Who is Jesus? The Gospel of John – Week 38

Preacher – Ben Rounds | Text – John 15:12-17

Summary:

This text consists of 6 short verses in which Jesus gives his disciples a simple command: "Love one another." A simple command, but one that is simply impossible to obey under our own human strength. Thankfully, Jesus also gives some context for obedience – his command is meant for his people, those who know him and follow him, who are empowered by the Holy Spirit to love like Jesus. And finally, he gives some motivation for obedience – a glorious vision of what's possible when Jesus' friends obey his command and love one another well. When they do this, Jesus promises that they will bear fruit – fruit that lasts forever!

Discussion:

1. What was the most important take-away for you from this week's message?

2. Who is Jesus talking to in this passage? What makes his words directly applicable to us?

3. Why do you think Jesus specifically calls his people to love "one another," over and above a general love for all people? What's important about this?

4. What's special about Jesus' call to love? What makes it unique? What makes it shocking?

5. **Application**: Can it be difficult to love other Christians sometimes? Why? What can make it specifically difficult to love other members of Desert View sometimes?

6. Explain in your own words what Jesus promises if his people will love each other the way he is calling them to love one another.

7. **Application**: Do you agree that we have failed in large part to love one another the way Christ loves us? How can we observe our failure to love each other well? What's the evidence of this failure in our families, our church, and our culture?

8. What will have to change for us to begin to love each other better? What do we need to truly obey this command?

9. **Application**: What can you start doing – today – to begin loving your fellow believers better?

10. How would you 'title' this section? In other words, how would you restate the main purpose John had (as the author) in writing this passage?