

WHAT LOVE DOES

THE PASSAGE

Mark 12:28-34/ Hebrews 13:1-3

- (1) Love **ONE ANOTHER.**
- (2) Love **STRANGERS.**
- (3) Love **THOSE IN NEED.**

THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM

Genesis 18-19/ Judges 6:11-24/ Judges 13:6-20

WHAT LOVE DOES

A Practical Primer on Loving One Another,
Hospitality, And Helping Those in Need

Loving One Another means
treating my fellow Christians as **FAMILY.**

John 13:34-35/ 1 John 3:18 & 4:12/ James 4:11 & 5:9

Hospitality means
treating strangers as **FRIENDS.**

Hebrews 13:2/ Luke 7:7-14/ 1 Peter 4:9 & Romans 12:13/ Leviticus 19:10 & 33-34
Isaiah 58:6-9/ 1 Timothy 3:2 & Titus 1:8/ 1 Corinthians 7:31-35

Remembering Those in Need means
doing what I can to **HELP.**

Hebrews 13:3/ Proverbs 21:13/ Matthew 25:34-46/ Mark 1:29-38
2 Thessalonians 3:10/ 1 Timothy 5:8

Food for Thought for the week of July 15, 2018

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. Knowing that we are called to love one another doesn't change the fact that there are still some people who are hard to love. An important skill in loving people who are hard to love, is empathy. Empathy is working to understand the experience and emotions of another person. How might the verses below help us develop our empathy and ability to love hard-to-love-people?

- **Ephesians 5:8** - *New International Version* - ⁸For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light

- **Matthew 9:36** - *New International Version* - ³⁶When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

- **Romans 5:6** - *New International Version* - ⁶You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.

- **Colossians 1:21** - *New International Version* - ²¹Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of ^{4a}your evil behavior.

Which of these verses most inspires you to be empathetic toward others and why?

2. Another essential part of loving others is putting their needs in front of your own. Read Mark 14:1-9 and John 13:1-5.

- **Mark 14:1-9** - *New International Version* - ¹⁴Now the Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread were only two days away, and the chief priests and the teachers of the law were scheming to arrest Jesus secretly and kill him. ²"But not during the festival," they said, "or the people may riot." ³While he was in Bethany, reclining at the table in the home of Simon the Leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head. ⁴Some of those present were saying indignantly to one another, "Why this waste of perfume? ⁵It could have been sold for more than a year's wages ^{6a}and the money given to the poor." And they rebuked her harshly. ⁶"Leave her alone," said Jesus. "Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. ⁷The poor you will always have with you, ^{6a}and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have me. ⁸She did what she could. She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial. ⁹Truly I tell you, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her."

- **John 13:1-5** *New International Version* - ¹³It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ²The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. ³Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; ⁴so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. ⁵After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

Why do you think these people were willing to put aside some of their own wants or needs to help others?

What did it cost them to put their love into action?

What might it cost you to follow their example?

3. As you think through your average week and the people you interact with, who are some of the hardest people to extend love to?

If you were to ask the people around you if they thought you were a loving person, what do you think they would say?

Based on the sermon and this week's Food for Thought, are there any loving actions you'd like to put into practice this week?