

Sermon Notes & Daily Devotionals for May 31-June 6



“Just Breathe...”

If we are to understand the peace, power and purpose we are granted by God in Christ, we need to understand the love that motivates and describes who this giving God is. The readings this week focus on clearly defining the nature of God. After each reading this week, ask: How does this understanding give me peace? How does it clarify my purpose and where does it empower me?

Monday, June 1 Read Psalm 136

What phrase is repeated over and over again in this psalm? _____
_____ Why does the psalmist feel the need to drive that particular point home?

How is the love described here so much more than mere emotion and is that important?

Tuesday, June 2 Read Isaiah 43

This passage is, in reality, a love song for m God to His People. Read it again slowly with this in mind. What does this tell you about God? _____

What does it tell you about yourself and the people who share your life?

How should you respond to this song?

Wednesday, June 3 Read Mark 12:28-34

Love is the very nature of God and serves as the identifying mark of Jesus' disciples. Should it be surprising then that the most important directive (see also Deuteronomy 6:4-9) God gives us is that we go all out in love for God and for those around us? What does the last part of v.33 mean for our Christian discipleship today?

“Just Breathe”

**Sermon for Pentecost Sunday,
May 31, 2020**

Scripture: John 20:19-23 (NRSV)

- 1. Jesus offers us peace and surety in a topsy-turvy world.**
- 2. Jesus calls us to have a Divine purpose.**
- 3. Jesus empowers and goes with us**



Just Breathe...

Thursday, June 4 Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-8

The Greek word for “love” that Paul uses is *agape* (*agape*), which means literally a sacrifice of self and a preference for the other. Reread this passage with that definition in mind. Why is it so necessary for love to be sacrificial and separate from (or at least not driven by) an emotional experience? _____

Why is *agape* so necessarily central to a well-lived life? _____

Friday, June 5 Read 1 John 4:7-21

The wording here can become a little dense, but John is laying out the beautiful and cyclical nature of love: Love from God comes first. *We* love in response to that initial grace. The more we love, the more like Christ we become and the more evident that reality is in our lives. The more Christ resides in us the more receptive we become to him and the more generous we become in loving others. Where and how does this cycle break down in daily living and how can it be restored? _____

Saturday, June 6 Read John 21:15-19

There is much pain in Peter’s protest, “Lord, you *know* I love you!” Yet in light of his failures and denials, Peter’s love is not so sure a thing and though Jesus may know it, Peter needs to reaffirm it to himself. How does telling someone we love them encourage us as well as the person to whom we are speaking? _____

Why do we often fail to tell the ones we love this simple truth? _____

