

Love Like That 4 - Being Bold

Pastor Don Brock

Use this guide by yourself, with a friend, or in a group to help you pursue a deeper relationship with Jesus this week!

Open

In this final week of our *Love Like That* series (you can find the previous messages online at www.gatewaybc.com), Pastor Don guides us through the tricky task of having difficult conversations with the people we care about. The reality is that love sometimes requires confrontation, and Jesus in His own ministry shows us how being bold yet compassionate can lead to significant and necessary changes. So to get your group started today, let everyone share about a time when they were on the receiving end of a loving confrontation that was handled well - and led to a good outcome. And remember that if you're interested in viewing the entire *Love Like That* RightNow Media series, just go to www.gatewaybc.com and select 'RightNow Media' under the 'Sermons & Media' tab at the top of the page to create an account.

BIG THOUGHT

When we love others the way Jesus did, we'll be bold enough to tell them the truth even if it means they might reject us.

Dig

1. For today's study we'll be in Matthew 23 where Jesus addresses the hypocrisy of the religious leaders. Read 23:1-3. Who is Jesus teaching? What distinction does he make for his listeners in how they should respond to their leaders? (v. 3) How do you think the Pharisees and scribes felt about Jesus affirming their authority while critiquing their practices? How do you typically respond when someone points out an area of inconsistency in your life? Explain.
2. Now read v. 4-7. Which of these activities would you say are the most at odds with how the religious leaders ought to be behaving? Why? Describe a time when you were around someone who "loved the place of honor" (v. 6) - what happened?

3. Read v. 8-12. What are the reasons Jesus gives to avoid seeking each of the honorary titles He mentions? (v. 8-10) What does He say should be our overarching motivation (v.11-12) How is the standard He gives the opposite of the way our culture works? Give examples if you can.
4. Read v.13-32 and list each critique. Can you identify an original (and honorable) intent behind each one? If you were in the crowd listening, what do you think your response would have been to Jesus' blunt assessment of the Pharisees' actions?
5. Now read v. 33-36. What does Jesus ultimately call the Pharisees (who were one of the most respected groups in Israel)? (v. 33) How does Jesus say they have responded to God's opportunities to repent throughout their history? (v. 34) And what will be the result? (v. 35-36)
6. To finish, read v. 37. What is Jesus' motivation for speaking such hard truths? Share about a time when you confronted someone because you were truly concerned for them...what happened?

Take it Further

Read Proverbs 27:17, then ask God to place a "truth-teller" in your life so that both of you can become the people He created you to be!

Daily Readings

Day 1: Ephesians 4:15
Day 2: 1 Corinthians 13:6
Day 3: Psalm 25:5

Day 4: Colossians 3:9
Day 5: John 8:32
Day 6: Ephesians 4:25

Memory Verse: Ephesians 4:25



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