



let yourself be...

A 3-DAY DEVOTIONAL



DAY 1: LET YOURSELF BE LOVED

Galatians 5:22-23 NCV

But the Spirit produces the fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

Mark 10:46-52

Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (which means "son of Timaeus"), was sitting by the roadside begging. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." So they called to the blind man, "Cheer up! On your feet! He's calling you." Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus. "What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked him. The blind man said, "Rabbi, I want to see."

"Go," said Jesus, "your faith has healed you." Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

What you believe will be demonstrated by how you behave.

Beliefs that are true should be expressed by what you do.

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Your behavior is how you are actually showing up in the world. It is how you are experiencing yourself and how others are experiencing you. It is who you are humanly being.

Jesus reminded his followers of this when he said, “I am the way and the truth and the life.” He did not say “Your belief in the Torah is the way,” or “Life is found when you follow these 5 Doctrinal Presuppositions.” Instead, he said what is true and what is life giving is found in me.

Take a moment and consider whom you are being. Describe what patterns are dominant in your daily interactions God, friends and family, and yourself.

Some writers believe the fruit of the Spirit is love and all those other wonderful descriptions are just sub-headings of love.

This might be helpful. Describe who loved you today and why you call it love. Describe who you loved today and why you call it love.

Eugene Peterson once wrote, “*Love is the most context-specific act in the entire spectrum of human behavior. Every act of love requires creative and personal responding and giving, in context[i].*”

Isn't it interesting that, love, the fundamental characteristic we use for God and the highest value of the human experience is so varied in its expression?

Would you be ruthlessly honest with yourself and consider this: Are you willing to let yourself be loved? Very often letting love in is more difficult than giving love away. It is vulnerable to be loved. It implies we need and want something. And it is hard for many of us to actually acknowledge that we have a need. And some of us we were taught it was selfish to have a want.

The bible tells the story of a blind man, Bartimaeus, who seemed to have been a permanent fixture on the road to Jerusalem and apparently, was a bit of a character. In his absence of sight he boldly confesses his need, “Have mercy on me.” This seems to be another way of saying, “I do not have the power to fix my circumstances. You do. I need help!”

Jesus responds in an invitational manner. He asks, “What do you want me to do for you?”

This is telling us something about the Divine. The God of the universe is interested in our situations. What does this tell us about love? In particular, God's love?

Love has within its power the ability to do something.

Love is willing to give something away.

Love invites the other to clarify and be specific.

A blind man had better sight than most. He could see clearly what it was he wanted. In boldly stating what he wanted he awakened to the Source of all love.

What about you?

What do you need? What do you want?

Are you willing to be loved without conditions?

How would you respond to Jesus' question?

[i] Eugene Peterson, *Christ Play in Ten Thousand Places*, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing: Grand Rapids, 2005, p. 327.