

Who is Jesus? The Gospel of John

December 13th, 2020

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It Takes a Church to Reach the World (John 13:21-38)

1. The Community Christ Desires

2. The Love It Displays

For Further Thought and Discussion:

Getting Started:

1. What was helpful to you in this week's sermon? What didn't you understand?
2. All of us live in a variety of cultures and sub-cultures simultaneously. What different "worlds" (i.e. social networks, interest groups, organizations, cultures, etc.) do you inhabit? What are the differences between these worlds?

Going Deeper:

3. What is "new" about Jesus' "new commandment" in verse 34 (see also 13:1-17)? What kind of love will characterize the new community that Jesus is gathering around himself?
4. How does Jesus reveal the kind of community he desires in vv. 21-29 (see also Romans 12:10, 13)? What stands out to you about Jesus' example? How do you need to grow in your love for other believers (viz. affection, hospitality, or honor)?

5. Explain the connection between verses 34 and 35? How does our love for one another advance God's mission in the world (see also John 17:20-26; 1 John 4:12)?

Application:

6. Jeff said that often, people must *belong* (i.e. experience a sense of belonging within Christian community) before they *believe* in Jesus. There's both a sociological and a supernatural reason why this is true. What are these reasons? Have you found this to be true? How does this change the way we view evangelism, and what the conversion process will look like in people's lives? How does this change the way we think about Christian community?
7. To advance God's mission, we must begin by fostering deeper love relationships within the body of Christ. Then, we must find creative ways to merge our worlds (i.e. connect our Christian friends with our non-Christian friends). Think of creative ways you could merge your worlds. What have you tried in the past? What worked? What didn't? What would like to try in the future? Discuss as a group.
8. What's one thing you can do this week to apply this passage?