

I'm With You—Presence & Sacrifice

John 11:1-12:11

If someone was trying to get some information about you and they asked the people who they believed knew you best...Is he/she an “I’m with you” kind of person? How would they answer that question about you? What does it even mean to be an “I’m with you” kind of person?

Jeremiah 31:3 — *3 the Lord appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.*

Romans 5:8 — *8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

Here’s what I want us to focus on today and for the next couple of weeks as we think about engaging our community here on the Crystal Coast. What would happen if we really loved our community like never before? What kind of impact could God have through us if we loved our community with an “I’m with you” kind of love?

Don’t just **SAY** it - **SHOW** it!

People will not be nearly as moved by our words as they will be by our actions. Love does, it doesn’t just say, it does, it shows!

There’s a great picture of this found in John’s Gospel about the life of Jesus. You can read it in **John 11-12**. If we’re going to do more than just say it, but really show God’s love, then here’s what that will look like...

1. Show an **INTEREST** in others. John 11:3

3 So the sisters sent to him, saying, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.”

2. Point them to the **GLORY OF GOD**. John 11:4

4 But when Jesus heard it he said, “This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.”

3. Make **SACRIFICES** to be **PRESENT**. John 11:8

8 The disciples said to him, “Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?”

4. Be ENCOURAGING - Not CONDEMNING. John 11:14-15

14 Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus has died, 15 and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him."

Jesus was never known for who or what He was against. He was known for who He was for.

5. Bring HOPE now and for the future. John 11:23

23 Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

6. Direct ANGER at the PROBLEM. John 11:33, 38

33 When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled... 38 Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it.

He wasn't angry at people, He was angry about the problem that all of us have because of sin.

One of the issues that many Christians have really gotten angry about in recent years is abortion. We're going to have the opportunity to hear from Christine Moody, the Director of the Coastal Pregnancy Care Center this coming Wednesday night at 6 pm. And during our time together, she's going to help us direct our anger about abortion at the problem, not the people involved in or affected by abortion. And we're going to do more than say we love those kind of people, we're going to show them we love them.

7. Invite GOD to act for them. John 11:41-42

And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. 42 I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me."

What are you doing to invite God to act on behalf of those you love, on behalf of those who live around us on the Crystal Coast? Wednesday nights @ 6 pm Prayer Gathering

8. GIVE what you have RECEIVED. John 12:1-3

1 Six days before the Passover, Jesus therefore came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. 2 So they gave a dinner for him there. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him at table. 3 Mary therefore took a pound of

expensive ointment made from pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

Let's be the kind of people who don't just say we love others, but shows that we love others by our willingness to sacrifice to be present with them through all the circumstances of life. Let's don't just **SAY** it, let's **SHOW** it because we know that people aren't nearly as moved by our words as they are by our actions. Love does, it doesn't just say, it does!

Let's talk about an "I'm with you" kind of love...

1. How many reasons can you think of for why Martha and Mary sent word to Jesus about Lazarus being ill (v.3)?
2. What did Jesus mean when He said that this illness does not lead to death (v.4)?
3. Why did Jesus delay His departure for Bethany two days (v.6)?
4. Why was it a problem for Jesus to head back to Judea (v.8)?
5. List all the different times that Jesus could have been condemning towards others in this passage?
6. What did Martha believe about Jesus (v.21-22)?
7. What does it mean that everyone who lives and believes in Jesus will never die (v.26)?
8. Why was Jesus deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled (v.33)?
9. Why did Jesus pray like he did before calling Lazarus out of the tomb (v.41-42)?
10. What do you think needs to change in our lives to really be "I'm with you" kind of people?