

SERMON SERIES: Encounters
SPEAKER: Ryan Lingbloom
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Key Line

Love God and love others. Our love for God is best demonstrated and illustrated by love for others.

Introduction

What is love? How do you define it?

Seek the Word

Read Mark 12:27-34.

- What did the teacher who came to Jesus ask him? (*Which is the most important commandment?*)
- What was Jesus's answer? (*Love God and love others*)
- Why is it so important to love other people? (*Our love shows them an example of the love of God.*)

As followers of Jesus, we try to live out God's command to love others without filling ourselves with God's love first. We cannot empty ourselves and continue to give.

- How do we do that? How do we fill ourselves? (*We fill ourselves by turning to God and communicating with him.*)
- What are some things that work against you doing this?
- What is a concrete way you can be filled by God/spend time listening to him on a regular basis?

How you see other people will determine how you love them.

- What does it mean to empathize with someone? (*To understand how they feel by being able to put yourself in their shoes and imagine how they feel.*)
- How does your ability to empathize with people make you more or less able to love them?

Love comes from a place of humility. We must ask "What can I do to help you?"

- How would asking this question change your home? Your workplace? Your friendships?

Talk About It

- What are some things that prevent you from loving other people?
- Share at least one person God has brought into your life to love.
- How can we support one another in loving others this week?

*******Remember that if we just deplete ourselves by helping others and do not refill ourselves by turning to God to commune and remain in a relationship with him, we will burn out and create unhealthy relationships with other people. This is important to remember because without relying on God's strength, we will try to rely on our own and will hurt the people around us instead of helping them see Jesus' love for them.**