

A PRAYER

Ephesians 3:14-21 | Mark 6:45-56

A message of _____

The heart of this _____

To love or to be _____

To Him be _____

READ. REFLECT. RESPOND. REMEMBER.

In Matthew 5, Jesus says perhaps one of the most revolutionary things - “43 “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ 44 But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. 46 If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? 47 And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that?”

The Bible does not lack for places where it commands, urges, encourages or invites love. Ephesians, like 1 John 4, and Matthew 5, are the grounding – the reason – for this. This is *who God is*. It is his *character*. Read Ephesians 3:14-21.

Reflect:

Paul kneels to pray for the Ephesian church – for their strength through the power of the Spirit. How is that our prayer for our church?

What is the danger of love? What is the fear that will happen if we love? How does Jesus give us space to love?

Respond:

Jesus’ love is described as a sort of multi-dimensional thing, more like geometry than emotion, in v. 18. What do you think he is trying to say to us?

Remember: “And to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.” Eph. 3:19