

Intro: I saw a FB post last week that perfectly summarizes what I want to say to you this morning about Learning to Love Like Jesus!

- Read Post
- Show Picture

This morning I want to talk about *“Random Acts of Loving Kindness”* Not the things you PLAN for...but opportunities
John 2:1-11 Page 752

1. Be Open And Available When Unexpected Invitations Come Your Way.

Jn 2:1-3

- Jesus was invited...but it wasn't his event
Invited: Mom was going...perhaps he was invited as part of family...disciples were invited too
- Invitations come in ALL kinds of ways!
 - >Sometimes it is a very direct ask: “Do you want to ride bikes?”
 - >Sometimes through others: “They have no more wine”
 - >Sometimes simply circumstances You see it...and you think...” “Someone should”
 - >Sometimes there is a clear prompt HS Not always...but sometimes you hear Him say...GO!

Appl: Here is the reality...Those invitations SELDOM come at a convenient time!

You can't schedule them, plan for them or prepare for them.

The most important and impactful usually come out of the blue...totally random...have just a moment to decide
What you CAN do is prepare your heart...ahead of time...With a prayer..and a PREDECISION

2. Most Opportunities To Love Like Jesus Are Connected to People That Are Hurting Or In Need.

Jn 2:3-4

- There is no more wine:
 - >This would have been mortifying! (Esp in this culture: Guest)
 - >Mary is expecting something...(maybe because Jesus and his disciples added 7)
- Jesus says: “Not my problem”
 - >He isn't blowing her off...and then “caving in” because mom said so
 - >Jesus is making a point...IT IS HIS PROBLEM! He has the capacity to help...Making Disciples THINK!
- Pattern of Jesus ministry ON way to do something...STOPS...Miracle

Illus: Cain and Able: “Am I my brother's keeper?” YES!!!

Appl: And we are as well! Isn't that the whole point of the parable of the Good Samaritan? Luke 10:25ff

Who is my neighbor?

As followers of Jesus...His disciples...We are supposed to Love People the way He did!

Yes, those opportunities often come to us like they did Jesus...on our way somewhere else...STOP...SERVE

3. Like The Servants In The Story, Our Role Is To “Do Whatever He Tells Us To Do!”

Jn 2:5

- We aren't responsible to “fix” anything!
- We simply listen to Jesus, to the HS, and do whatever He says
 - >We do OUR part: Obedience to whatever He says
 - >We trust Him to do HIS part: We sometimes don't know...or even see the outcome...HE does

Illus: Peter: “Because YOU say so!” We talked about this last week. Made NO SENSE to Peter

Peter was the fisherman...Jesus was preacher: Everything he knew said: NO

Appl: This is why it is SO very important for us to prepare our hearts toward Obedience BEFORE time

Because if you wait until the moment arrives, your mind and your heart...you doubts...your fears...Stop you

But, if you have already made up your mind ahead of time...When the Opportunity comes...I'm in

WHATEVER HE SAYS...I'M GOING TO DO IT!

4. We Trust Jesus To Make Something Good Out Of Our Limited Efforts.

Jn 2:6-11

- Fill the jars with water (120-180 gallons) (Wedding...and a Gift!!!)
 - Fill to the brim
 - Take to Master of Ceremonies: Thinking: “THIS is NOT going to end well!”
- Turned the water into wine: He used their obedience
- He made “choice” Wine! He gave them the good stuff!
- Choice: Lit = the BETTER vs the LESSOR...or even the YOUNGER
- God don't make no junk! Whatever He chooses do with our obedience...be Good!

CONCL: God can and does use the simplest of things to make an incredible impact when we Love Like Jesus
I read a story in Readers Digest...1983...34 years ago...Made an incredible impression (me and others)
PRAYER

Introduction:

I love this time of year. Came home from dinner and it is still light and warm outside. My little neighbor was out riding her bike and asked me if I wanted to ride with her. I told her my bike was broken. She said that's ok we can chalk then. You should see my beautiful driveway and sidewalk. This was an evening well spent. Sorry [Elizabeth](#) but your daughter is blue from head to toe

Prayer:

God, I want to be able to love people like Jesus did! Help me today to see those around me that you want me to serve. Before I start my day I want to commit to you that when the opportunity comes to Love Like Jesus, I'm going to step out, reach out and love...trusting YOU to take my limited efforts and do something beautiful.

I ask you to give me strength when the time comes to not worry about what people might think..or say..or do...but to just act in obedience to your word and Love people unconditionally.

And if the opportunity comes....God give me the words to share WHY I am acting..in a short, simply, easy to understand way. Help me to say...

I'm just doing what Jesus did...loving people in need.

Amen