

Today's Message: "Imagine: Living Out an Extraordinary Calling to Love"

Acts of Love

⁴⁰ And a leper came to him, imploring him, and kneeling said to him, "If you will, you can make me clean." ⁴¹ Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand and touched him and said to him, "I will; be clean." ⁴² And immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean. (Mark 1:40-42)

² And behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich. ³ And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small in stature. ⁴ So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way. ⁵ And 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." ⁶ So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully. ⁷ And when they saw it, they all grumbled, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." ⁸ And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold." ⁹ And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." (Luke 19:2-10)

²⁴ And from there he arose and went away to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And he entered a house and did not want anyone to know, yet he could not be hidden. ²⁵ But immediately a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit heard of him and came and fell down at his feet. ²⁶ Now the woman was a Gentile, a Syrophenician by birth. And she begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷ And he said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." ²⁸ But she answered him, "Yes, Lord; yet even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." ²⁹ And he said to her, "For this statement you may go your way; the demon has left your daughter." ³⁰ And she went home and found the child lying in bed and the demon gone. (Mark 7:24-30)

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Pastor Scott Stevens

October 28 & 29, 2017

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Conditional VS Unconditional

- I'll love if...

Beneficial VS Sacrificial

- I'll love you because...

Random VS Continual

- I'll love you when...

For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:38)

Help Is On The Way

²⁵ "These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. ²⁶ But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. (John 14:25-27)

⁶ But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. ⁷ Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. (John 16:6-7)

If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. (Galatians 5:25)

And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, (Ephesians 5:18)

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Small Group or Personal Reflection Questions:

1. Who in your life has exhibited powerful love? What made that person's love so important and memorable to you?
2. Read Mark 1:40-44
How is Jesus' love in this passage unconditional rather than conditional?
In what ways is your love for other people unconditional? Conditional?
3. Read Luke 19:1-10
How is Jesus' love in this passage sacrificial rather than beneficial to himself?
In what ways is your love for other people sacrificial? Beneficial to yourself?
4. Read Mark 7:24-30
How is Jesus' love in this passage continual rather than random (i.e. when it's convenient to him)?
In what ways is your love for other people continual? Random/convenient?
5. Read Romans 8:31-38 as a prayer, and thank God for his incredible love.

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