

Love Like That Week of January 23rd

*Be Approachable Rev. Kyle Gatlin*

 (Ephesians 5:1-2 MSG) Watch what God does, and then you do it, like children who learn proper behavior from their parents. Mostly what God does is love you. Keep company with him and learn a life of love. Observe how Christ loved us. His love was not cautious but extravagant. He didn’t love in order to get something from us but to give everything of himself to us. Love like that.

**Observe how Christ loved us**

(John 13:34) Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

**APPROACHABLE**

**We have lost the art of being approachable**

(Matthew 11:28-29) “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

**Approachable equals loving the invisible**

(Mark 10:13-16) People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. 14 When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. 15 Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” 16 And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.

**Approachable comes with risks:**

* + **Reputation**
	+ **Questions**
	+ **Guilty by association**

**Reputation**

(Luke 3:37) A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee’s house, so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume.

(Luke 3:39) When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, “If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner.”

**Questions**

(Matthew 9:10-11) While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew’s house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. 11 When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?”

**Guilty by association**

(Matthew 11:19) The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.’

**Why aren’t we approachable?**

**Pride**

 ***“The vice I am talking of is Pride or Self-Conceit:  ….According to Christian teachers, the essential vice, the utmost evil, is Pride. Unchastity, anger, greed, drunkenness, and all that, are mere flea bites in comparison: it was through Pride that the devil became the devil: Pride leads to every other vice: it is the complete anti-God state of mind.*” ― C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity**

(Luke 18:10-12) “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.
11 The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’

**When are we approachable?  When we are humble.**

(Luke 18:13-14) “But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’ 14 “I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

**In every relationship we face the same test:**

* + **I will exalt myself**
	+ **I will humble myself**

**Selfishness destroys relationships, humility develops relationships.**

(Philippians 2:3) Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves

**Humility is not thinking less of myself;**

**It is thinking more of others.**

**Humility is not putting myself down;**

**It is lifting God up.**

**Humility is not denying my strengths;**

**It is being openly honest about weaknesses.**

**Humility is seeing that without Christ I can do nothing;**

**But in Christ I can do all things.**