

simple minded

thinking & loving like Jesus



Part 2: *Liturgies of Love*

APPETIZER: Raiders of the Lost Heart

John 1:38; 5:19-20; 2 Corinthians 9:12

Liturgy: Greek, *leitourgia*; literally, "work of the people"

Liturgies of Love: Repeated practices we do together that help shape our hearts toward loving God and others well.

This week, let's become ethnographers and cultural anthropologists!

Ethnography: the study and description of the customs of cultures.

DINE IN: Reorienting Our Hearts

Matthew 6:19-21

Not – let your heart decide where your treasure goes.
But – decide where your treasure goes, to move your heart there.

The gospel speaks to our wants, not just our thoughts.

Isaiah 55:1-2; Ephesians 5:18-20

Three beliefs of the religion of consumerism...

1. I need salvation, therefore I shop.
2. I shop, therefore I am.
3. I shop with others, therefore I belong.

Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."
~ Hebrews 13:5

DEBT as a lack of trust in God's provision....

TAKE OUT: Clothed with Christ

Liturgies of Love IDEAS...

1. Choose worship habits – Sunday, Home Church, Daily.
2. Go to the mall and buy nothing. Observe, awaken, discuss.
3. When shopping, before you buy, go for a walk and talk to Jesus. Ask him to show you – does this help me love better?
4. Give generously and regularly.
5. Clothe yourselves with Christ (**Col 3:12-14; Rom 15:14**).

Re. #4 above – Should Christians tithe?

1. It's in the Bible, so we should OBEY it.
2. It's in the Old Testament, so we should IGNORE it.
3. It's a healthy principle, so we should APPLY it.

Worship is the arena in which God recalibrates our hearts, reforms our desires, and rehabilitates our loves. Worship isn't just something we do; it is where God does something *to* us.
~ James K.A. Smith, You Are What You Love

HOMEWORK: Get Dressed With Jesus!

Set your daily alarm just ten minutes earlier. Then rather than reaching for your phone or any other device first to catch up on social media, news, or email, reach for your Bible. Read & meditate on **Colossians 3:12-14**. Then pray when getting dressed! Ask Jesus to bend your desires today toward what he desires. Ask him to shape your love and longings as you put on each article of clothing. Pray for **compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience** this day in all your relationships. Then throughout the day, whenever you become aware of your clothing, think back to who you really are and want to be, and become more yourself in that moment.

Home Church Questions

HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic – in one Large Group]

1. After reviewing Sunday's message, talk about what most encouraged, convicted, or perplexed you. Take your time here – there's lots to discuss!
2. Have you followed through on your homework? What difference, if any, has it made for you?

HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture – in Discussion Groups]

3. Read **Matthew 6:19-34**.
 - a. What verse or idea stands out to you? Why?
 - b. Look at **verse 24**. Think about our discussion regarding money, debt, and living within God's provision. Are there ways you have loved money (or what money can buy) more than you have loved God this past week?
 - c. In **verses 25-32** Jesus seems to be saying that God will supply what we need. But does that mean we should just sit back, relax, and wait for God to take care of us? Are we completely passive? What role do we play, if any?
 - d. What is this "kingdom" Jesus says we should seek for in **verse 34**? What does seeking it look like in daily practice?
 - e. Where is your treasure? Where is your heart? If a professional ethnographer/anthropologist had to answer that question about you by examining the daily practices of your life, what would they say?

HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together – in Huddles]

4. Use your regular huddle questions to talk about your lives and to prepare you to pray for each other.

OPTIONAL ALTERNATE ACTIVITY!

Plan a Home Church field trip! Go to the mall – and don't buy anything! Take thirty minutes to walk or sit and observe the "worshippers in their temple". Think about their liturgies (behaviours), their emotions, and the iconography (advertising). Experience what it is like to be present in, but detached from, that world (a world that perhaps you are normally too much a part of). Then debrief together. Talk about what you saw, thought, and felt. Then if time permits, regroup at home base and have communion together as a liturgy of love, reminding you of God's provision to you through Jesus and through his Church.

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Quotes

Welcome to our year-end series about decluttering our souls.

Today's message:

Part 2: *Liturgies of Love*

Simplified living requires more than just organizing your closets or cleaning out your desk drawer. It requires uncluttering your soul.

~ Bill Hybels

Living simply entails clearing our lives and our houses of spiritual as well as material clutter.

~ Catherine Whitmire

O, how amiable this simplicity is! Who will give it to me? I leave all for this. It is the pearl of the Gospel.

~ Francois Fenelon (1651–1715)

You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless, until they can find rest in you.

~ Augustine of Hippo (354-430 AD)

Everybody's got a hungry heart.

~ Bruce Springsteen

Purity of heart is to will one thing.

~ Soren Kierkegaard (1813–1855 AD)

The church – the body of Christ – is the place where God invites us to renew our loves, reorient our desires, and retrain our appetites.

~ James K.A. Smith

As the deer pants for streams of water,
so my soul pants for you, my God.

~ The Sons of Korah

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

~ Jesus

Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

~ Jesus