you obey?

Love must be elevated to a new level. Lest anyone be tempted to think that love that is commanded becomes forced and void of any sincerity, Jesus demands a certain kind of love. We are to love one another “even as I have loved you” (John 13:34). That means that our love ought to be extended to each other in the same manner that He extended it to us. We must be willing to freely give what God has freely given to us.

That's why Jesus calls this a “new” commandment. If our love for one another doesn't meet the standard of Jesus' love for us, then it is not love at all. Remember, He had just washed the disciples' feet. The Son of God! And the whole point of the exercise was that if He washed their feet, then what excuse could you possibly give for not washing your brother's feet? Loving as Jesus loved means serving and stooping. It sometimes involves sleepless nights, inconvenient interruptions, and even the possibility that you will be taken advantage of. But when we are the hardest to love is when we need love the most.

Love is the badge of the believer. “By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:35). Soldiers are known by their uniforms. Athletes are recognized by their numbers. Christians are known by their love for one another. This is our distinguishing characteristic, the mark of our discipleship. It's not wearing a WWJD bracelet or a cross around your neck. It's not the number of passages you have memorized or how marked-up your Bible is. It's not some great display of power or courage. Jesus said that people will recognize who we are to the extent that we love one another as He has loved us.

When the Romans tried to break the spirit of the early Christians and crush their youth faith, they recognized something different about them, something that kept them banded together. One officer wrote, “They love before they know each other. Their Master makes them believe they are brothers.” I wonder if the same thing could be said about us? If we can't love each other whom we have seen, how can we ever love God whom we have not seen (1 John 4:20)?

Before His death, Jesus instructed His disciples to love one another. Wouldn't you love for Him to find us doing just that when He returns to take us home?



Read your Bible daily