

EPHESIANS

DAY 5

Ephesians 5-6

read [here](#)

LIVE LIKE JESUS, LOVE LIKE JESUS

Ephesians 5:1-2 (MSG)

“Watch what God does, and then you do it, like children who learn proper behaviour from their parents. Mostly what God does is love you. Keep company with him and learn a life of love. Observe how Christ loved us. His love was not cautious but extravagant. He didn’t love in order to get something from us but to give everything of himself to us. Love like that.”

Ephesians 5:1-2 (AMP)

“Therefore become imitators of God [copy Him and follow His example], as well-beloved children [imitate their father] and walk continually in love [that is, value one another – practice empathy and compassion, unselfishly seeking the best for others], just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and sacrifice to God [slain for you, so that it became] a sweet fragrance.

REFELECT
CHAPTERS 5 AND 6 CAN ESSENTIALLY BE SUMMED UP IN THESE TWO VERSES. THROUGHOUT BOTH CHAPTERS, PAUL PAINSTAKINGLY OUTLINES THE MANY WAYS WE CAN FULFILL THIS CHARGE – TO LOVE OTHERS LIKE CHRIST LOVED US. PAUL GIVES SPECIFIC EXAMPLES OF CIRCUMSTANCES WHERE WE MAY FIND THIS DIFFICULT (MARRIAGE, PARENTHOOD, WORK, INTERACTING WITH OTHERS) BUT THE MESSAGE IS QUITE CLEAR. NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE, NO MATTER WHERE YOU FIND YOURSELF, NO MATTER WHAT IS SET BEFORE YOU – LIVE LIKE JESUS, AND LOVE LIKE JESUS.

LEARN
THERE IS A REASON THESE WORDS ARE ON THE WALLS OF OUR CHURCH. THIS ISN’T A NICE IDEA THAT SOUNDS LIKE A GOOD THING FOR A GROUP OF CHRISTIANS TO SAY. LIVING LIKE JESUS AND LOVING LIKE JESUS IS A DAILY GOAL, IN EVERY SITUATION, EVERY INTERACTION, ON BOTH A PERSONAL AND GLOBAL LEVEL. WHEN WE LOVE OUT OF OUR OWN CAPACITY AND OUR OWN UNDERSTANDING, WE FALL SHORT TIME AND AGAIN. IN FACT, PAUL WARNS AGAINST THOSE IN THE CHURCH WHO WOULD TRY TO DECEIVE OTHERS WITH THEIR “EMPTY WORDS.” WHEN WE DRAW FROM THE WELLSPRING OF THE SACRIFICIAL, COMPASSIONATE, BOUNDLESS, EXTRAVAGANT LOVE OF THE SAVIOUR, THOSE WORDS ARE BROUGHT TO LIFE IN US, AND THE EVIDENCE IS SEEN THROUGH US.

ON
IS THERE AN AREA OF YOUR LIFE WHERE IT SEEMS ESPECIALLY DIFFICULT TO LIVE LIKE JESUS AND LOVE LIKE JESUS? IT COULD BE A RELATIONSHIP, YOUR JOB, SCHOOL, FAMILY, OR YOUR MARRIAGE. IN EPH. 6:13-18, PAUL TALKS ABOUT ASKING GOD TO ARM YOU, NOT AGAINST PEOPLE, BUT AGAINST THE FORCES THAT WOULD LOVE NOTHING MORE THAN TO MAKE YOU FEEL LIKE YOU’LL NEVER HAVE PEACE. INSTEAD OF WALKING INTO THIS SITUATION WITH FRUSTRATION, BITTERNESS, OR ANGER, GOD WANTS TO ARM YOU WITH “TRUTH, RIGHTEOUSNESS, PEACE, FAITH, AND SALVATION,” ALONG WITH THE UNSHAKEABLE TRUTH OF HIS WORD. “GOD IS STRONG, AND HE WANTS YOU STRONG” (6:10), SO RIGHT NOW GIVE THAT SITUATION TO HIM SO THAT HE CAN BEGIN HIS GOOD WORK IN YOU.

What is God speaking to me about in today’s reading?

MY PRAYER FOR TODAY: