

The Habits of Love

"What The World Needs Now" series- Part 02

Use the next few minutes to connect and fellowship with other members of the group by contributing your thoughts to the following task: Create an acronym for the word LOVE

L _____

O _____

V _____

E _____

In one of his recent messages, Pastor Brandon stated that the Christian life could find a measure of simplification if *"we decide to live for love alone. Love God. Love people. That's it."* This is an easy task when people are lovable! When we look at the earthly ministry of Christ, we find Him demonstrating over and over again how to love people. Today in our small group study, let's look at just one example of Christ reaching out and loving a couple of guys that the rest of society had chosen to ignore.

Book: MATTHEW 20:29-34

Mat 20:29 As Jesus and the disciples left the town of Jericho, a large crowd followed behind.

Mat 20:30 Two blind men were sitting beside the road. When they heard that Jesus was coming that way, they began shouting, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!"

Mat 20:31 "Be quiet!" the crowd yelled at them. But they only shouted louder, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!"

Mat 20:32 When Jesus heard them, He stopped and called, "What do you want Me to do for you?"

Mat 20:33 "Lord," they said, "we want to see!"

Mat 20:34 Jesus felt sorry for them and touched their eyes. Instantly they could see! Then they followed Him.

Pastor Rick Warren taught a lesson in early 2018 on the importance of loving people who might otherwise be overlooked. Using some of his thoughts, I would like to identify some habits that all of us could cultivate to help us to "love simply".

Why do you suppose there was a large crowd following after Jesus as stated in verse 29? How do the reasons for their following provide a negative indictment to the crowds reaction in verse 31?

Read Proverbs 21:13. How should this verse instruct us to the needs that surround us?

The blind men, despite opposition, only increased their verbal efforts to get the attention of Jesus. In what other ways do people in need give clues that they desire help?

Habit #1: *"When Jesus heard them..."* Matt. 20:32a

We must be willing to LISTEN! What are some of your best “listening skills”? How does it feel when you know someone is listening to you? Or not listening to you?

Habit #2: “...He stopped...” Matt. 20:32b

There are some times when our own personal needs/goals must be set aside for a moment of time, while we “stop” for somebody else.

What might be some reasons that would keep Jesus moving, rather than stopping?

Why are we afraid to take time out for others?

Habit #3: “...and called, “What do you want Me to do for you?” Matt. 20:32c

Never assume, but ask people what it is that they need.

Certainly the Son of God knew what these men wanted from Him. Why then did Jesus seek a response from them?

What does it say to you when an individual will ask questions about how they can help you?

Habit #4: “...Jesus felt sorry for them”

Jesus looked beyond their behavior and saw their value. What value did these two blind men have?

Think about that one person that you feel that others would describe as “unlovable”. What value do they possibly have?

Habit #5: “...and touched their eyes. Instantly they could see! Then they followed Him.” Mat 20:34

Do what you can! Jesus can do the impossible! What can you do when it comes to meeting various needs?

How can you go on mission this week?

-Who needs your help this week?

-What do you need to stop doing for a moment or reschedule so you can help someone else?

-To whom do you need to give value to this week and how will you do it?

The 5 Habits: Listen, Stop, Ask, Value, Do