

Sparking Hope!

Week 2: 1/10

Title: Love vs. Hate

Text: Mark 12:28-34, Matthew 22:34-40, Luke 10:27, Deuteronomy 6:5, Leviticus 19:18, Matthew 6:12-15, Matthew 5:38-48, Matthew 18:15-35, John 21:15-22

Speaker: Mike McCormick

Description: “We begin this year with a fervent desire to see God bring a fresh start and a fresh fire of revival. Today, we look at the struggle between Love and Hate. You can’t really embrace the hope of Heaven until you realize you are embraced by the love of God. That love erases the hatred of a depraved world. As we will see, Jesus’ greatest commands encapsulate all others.”

JUMP START!

1. What stood out to you from Mike’s message? Was there any moment or element of the service you found to be particularly moving, thought-provoking, or inspiring? Take a moment to share.

A CLOSER LOOK:

1. Read **Mark 12:28-34**, **Deuteronomy 6:5**, and **Leviticus 19:18**. Why are these two commandments the greatest? How do the Ten Commandments relate to these two? What does Jesus’ response to the teacher in the Mark passage teach you about Jesus? About the kingdom of God? Would you have dared to ask Jesus any more questions? Explain.
2. Read **Matthew 5:38-48**. What qualities should replace the desire for revenge? Does Jesus’ call to love your enemies embolden you or upset you? Explain.
3. Read **Matthew 22:34-40**. Why do you think Jesus emphasized loving God with our heart, soul, and mind? How is loving God related to loving people?

A DEEPER CONVERSATION:

1. What are your thoughts concerning the recent political unrest at the Capitol Building in Washington, DC? How should the church respond in the wake of such an emotionally charged event? How do you think Jesus would have responded? How did you respond?
2. In what way do you want to grow in love right now: Toward God? Toward those in your family? Toward the needy? Toward those who are different from you? Toward yourself? How might you do so?
3. How would your life be different as you learn to love like Jesus? What is one thing you can do to make a difference in the struggle between Love and Hate?