

Example

John 13:1-20

- INTRO;
- It has been said that "Imitation is the highest form of flattery"¹
 - We have lost the art of imitation with the need to be authentic. We resonate with quotes like, "Be yourself, everyone else is taken."² Which was updated recently by the Lego movie, "Always be yourself, unless you can be Batman, then always be Batman"
 - The concept of authenticity which is defined as "not false or copied; genuine", and is at least partly biblical to not be false, as not to be a hypocrite, which gets its roots in being an actor and wearing a mask. ³ Adam and Eve "covered" themselves in the garden; hiding their fear, shame and guilt, creating for all of us a tendency to carry a facade.
 - I was challenged many years ago to constantly seek to remove lenses of worldly philosophies and replace them with biblical ones. (exegesis vs eisegesis) For instance; "**Existentialism** is a philosophy that emphasizes **individual existence, freedom and choice.**" Which sounds good at first, especially since one of its core values is authenticity, but it goes on "*that humans **define their own meaning** in life*" and "*holds that, as there is **no God** or any other **transcendent force**, the only way to **counter** this nothingness (and hence to find **meaning** in life) is by **embracing** existence.*" ⁴ Thus, to be authentic and create your own meaning, purpose

¹ Oscar Wilde, Irish poet and playwright, 1854-1900

² Ibid

³ "Gk. Hypokrites, which mostly meant play actor" The New Bible Dictionary

⁴ https://www.philosophybasics.com/branch_existentialism.html

Sunday, February 28, 2021

& value. Could parts of this popular philosophy be effecting the way you read the Bible, understand life and change your purpose?

- Is it biblical? Has not God defined our meaning, purpose and value? And what about the art of imitation? Are we not called to imitate Jesus? Could Oscar Wilde, the Irish poet who said, "imitation is the highest form of flattery" be on to something? That imitating Jesus is a high form of praise to the one who saved?

whoever says he abides in him (Jesus) ought to walk in the same way in which he walked. 1 John 2:6

Would it not be better to say, "Always be yourself, unless you can be like Jesus, then always be like Jesus"

Which leads me into my main point this morning, **"Be like Jesus"**

- Context, Jesus is spending time with the people he has been spending time with but, starting in John 13 we get a magnifying glass to the relationship and lessons Jesus gives his disciples. Before we get to the specifics of our text, let's not forget how he got to this point.

#1. JESUS IS DISCIPLINING

How? He is living the great commission as an example for us. He is revealing himself to people and teaching them. Making himself available for others to follow, to be like, to learn from, to imitate as he lived as humanity was meant to live! Why? What was his motive?

Read vs. 1

#2. JESUS' MOTIVE IS LOVE.

Jesus is God and God is love.

Sunday, February 28, 2021

Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest (*fully known, revealed, made clear*) among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 1 John 4:8-10

The Father's motive for sending his son is love, Jesus revealed that love by loving us to death.... His motive for coming is love

Read vs. 2-3

#3. IDENTITY OF JESUS

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. John 1:1-5

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. Colossians 1:15-20

the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Phil 2:9b-11

Sunday, February 28, 2021

They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful." Revelation 17:14

Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords. Revelation 19:11-16

#4. JESUS SERVED, **Read vs. 4-17**

Read Vs. 18

a. Serving your enemies.

APPLICATION

Jesus existed to find people who would follow him

#1. Disciples of Jesus make disciples of Jesus, **"Be like Jesus"**

We exist for people to find and follow Jesus. How?

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20

#2. What's your motivation?

1. LOVE

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. John 15:9-13

-Even in this commandment, sacrificial love and service is built in.

We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother. 1 John 4:19-21

"Be like Jesus"

#3. Remember your identity.

IN CHRIST we are...

SALT & LIGHT, Mat. 5:13-14

GOD'S CHILD, John 1:12

FREE, John 8:36

A FRIEND OF CHRIST, John 15:15

A TEMPLE WHERE GOD DWELLS, 1 Cor 3:18, 6:19

A NEW CREATION, 2 Cor. 5:17

RECONCILED, 2 Cor.5:18

A SAINT, Eph. 1:1

REDEEMED & FORGIVEN, Eph. 1:7

GOD'S MASTERPIECE, Eph. 2:10

RIGHTEOUS & HOLY, Eph. 4:24

FIRMLY ROOTED, Col. 2:7
HIDDEN IN CHRIST, Col. 3:3
CHOSEN & DEARLY LOVED, Col. 3:12
BLESSED with EVERY SPIRITUAL BLESSING

Feels good, right? But like Jesus, you humble yourself. Your wholeness in Christ is to be there others!

"Be like Jesus"

#4. Serve

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Philippians 2:3-8

Even your enemies

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Matthew 5:43-47

If people imitated you, what would they look like?

-Would they serve? Put others needs in front of their own?

-Serve even the Judas' of life?

"Be like Jesus"

Authentic vs. imitate

1 Peter 2:21, For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps,

1 Corinthians 11:1, Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.

Philippians 4:9, The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

1 Thessalonians 1:6, You also became imitators of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit,

"Be like Jesus"

GOSPEL- vs. 19-20

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

#1. Disciple

#2. Motive- love

#3. Identity- Son

#4. Service- Gave; Life, death and resurrection

Imitate Jesus. He gave us an example. You also should do just as he has done for you!

Follow others who are following Jesus.

Those who follow Jesus, find someone and live your life as an example!

"Believe in & Be like Jesus"