

The Art of the Ask

A study of 2 Samuel 5

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PROVIDING INSPIRATION FOR YOUR TRANSFORMATION

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The Story

Saul the king of Israel has been killed in battle along with his son Jonathan, David's best friend.. While David is king of Judah, Saul's son Ishbosheth becomes king only to be murdered later. The citizens of Israel come to King David asking to join his kingdom, the two kingdoms are joined now as Israel.

The Jebusites lived in Jerusalem and had to be conquered before David could occupy the city. The king yet was murdered. Israel is without a king a quote that says "actions speak louder than words." Our actions reveal our character and provide glimpses into our hearts and minds.

Jesus said" A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13: 34 - 35

His message is clear to His disciples and to us. Many people can quote scripture and often share spiritual posts on social media (which is wonderful) but it's their actions that are preaching their sermons.

Jesus had much to say about love. It was the core of His message and His being. Love is a spirit 2 Tim 1:7.



The Study

I don't know about you but I like instructions, steps to follow, examples to see. Whether it's in a recipe or trying to learn the latest technology, my chances of any success are increased if I have a picture or example of what to expect once I am finished.

Maybe Jesus knew His disciples did too. After He commands them to love each other He provides a picture of "how" to do so. As I have loved you. . ."

They've walked, talked, travelled, dined with and listened to Him long enough to understand that what love looks like, how it behaves under stress, criticism and even crucifixion as Christ so beautifully demonstrated on the cross. That single act of love saved us from receiving what our own acts of sin deserved.

He interacted with each of them with love, correcting and teaching, healing and helping. His sermon of love was heard even in the silence when He said nothing.

When Paul paints a word picture of love in 1 Cor 13, he's essentially describing Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world who is kind, doesn't envy, doesn't parade Himself, isn't puffed up, doesn't behave rudely, isn't self seeking, isn't provoked, doesn't think evil but rejoices in truth, bears, believes, hopes and endures all things. The more time we spend with Him, the more He can teach us how to preach a powerful silent sermon.



The Application of Information and Instruction

Christ didn't stop with the command to love but also let His disciples know what they could expect when they obeyed Him. "By this all will know that you are My disciples."

Jesus' disciples were not perfect and neither are we. We will succeed as well as stumble in our desire to love each other as Christ loves us. And for that we have "sufficient grace" 2 Cor 12:9

Our silent sermons are being preached and heard in our inner circles, churches, workplaces, by family, friends and strangers. And what we say when we say nothing at all matters most. Paul understood this so clearly and Lord help us to know it too.

Yes let's continue to share our spiritual posts on social media and allow the scriptures to take root in our hearts but most of all let our actions be the inspiration for someone to seek God. If we never spoke another word, may our actions shout loudly that we love Christ, desire to follow Him, obey Him and share Him with others.

And in those moments when our actions scream our frustrations, anger or hurt, may we remember that love covers "a multitude of offenses" and when we "confess our sins He is faithful and just and will forgive us . . ." 1 Pet 4:8/1 John 1:9 - 10 Amen!

Reflections

Hello! I'm Sandra Hubbard

I'm here to

- Provide you with scripturally based, inspirational content and courses designed to help you create your life with confidence, clarity and purpose.
- Encourage you to continue growing in God's Word, allowing it's power and relevance to guide, strengthen and sustain you daily.

And now may "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace." Num 6:24-26

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