



Deeper Application Message Guide

“Be The Church”

Speaker: Pastor Jeff Love

Week of May 16, 2010

Getting Started

- 1) List the people that you love. How do you define what you feel for them? Is it a result of what they have done? Is it because of their association to you? (son, daughter, spouse, etc.)

- 2) When you think of God’s love for you is it similar to the love you express to others? Explain.
 - a) How does your behavior change when you are around those you love? How should it change?

 - b) Is there anything you would not do for members of your family if it meant an improvement to their lives? If you answered no right away, how were you able to answer that question without having to first think through how it will affect you?

 - c) Why do the circumstances not matter so much when it comes to serving your family’s needs?

- 3) Does loving other people come easy to you or do you find it scary or at least challenging? Be honest
 - a) What is the natural outflow of our hearts when it comes to loving God and people?

- 4) How does it make you feel when someone cares for you without expecting any thing in return? How do you feel when you care for someone in the same way?

Into the Bible

- 5) Read **Mathew 25:31-40**
What kind of emphasis is Jesus putting on caring and serving others?
 - a) What is the best way to show love and care for God?

 - b) Why are we instructed to care for others if we claim to be Christ followers?

 - c) If we are not caring for others, what does it say about our understanding of the heart of Jesus?

- 6) Read **James 2: 14-25 & Ephesians 2:4-10**
Why are some people more concerned with their salvation as “fire insurance” rather than allowing their faith to affect their daily lives?
 - a) What would cause a believer in Christ to stop at their salvation alone and not add deeds of good works to their daily faith?

 - b) Why is James so adamant about deeds? How does Ephesians 2: 4-10 explain the purpose of good works?

Digging Deeper

- 7) Jeff spoke about **proving** that we love God and people and how a trip to Panama opened his eyes to the fact that serving God and people is worth any sacrifice.

There are typically three reasons people do not willingly serve or give to the work of God and the caring of people. Which do you identify with most?
 - 1) I am afraid if I give I will not have enough...
 - 2) I already work hard for my family...
 - 3) I don't have time to help....

How would Jesus respond to these reasons?

Read **Matthew 16:24-27**