

Love & Hate Part 13: "Every Tribe" (8-20-2017)

Introduction: Field of Dreams (Is this Heaven? No, it's Iowa!)

Bob Marley, from his song "War" (this is a direct quote from Hailie Selassie's speech before the UN, 1963)
 "Until the philosophy that holds one race superior and another inferior, is finally and permanently discredited and abandoned, then everywhere is war."

Notes: Calling out something as obvious as White supremacy & Nazi's is easy (or it sure should be)

But what about those on whom I look-down, the people I feel superior too, judging, criticizing, ignoring

So make war on my own prejudices – make war on my pride, make war on my selfishness

Whom do I hate? Whom do I really love? Whom do I pre-judge?

Who exactly am I lifting up? Helping? Serving?

Joshua 5:13-15 (ESV)

(13) When Joshua was by Jericho, he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man was standing before him with his drawn sword in his hand. And Joshua went to him and said to him, "Are you for us, or for our adversaries?" (14) And he said, "No; but I am the commander of the army of the LORD. Now I have come." And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped and said to him, "What does my lord say to his servant?" (15) And the commander of the LORD's army said to Joshua, "Take off your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did so.

Notes: Jesus isn't here to choose sides, he is here to take over!!!

Most famous passage in the Bible . . .

John 3:16 (ESV)

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Maybe this should be right up there too . . .

1 John 3:16-18 (ESV)

(16) By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. (17) But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? (18) Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

Notes: How do we love?

Not in . . . **Word** = Logos (the intelligence, & thought behind the word), so don't perfectly coined phrases
Talk = Tongue – the act of speaking, the instrument of speaking

But in . . . **Deed** = work, labor, action, employment
Truth = reality

So, what does that Action in Reality look like?

1 John 3:23-24 (ESV)

(23) And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. (24) Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

Note: belief in Jesus & love for one another

We covered the story of the Good Samaritan in Week 6 (discussing who is our neighbor) . . .

From "Generous Justice" by Tim Keller

We instinctively tend to limit for whom we exert ourselves. We do it for people like us, and for people whom we like. Jesus will have none of that. By depicting a Samaritan helping a Jew, Jesus could not have found a more forceful way to say that anyone at all in need - regardless of race, politics, class, and religion - is your neighbor. Not everyone is your brother or sister in faith, but everyone is your neighbor, and you must love your neighbor.

Notes: We love our neighbors & we point them to Jesus . . . there is room for all!

Romans 10:11-13 (ESV)

(11) For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame." (12) For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. (13) For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Note: Salvation is for all, Jesus is a king for all

One of my great joys has been to discover followers of Jesus in every race, culture, and nation I have travelled too!

Romans 10:14-15 (ESV)

(14) How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? (15) And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"

Note: Let's be carriers of the good news – That Jesus has come into the world. That in the midst of all the broken rulers of this age, there is another kingdom, and we are its message carriers!!!

The Book of Revelation – primarily it's a book "Revealing Jesus" to a persecuted church . . .

Let's finish this morning, by looking at a Heavenly vision of the gospel that we carry!

Revelation 7:9-10 (ESV)

(9) After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, (10) and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

Race: The gospel celebrates & challenges culture!

Language, skin color, heritage – they are good, beautiful, and therefore celebrated!!

Religion, or lack thereof – is wrong, broken, and dangerous, so repent because Jesus is Lord!

Revelation 7:11-17 (ESV)

(11) And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, (12) saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen." (13) Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?" (14) I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. (15) "Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. (16) They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. (17) For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Note: What's the great tribulation? When? What about my tribulation today, what about my neighbors?

Conclusion: Field of Dreams (A baseball field in a remote village in the DR)