Sermon Outline

LOVE one another

Love One Another: Changing the Way We See the World

What if love could change the way you see the world–and the people around you?

This October we're exploring the transformative power of loving one another. For four weeks we'll read through scriptural stories that reveal the power of empathy, paying attention, multiplying generosity, and the importance of looking beyond outward appearances. Ultimately, we'll discover how Jesus invites us to see people differently, live with deeper compassion, and love one another.

Open your eyes. Pay attention. Look closer. Love one another.

This October you're invited to join us in closing the kindness gap and changing the world, one person at a time.

October 4: Both Sides Now – Guest Preacher: Rev. Magrey deVega

1 John 4:7-12. That seems to be a fitting way to kick off the series. I thought of that passage as I was listening to Joni Mitchell's classic "Both Sides Now," which in some ways captures the felt need that we have in understanding the complexities and mysteries of love:

"I've looked at love from both sides now / From give and take, and still somehow / It's love's illusions that I recall / I really don't know love, really don't know love at all."

John's epistle captures the antidote to this wrestling beautifully, which is that only in loving God and loving one another can we grasp the beauty of true love.

October 11: Pay Attention

The Parable of the Good Samaritan – Luke 10:25-37

On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

"What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?"

He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, "Love your neighbor as yourself."

"You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."

But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’

“Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?”

The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.” Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

October 18: The Power of Multiplication

The Feeding of the 5,000 - Luke 9:10–17

10 When the apostles returned, they described for Jesus what they had done. Taking them with him, Jesus withdrew privately to a city called Bethsaida. **11** When the crowds figured it out, they followed him. He welcomed them, spoke to them about God’s kingdom, and healed those who were sick.

12 When the day was almost over, the Twelve came to him and said, “Send the crowd away so that they can go to the nearby villages and countryside and find lodging and food, because we are in a deserted place.”

13 He replied, “You give them something to eat.”

But they said, “We have no more than five loaves of bread and two fish—unless we go and buy food for all these people.” **14** (They said this because about five thousand men were present.)

Jesus said to his disciples, “Seat them in groups of about fifty.” **15** They did so, and everyone was seated. **16** He took the five loaves and the two fish, looked up to heaven, blessed them, and broke them and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd. **17** Everyone ate until they were full, and the disciples filled twelve baskets with the leftovers.

October 25: Moving Past Outward Appearance
Zacchaeus, a Rich Tax Collector - Luke 19:1–10

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through town. 2 A man there named Zacchaeus, a ruler among tax collectors, was rich. 3 He was trying to see who Jesus was, but, being a short man, he couldn’t because of the crowd. 4 So he ran ahead and climbed up a sycamore tree so he could see Jesus, who was about to pass that way. 5 When Jesus came to that spot, he looked up and said, “Zacchaeus, come down at once. I must stay in your home today.” 6 So Zacchaeus came down at once, happy to welcome Jesus.

Everyone who saw this grumbled, saying, “He has gone to be the guest of a sinner.”

Zacchaeus stopped and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord, I give half of my possessions to the poor. And if I have cheated anyone, I repay them four times as much.”

Jesus said to him, “Today, salvation has come to this household because he too is a son of Abraham. 10 The Human One came to seek and save the lost.”