



Sermon – 03/12/2023
Tim Skaggs

Verses Covered

John 13:33 – 35, 37

1 John 4:8

1 Corinthians 13:4 – 8

Romans 5:5 - 8

1 John 4:7 - 13

Alright, as you're being seated today, I want to greet you. Glad that you're here. Also, tell you to turn to John chapter 13. We'll be looking at verses 33 through 35. And right after you do that, I want you to notice that we have these cards in the seat back in front of you with the theme, Let the Nations be Glad. That's our six-week theme, if you will, leading up to Easter. What this card is for, and you'll see tables positioned throughout the auditorium, the worship center I mean. That would be a better name for it. And if you could, during our invitation time, if you could bring your card down if you indeed write a name on that card or a prayer request on that card. Specifically because our focus is on evangelism and missions for the next six weeks. If you've got someone you're praying for, write their name. We did that last Sunday. We had about 400 cards turned in. And several of the cards had about a dozen names. And that excites my heart. I hope you have someone you're praying for. You're not sure they put their faith in Jesus, you love them, whether it's a neighbor, a family member, a friend. I hope the Lord has laid somebody on your heart. Every believer and receiver of Jesus should be on the lookout for someone to lead to Christ or at least be praying for an opportunity to share the Gospel with them. So, if you can think of someone, you've got a whole 30 minutes to think of somebody, alright. I'll try to be faithful with my thirty minutes today. It may go 35. We don't know. Anyway, we'll do our best. And also, just to let you know, that a couple of other things. We want to give generously in this season as well. Specifically thinking about our mission budget. And I can't remember how much it was, but it was very significant. Phillip showed us on the screen, all our missions, both home and abroad, all over the nation. Certainly we've got teams going out on mission trip this week. But we want to be able to fund our mission endeavors here at Central. And so, your giving generously is going to help us in that and we really appreciate that. So, be focused in that area these next six weeks as well.

Now, I'm going to read the Scripture in just a moment. But one of the things I want to tell you is that a preacher tends to preach better if they get a little help from the crowd, like an Amen, for example, alright. Now, what amen, let me kind of coach you up on this. Amen means, so be it.

It means truth. But it also means, so be it. Now my version is, amen means, “Tim (or preacher) I got it. You can move on to the next point.” Thank you. Thank you for that. That was my, I was teasing you up to say amen at that point. But that means, I get it, it’s truth, so be it, I got it, you don’t need four more illustrations, let’s move on down the road, alright. No before we read the passage. In Matthew 22 a lawyer comes to Jesus. Now it’s not a lawyer like we think of a lawyer. It’s not like an attorney like we think of an attorney. This is a scribe, someone who is schooled in the Mosaic law. They’re an expert in Mosaic law. And so they know the law. They know how to interpret and apply the law. So this scribe, is a better translation really, comes to Jesus and said, “Master, teacher, what’s the greatest commandment?” And I don’t know that he already knew that. As I read in some commentaries, many said, “Well, the scribes and Pharisees were always trying to trap Jesus. So perhaps they were trying to trap Him with this question. Here’s what I think he meant. Now this is just 3 Timothy now, alright. This is what I think. But what I think he meant was, “Look, I know all the laws. I’ve been a scribe for a long time. There’s a lot of law on the books. Pharisees have even added to the law with tradition. And there’s so many I’m not sure I can keep them all. So can you just tell me the one most important? Because that way I can focus on the number one most important law of the Mosaic law.” And He said, “I can do that, OK.” As a matter of fact, this is again 3 Timothy. Well, that’s easy, and here it is. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind and love your neighbor as yourself. And so, we’re going to come to a passage today that talks about that second part. Because he says, the second one is as important as the first one, Jesus says. In other words, they go together. You love God and you love others. That’s the most important law. If you keep that law, you’re able to keep all the laws of the prophets. It’s a pretty amazing statement. Now when I thought about the theme of John, I again studied this week, and many thought, you know and rightfully so, it could be the deity of Christ. Because in the book of John we have the 7 I am statements of Jesus. You’ve seen Me you’ve seen the Father. He talks about the face that He is God. But one biblical scholar said that John, the Gospel of John, is the Gospel of God’s love, or God’s love letter to the world. And we can easily see that because the definitive passage is John 3:16. I could probably get any of you out there and bring you up on stage and say, “Could you quote John 3:16?” You could. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son. Whosoever believes in Him would not perish but have everlasting life. So, for it to be God’s love letter to the world, we get that. But also, this is the next passage where we can understand that the Gospel of John talks so much about God’s love and the fact that we should love one another. In this text, Jesus is in the upper room talking to the disciples. And He’s telling them how much He loves them and He knows they love Him. And then He’s encouraging them to have that same kind of love for one another. So let me read it and we’ll pray. Look at verse 33 of John 13.

³³Little children, I am with you a little while longer. You will seek me, and as I said to the Jews, now I also say to you, ‘Where I am going you cannot come.’ ³⁴A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵By this all men will know you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Let’s pray together.

Father, we love You so much and we know You love us and we love You back. And I pray that we would take the truth of this passage today and not just believe it and say amen to it but we would really ask the Holy Spirit to help us live this out as always for Your glory. In Christ’s name I pray. Amen.

Now this is a, I think, a really good passage for a couple of groups that we're going to pray over and commission. Just like we commissioned our Spring Break mission teams last week, we're going to commission our Jerusalem Project folk. And at the end of the service, I'm going to, at the appropriate time, I'm going to call them to stand down front. And then we have Base Camp for our Special Needs. It's a day camp from like 9:30, I think, to 3 o'clock, Monday through Thursday. And much of our special needs are not here because they're in the wing. But those that are here, either volunteer or will go to Base Camp with our Special Needs, if you would make your way down at the end too, I would appreciate that. And then we'll definitely commission you for this week. But this is a great passage for us to kind of send them out into the world because it talks about, if you really want to show somebody what Jesus is like, then you love them like Jesus loves you. And they will see Jesus through your love. So here's the command verse in verse 34. Look what it says.

³⁴A new commandment I give to you, (that's the focus verse) that you love one another:

Now, for that to pack a punch, we have to back up to verse 33. 33 is the preface verse so that 34 really packs a punch. Because look what Jesus says.

³³Little children, I am with you a little while longer.

And there are two thoughts here. The only, listen to this, He's saying, "I'm about to depart this world." Now all throughout the upper room discourse, He's talking about that He's going to be leaving, He's going to be departing the world, He's going to be put to death. And they're trying to wrap their mind around this. I'm about to depart the world. So listen, so catch this, the only true and perfect love, I'm going to say it again. The only true perfect love, and perfect love, this world has ever known is about to leave planet Earth. About to leave the world. The only true and perfect love the world has ever known. Not even a close second out there is about to leave the world. Now that's the set up verse and He, and God, and He's God, He's deity. We know that through the Gospel of John. In 1 John 4:8 it says,

⁸The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

And again, Jesus, "You've seen Me, you've seen the Father." He is God. He is deity. So He is love, the true and perfect love. The only example ever is about to leave the world, about to depart the world. Now we know there are lots of illustrations of love. We know that the Greek has primarily four words. *Philía*, which is friendship love. *Storgē* is family love. And then we have *érōs* which is like the love between a husband and a wife. And then *agápe* love. Well, He's speaking of *agápe* love here. And that's the love of God. And you really can't experience *agápe* love unless you have the love of God in you, you can't really live that out. But here's the awesome thing about *agápe* love. And I heard this years and years ago. It was probably over at Coulter where Chris Osborne said this and it stuck with me, I've never forgotten it. And here's his definition of *agápe* love and I think it's right on. It's when you choose to love someone or love an option because that person or that object has value to you. When you choose to love a person or an object because that person or object has value to you. Now watch this. Don't miss this. *Agápe* love is not about other people. *Agápe* love is not about how other people treat you, how they react to you, it's not how lovely they are or lovable they are. *Agápe* love, the love of God, is

all about who you are in Christ. And so, *agápe* love gives me the ability, watch this, to love people who don't love me in return. Does that make sense? I hope it does. *Agápe* love is about me, it's when I choose to love which is what Jesus did. The entire world did not love Him back. But He chose to love them. So I have the ability to love people who do not return that love. It's an amazing love. It's not a normal human love. Because normally when someone attacks me or comes against me or is ugly to me, my first reaction isn't, "Man, I love you. You're so wonderful. OK. You know, I'm just going to pray for you right now. You know, that's not, maybe that's your first reaction. It's because you're living our *agápe* love well. OK, I don't live it out so well many times. So that's the first idea. Look at the second idea. Because I'm leaving. Here's what He's saying. I want you to transfer the love you have for Me to one another. First thing, I'm about to leave the world so now you've got to be My love to this world. So, I want you to transfer this love you've had for Me, and you have for Me, to each other, to one another. Now did they love Jesus? Absolutely. As a matter of fact, if you look on down here, go ahead and look in verse 37 of 13.

³⁷Peter said to Him, "Lord, why can I not follow You right now? I will lay down my life for You."

You see, the Scripture says greater love has no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friend. So he's showing, "Jesus, I love you. I'll die for You." Now Jesus said in verse 38, well guess what, you're going to deny me three times before the rooster crows, OK. So, we understand how that story goes. But if you go to some of the other Gospels when Peter says, "Lord, not me. I'll deny you, I'll not fall away. I will not deny you. As a matter of fact, I will die for you. And it says, all the disciples said the same thing. Did you ever catch that? So it's not just Peter that says, "I'll die for you. I love you enough to die for you." All the disciples said the same thing, every one of them. So, did they love Jesus? Absolutely. Did they love each other? No, they were jealous of one another. They argued about who would be the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. They had trouble washing one another's feet. So, the idea here is, He said, "I want you to take the love you have for me, this vertical love for Jesus, express it horizontally to each other." It's like Jesus was saying, "You love me? Prove it by loving one another. Prove it."

Now let's look closer at the new command in verse 34. Because I caught that idea that said, I give you a new command to love one another, yet it was an old command. Because even in Matthew 22, certainly with the scribe, he had already quoted Deuteronomy 6:5, is to love the Lord with all your heart, soul, and mind. And then Leviticus 19:18 is to love your neighbor as yourself. So, it's already in the Levitical law. It's already in the Mosaic law. So, it's really an old commandment. Why would He call this idea of loving one another, ok, a new commandment? It's a good question. We'll try to answer it. Here's the first one. It's new in its object. It's new in its object. Because in the Mosaic law, the command was love your Jewish neighbor. You only have to love your nationality. You don't have to love anyone beyond Jewish, OK. So that's a physical kind of love. Here he kind of ups the ante to a spiritual kind of love, which means you would love all followers of Christ. All who say, I not only believe Jesus, I've received Jesus as my personal Lord and Savior. I am, in fact, a child of God. John 1:12. I am a Christian. And so now you're to love the family of God. We're to love everyone in this room. You don't have to like everyone in this room. How many of you have problems liking somebody in this room? You get no response. What's that all about? You don't have to like everybody. You don't have to like what they do and how they do it. But you have to love them. So the command is, we love those in the body of

Christ. But it goes even deeper because in 2 Corinthians 5:15 it says, Jesus, remember, greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friend. Jesus died for all. So, it goes even deeper. If you're going to love like Jesus loves, you love everybody in this church in the body of Christ and you love people outside the body of Christ. You love every person on the planet. John 3:16. God so loved the world. So it's a new object. It's not just your nationality any more. It goes beyond that.

It's also new in its measure and its depth. The old idea is pride in your race. Of you love your neighbor. You know, we have lots of great neighbors around us and we love all of our neighbors and we've become really close friends with several of them. You love your neighbor even if their dog does his business on your lawn. Hi Jaime. How are you? I see my wife out there. She gets it, OK. You love your neighbor inside the church and outside the church. You love your family. That's kind of the old idea. You go to the family reunion, crazy Uncle Charlie is there. You only have to put up with him for a couple of hours. Don't have to see him ever again. Or liberal Cousin Linda. Or maybe you're the one people don't want to see, OK. Maybe it could be that. But again, it's you love your neighbor, you love your family, you have pride in race. Now God's new love is described for us in 1 Corinthians 13. It's a great description and I want you to see it. 1 Corinthians 13:4 through 8. Look what it says. This describes, see there's a new depth to this kind of love. It's not that you love just because of your nationality or you love your neighbor because you like them and, you know, they live close to you. You love your family because you have to kind of thing. Look what it says.

⁴Love is patient, love is kind, it is not jealous; love does not brag, is not arrogant. ⁵It does not act unbecomingly, does not seek its own; is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, ⁶does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; ⁷love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. ⁸Love never fails;

So this is not a love even in difficulty, when people are difficult to love; it's a love especially, now listen to this, it's a love especially when people are difficult to love. See, this kind of *agápe* love goes to this new measure of, I'm going to love them even if they're difficult. No, I'm going to love them especially if they're difficult. I have this ability, not in me, but because of the love of God in me. So there's this new measure and new depth that I hope you catch that this morning. Because it's only made possible by a new power, a new power. See, when you become a Christian, when you become a child of God, you not only believe everything the Bible says about Jesus, but you've received Him. Then the Scripture says, the Holy Spirit puts that *agápe* love of God inside of you. And here's the verse, Romans 5, and we're going to go ahead and read through 8 because in the closing it gives us a great example of God's love. 5:5 through 8.

⁵and hope does not disappoint, because, here it is, the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Holy Spirit pours God's love in our heart the minute we put our faith in Him.

⁶For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die.

Here it is.

⁸But God demonstrates His own love toward us, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

You see, this *agápe* love is so different than the normal human love. In human effort we can't live this out. In human effort I can't love someone who's unlovely or unlovable towards me. But when the Holy Spirit puts God's love in me, then I have the ability to live it out. That's why when I do pre-marriage counseling and I talk about Hebrews 5 where, husband love your wife as Christ loved the church. And then I go into this teaching about how Jesus loved the church. And if the guy gets it, he's going, "Wow! I can't really love her like that. You know, it's hard for me to love anybody like that." Unconditional sacrificial love, I go in all that means. He goes, "Wow! That's going to be hard." And I'm going, "Good, you understand. You can't do that in your power. You have to have the Holy Spirit help to really help you love your spouse like Jesus loves the church." And then here's another one I really want to focus on this. I want you to get this.

God's love, the reason you're at odds with people sometimes is you haven't forgiven them or they haven't forgiven you. This *agápe* love, listen, will help you forgive others. Now let me show you what I mean by that. So many times I hear people tell me, well, you know, maybe they come for counseling and say, "I have a hard time forgiving so and so." "Well, how come?" "Well for one thing, they haven't come and asked me for forgiveness." Ok. Ok. What we typically want to do before we'll forgive somebody, we have two things. They have to come and ask for it or we won't forgive them. And number two, they have to ask a particular way that is in keeping with our desires. They have to do it in a certain way. They have to ask like they really mean it and then we'll forgive them. Here's the problem with that. Jesus is on the cross. No one at the foot of the cross is saying, "Jesus You're awesome. Will You please forgive us for killing You?" Nobody said that. Will You please forgive us for mocking You and making fun of You? Nobody asked for forgiveness at the foot of the cross. So the Jesus *agápe* love that gives Jesus the ability to love those who are actually attacking Him and putting Him to death, what does He say? Father forgive them. Nobody asked for it. Father forgive them. They don't even know what they're doing. Listen, if, listen, if you are a child of God, you have the ability to forgive someone who's hurt you. It doesn't matter whether they come to you and ask for forgiveness or not. There's about four or five people I have forgiven, they've never come. Now I don't always do it perfectly. But I can give you names right now of people I have forgiven. You know what? Because I kind of want to sleep at night. Amen? Anybody else? But I understand this *agápe* love says they don't have to come to me and in a certain way. But we do those two conditions or we're not going to forgive them. Listen, a *agápe* love lives in you where you choose to love them even if they never come and ask for forgiveness. I'll give you an example. Because of, secondly, especially this perfect way we think people need to come. Many years ago over at Coulter, we met at the Civic Center, you remember that, while we expanded the worship center. And one day in the many roles that I filled over there, I needed an easel to set up as people were coming into the Civic Center to make some sort of church-wide announcement. So I go over to the children's wing because children's wing people always have easels. And I walk into this room and I see this beautiful easel and it's got everything, you know, flannel board stuff all attached to it and everything ready to go. Someone came early and set it up and it's just primo. It's perfect. Well, I go over there and go, "That's an awesome easel. I'm going to use that one." So I take everything off of it and I grab it and I put it under my arm, it's a pretty big easel, and I go walking out. Somebody goes, "Hey,

that's Carolyn Browning's easel." Fourth grade? She taught fourth grade forever. Came over on the Mayflower and taught, OK. Godly lady. Head of our prayer room. Love Carolyn Browning. She's with Jesus now. But Carolyn Browning literally, I don't know how many years, probably taught my son. My son's here today. Probably taught him. Fourth grade, OK. So, I go, "Well, I'll bring it back after worship before Sunday School." Because Sunday School was after worship. Well, next thing you know, I'm walking down the hallway after worship in the building, I had left the Civic Center. And somebody said towards the end, somebody said, "Hey, Carolyn Browning's looking for you." Not good. Not good. True story. And so, I go, "Oh my goodness, I forgot to bring that easel back. Oh, she had to teach with no easel. Oh no, I'm a dead man." So, actually I didn't even go get the easel at that point because it was too late. So, it was about over. So, I walk down there and she was tidying up her room. She was the only one in there. So, what I did is, I got down, I groveled. Do you know what grovel is? You can look it up. It's a hungry dog begging for food. That's what it means. And I literally got on my belly, pushed the, cracked the door open. I crawled on my belly into her room. And I was saying things, I didn't even look up. I was afraid that she was going to kick me or something. So I just, she had to be so mad at me. So, I put my face, I kept my face close to the floor and I said things like, "I'm lower than a snake's belly. I don't deserve to live. Woe is me. I'm a bad bad person." Whatever, I can't remember. I just groveled and she started laughing. So, it worked. OK. I got a chuckle out of her and I said, "That'll never happen again." She said, "You're right because you're never going to borrow my easel ever again. Go get somebody else's easel." But, see, but that's the deal. Listen, don't miss this. It is so wrong of me and it is so wrong of you that we go, "You know what, I'm going to forgive because they came and asked me and because they groveled. They did it the way I wanted them to do it." No, you forgive them because the love of God that's all about forgiveness is in your soul and in your spirit. That's why you forgive them. Because He allows you, He helps you, Holy Spirit's got to help you, this is a human deal, if we don't have the Holy Spirit. It's spiritual now. The Holy Spirit helps you love them in that way. And it's so freeing to say, "I forgive them because Jesus forgive me and I want to love like Jesus loves."

Now our great example, here we are, in verse 34 is, love as I have loved you. Well, how did He love? I want us to go back to 1 Corinthians 13 to see this. So, if you have your Bible, if you want to look on the screen. Take the word love, he says love like I love. That's my command to you. Take the word love and put the name Jesus in there. I'm going to read it with the name Jesus instead of love. Jesus is patient, Jesus is kind, Jesus is not jealous; Jesus does not brag, Jesus is not arrogant. Jesus does not act unbecomingly. Jesus does not seek His own. Jesus is not provoked. Jesus does not take into account a wrong suffered. Jesus does not rejoice in unrighteousness but rejoices with the truth. Jesus bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Jesus never fails. Now we're not going to stop there. Let's get personal. Love one another as I have loved you. So, now we put our name in the place of love. Listen to this. You put your name in as you think about this. I'll put my name in. Tim is patient. Alright, the first one already got me. Tim is patient. Tim is kind. Tim's not jealous. Tim does not brag. Tim is not arrogant. Tim does not act unbecomingly. Tim does not seek his own. Tim does not, is not provoked. He does not take into account, Tim does not take into account a wrong suffered. You don't even recognize when someone harms you. Tim does not rejoice in unrighteousness but rejoices with the truth. Tim bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Tim never fails. This new love never ever fails. Now here's my question. What Jesus is saying is very powerful to the disciples. Really powerful. I'm about to send you out into the world to be world changers and the number one way you're going to do it is you're going to love people like

I love you. You're going to show My love. I'm going to be pulled out of the world so you're going to have to be the representatives to show my world this kind of *agápe* love to the entire world. Did they get it? I want you to look, 33 through 35, I just read that. Jesus is pouring His heart out about, love people as I've loved you. Goes on to say, we're going to look at it in a minute, verse 35. And so it's almost like Simon Peter is waiting for Jesus to take a breath. Jesus rattles all this off in 33 to 35. When He takes a breath, I'm sure Peter just jumped in. And maybe raised his hand and Jesus called on him thinking he's going to go, "I want that kind of love. Man, if I could just love like You, Jesus, that'd be great." But look what Jesus says, Jesus pours out His heart, Peter says, Jesus pours out His heart. Simon Peter said, "Lord, where are you going?" See, don't miss this. At the beginning He says, "Little children, I'll be with you a little longer. I'm about to depart." And then He lays this most important command, this is a huge command. Love one another. "Hey, Lord, where are you going? Where are you going? I don't understand this." Totally missed it. If you go down to 14 we have the famous statement by Thomas. "Lord, how do we know the way? We don't even know where You're going." They're still focused on Jesus' leaving, not what I need to do while He's gone. Years later, 1 John 4:7 through 13, John gets it. See, John was there too. He was listening. Peter, not listening. Thomas, not listening. John, listening. Now one other key is 1 John, he writes this because Pentecost came and the Holy Spirit poured the love of God into his life and here's what he writes in 1 John 4. Look at the change. 7 through 13.

⁷Beloved, let us love one another (he gets it), for love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him (he gets it). ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us (he gets it), we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has seen God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, His love is perfected in us. ¹³By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.

Three times he talks about loving one another there. He gets it. Now look. Here's the point. God is not to this world today going, "I'm going to show you my world by creating this beautiful world for you to enjoy." He's already created the world. He's not going, "I'm going to send my Son to die for you." He's already sent His Son to die for you. What He's doing now is saying, "Now, beloved, you are here." Fellow believers and receivers of Jesus we are on this planet and we're to show His love to the world. And we do it, here's how we do it, by how well we love each other in this room and how we love those outside this room. Because we close it with verse 35. Very, very powerful. Don't miss this. Look at verse 35. He really nails it. It's kind of the kicker here.

³⁵So by this all people will know you are my disciples,

Here's how.

If you have love for one another.

Francis Schaeffer, in his book *The Mark of a Christian*, here's what he says about this verse. He says, "In this verse God gives the world the right, listen to this, to judge your Christianity." Think

about that. I think Francis Schaeffer's right. He just said, this is the way the world's going to know that you really are a follower of mine. If you love one another. The most important witnessing tool we may have in our arsenal is how well the church loves the church. By this all men will know that you're my disciples, if you have love for one another. I've had a lot of people tell me, "Tim," maybe I preach on evangelism. They'll say, "I've never taken the opportunity to share the Gospel with someone. I never really, I've done it very little." And I go, "No, you do it every day. Every day you have the ability to love fellow believers and receivers well and you have the ability to love those outside the church well." Like at a restaurant. We're going to go to a lot of restaurants probably after this. And I heard servers say, the day they dread the most is Sundays because the Christians show up. How sad is that? Man, love on your server today. Love on your server today. By this all will know you're my disciples if you have love for one another. So, you have the fish symbol on your car, they'll probably think you're part of a movement. You maybe have a cross around your neck, they'll link you to a religion. You carry a Bible around, they'll think you attend church. But if you display *agápe* love, here it is, they'll know you follow Jesus. It's a big difference. It's a big difference.

Now if you're here today, I want to close with this. And you would say, "Tim I don't know that I have the ability to love that way. As a matter of fact, I'm pretty sure I don't because I don't know that the love of God has ever been poured in me by the Holy Spirit of God." It's still not easy but it's possible if the love of God is in you. And that means that you have taken that step to put your faith and trust in Jesus. Crowd this size there's got to be some here that probably have never become a Christian. They've never trusted the Lord as their Savior. And all you've got to do is pray a prayer. Lord, I know I'm a sinner. I know I can't get into heaven unless You forgive my sin. And so I ask You to forgive my sin. Come into my life. Be my Lord and Savior because before I get to heaven, I really want to enjoy an abundant life here on this earth. I don't want just eternal life. I'm not praying this prayer just to get eternal life. I want a full and meaningful life now. And the only way I can do that is I need to put my trust in You as Savior and I obey You as Lord. I'm taking a knee. I'm bowing in prayer and asking You to be my Lord and Savior. If you pray that prayer today then the love of God, Romans 5, the Holy Spirit takes and puts into your heart, and you have the ability to love and you have the ability to forgive.

Let's pray together.

Father, we love You and we thank You for Your word today. Thank You for teaching it to us by Your Holy Spirit. And I pray today that this truth that some nugget of truth has been driven home through Your Holy Spirit to every one of us as always for Your glory. This invitation is Yours. We give this time to You. In Christ's name I pray. Amen.