

# Mount Olive Wednesday Night Bible Study and Prayer Meeting

September 8, 2021

John 15: 12 - 14

**12** This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. **13** Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. **14** Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.

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## Verse 12

*This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.*

Pastor Tom noted a popular saying from a few years ago:

“Love God. Love People.”

We live in a world where people do not love one another. It is shameful that people have become so hateful. He then discussed several examples of how things are so different in recent times:

- A girl went to Afghanistan to be married but refused to be allowed to leave the country after the wedding.
- At Bible2School training, attendees told to expect rough language from 2nd graders because that is what they hear at home because we have drifted so far from morals

\*The ‘old days’ are gone and we have allowed this to happen.

\*If we are going to love one another, we’re going to have to overlook many faults in people. But don’t we also get on Jesus’ nerves at times? It’s about time that we put on our ‘Big Boy Pants’ and love like Jesus.

Sherri added - We as Christians tend to pick and choose who we will love, but Jesus loves ALL people and died for ALL people.

\*Jesus will convict us of certain things such as private prayer time or how we should respond to people with love. In both of these examples we must make it a priority in our lives and not allow a multitude of distractions (from the devil) to keep us from focusing on our priority.

## Verse 13

*Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.*

\* When we think of laying down your life for someone we tend to think of our military or first responders doing this.

\*Jesus laid down His life, quite literally, for each one of us. We cannot always repeat this type of dying for someone. But we are commanded to LOVE all people and that may take a lot of effort from each of us in especially difficult situations or uncomfortable settings.

[Sharon Hinck, a contributor to 'Mornings With Jesus Daily Devotional', summed up John 15: 12 - 13 this way:

“When Jesus talked of laying down His life, it was something He was literally about to do. Most of us are not confronted with dying to save another person. But when we share our experiences, when we are authentic, when we show up for others even though we feel inadequate - that is a way of laying down our life for others.” (8/27/2021)]

## Verse 14

*Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.*

\*How many times have we been unfriendly towards God? If we love God, then we should obey His commandments (His Word). But what does it mean when we do not obey His Word...does it mean we do not love Him?

\*When He tells us to love one another (His commandment) and we do not...are we being unfriendly to God?

\*It's not in us to love evil people. We do not love their actions/behaviors but we must try to love the person. And this can be especially difficult when it is personal, involving a family member or close friend who has been wronged or hurt.

\*How do we love the unlovely? An example was how the Amish community responded to a shooter and his family after he killed several children at a school a few years ago. The Amish forgave the man and ministered to his family.

\*It is hard to love like Jesus does in a society that doesn't love.

Pastor Tom said that Jesus died for all of us, not just some, even the unlovely. Vince Beyer stated that is something to try and comprehend. That Jesus died knowing all the sin of us all He was going to take on. To die for us!

Pastor Tom opened the phone lines and everyone said goodnight.

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