

## SERMON NOTES Sunday 13th November 2022

### sunnysidechurch

#### **Bible passage: Micah 4:1-5 and John 15:9-17**

**Introduction-** Today is Remembrance Sunday where we remember and pay our respects to the service and sacrifice of all those that have defended our freedoms and protected our way of life. But still so many places around the world face war and conflict. They can be a result of hatred, greed, and power. Our God is the opposite to all of these. He is not hate but he is love, he is not greedy but generous and his power is always used for good and not to harm, to prosper and not to destroy. **Read Micha 4.1-5.** What pulls us apart is hate, greed and the misuse of power. But what brings us together is love. How can we see the vision of Micah played out? We are more likely to see this vision play out when we **love**.

**Love means sacrifice-** Love can be a sacrifice, it can be costly. In verse 13 of our reading from John, Jesus is telling his disciples that they should love one another and goes on to say, 'Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.' Jesus' love will require him to go to the cross for his friends. His commandment to love each other as he has loved us, also requires serious sacrifice. The love of which Jesus speaks is more than a feeling, it is love in action, love that pays the price.

**Love means community-** We are commanded to love one another. Not to love ourselves, even though that is important. It tells us to love one another. Now it doesn't say, love one another from a distance, it doesn't say love one another but

only if it's easy and do it when you feel like it. It's not an encouragement or a recommendation. It's a command. We are told to love one another.

**Love means Christ-** Christ changes everything. He makes the difference. He is love. **Do we know his love?** He loves us like the Father loves him. Eternally, perfectly, intimately, affectionately, unchangeably, joyfully. When we know his love and have experienced his love, this changes us and changes the way we love others. We know how he has sacrificed everything for us, laying down his life for us. Out of this place, knowing this, can we love like he has loved us.

**Conclusion-** If we long for the vision of Micah, then as Christians, we must love one another as Christ loves us. Knowing that this comes at a cost, but we do this with each other in community and with the strength and power of God's Spirit.

#### **Some questions for discussion**

1. I wonder what or who you remember on this day?
2. What does sacrifice look like for us? And are we willing?
3. Who or what is God calling us to love as an action rather than a feeling?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 13.1-3. What does Paul tell us about love?
5. Who or what community do we need to be invested in to live out this command of loving one another?
6. What does it mean for us today that Jesus loves us the way that the Father loves him?
7. What does it mean to remain in the love of God?

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