

Unpacking the Preach

Date: 17th October 2021
Sermon Title: I Just can't get it! (Jeniya Gwendu - EBA Gathering)
Bible Passage: John 13:34-35

Introduction to the theme

- Complete the well known phrase, 'Love is...'?
- Excluding the example of Jesus, what is the greatest example of love that you can think of?
- Think about the people you love: why do you love these people? What about them makes them 'lovable'?
- How do you show love to others?

Focusing on the passage

Take time to read John 13:34-35 again.

- What is the new command that Jesus gives the disciples? Do you think this is a new command? (see Leviticus 19:18)?
- What is it that Jesus adds to this command that makes it 'new'?
- How would you describe the love that Jesus has for His disciples and all people? (see Romans 5:7-8)
- What do you think should be the most identifiable trait of a Christian (compare: Hebrews 11:6, Galatians 5:22, 1 John 4:7 and other verses you would like to add)?
- How do you think the church has done, over the years, in loving others and being recognised as a community by our loving relationships?

Thoughts from the message

Jeniya focus her message around 3 main idea: our love for one another, Christ's love for us and being disciples who live out Jesus command to love one another.

- Jeniya told two contrasting stories of being welcomed in church - one demonstrated love and the other did not. How can we demonstrate our love for others in the way we welcome people?
- Jeniya shared that, 'love is the most powerful weapon for winning souls for Christ'. Do you agree with this statement? Are there other things you might like to add? If so, what?

Response

- Is there anything from the preach and passage that you will be taking away to reflect on or work on?
- Who is the one person you can show love to today?

Prayer pointers

- Take time to share prayer requests and pray for one another.
- Pray that God would help you to love others the same way that Christ has loved us.

Additional resources:

If you need some additional resources the below websites are useful:

- <https://www.gotquestions.org>
- <https://enduringword.com>
- <https://www.biblica.com>
- <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/>