

LeMay Family Bible Study.
Title: Charity begins at home.
Date: Revised Nov. 21, 2022

Text: Matthew 26:11. The poor, you always have, but me you won't have always.

Ref: 1st Timothy 5:8 If a man doesn't take care of his home, he is like an unbeliever.

Supporting Scriptures: 1st Corinthians 13: 4-8.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth

Body -

I walk past those people everyday; the less fortunate and the downtrodden and the broken in spirit. And those whom society has cast aside. These are the nameless ones. The homeless ones. The ones who don't have social security cards and the ones who don't have state I.D's. They are a constant reminder to us of what Jesus said. "The poor you always have."

But Jesus wasn't only referring to those who were in financial destitution. He was also referring to those whose spirits have been broken as well. Those who couldn't pick themselves up anymore. Those who'd been crushed by life's experiences, grief, losses and any number of things that would cause a person to give up all hope.

These were also the people that Jesus was referring to. The disheartened and the broken hearted. By contrast, the Apostle Paul delivers a narrative that I've offered here to illustrate the correlations between those that Jesus has referred to in the scripture text. The downtrodden and the broken-hearted is one that is already so vulnerable that it would only take a few more emotional blows for them to go down for the count.

Any man of experience with women and families will tell you that you'll push a woman away by not being tender, loving and affectionate to her. Odis, reverbs the same sentiment in his iconic song, 'try a little tenderness. I had been the perpetrator of all that had happened and all that had transpired.

Any man of experience will tell you that a man has the capacity to change the mood and the intentions of his woman, with his words and through his Deeds. He has the ability to change her mind if it isn't already too late. He has the chance to stop her from throwing the relationship all away, with some effort and some time in deep reflection of how he got to become so disconnected with his woman, to begin with.

And by also seeking the face of God for his wisdom to equip him to be able to love his woman and his family, the right way.

But, I don't think that one can simply convey that we have to render charity at home, without exploring what that truly means. The word charity by definition means love.

Jesus in his references of the destitute is saying that our priority when it comes to ministry is to recognize that those that are financially incapable of being self-sustaining, will always be around. He is advising his disciples that they won't be able to rescue and to help everyone in need that they come in contact with, but that we should collectively, and also corporately, do what they can, or go where they can to help those in need.

By contrast, Timothy admonishes us to always extend ourselves to share our love resources and good tidings with anyone who is in our close vicinity; but more pertinently he is saying that we should never neglect to show love and affection to our very family members. In the context of this study, I mean and am preaching to myself about showing this kind of love, towards my love. Timothy advises us that for a man to not take care of his home, first is worse than to be an unbeliever.

Paul reinforces Timothy's sentiment in Corinthians in his statement that describes the pointlessness of outward expressions of piety toward others yet, without lavishing love on our loved ones, at home. He calls efforts useless and futile, when we haven't first paid attention to the people closest to us, before serving and loving on others.

It is shameful for me to walk by my woman daily, and to not even acknowledge her pain. It is atrocious for me to not try to equate her feelings as being more than just superfluous emotional outbursts that somehow are unrelated to anything that I've done to trigger them.

**Charity begins at home; and home is where the heart is. And a house is not a home, without someone to love there, too.
(Extra dose of Luther).**

For me, the greatest demonstration for someone to show me that they love me is for them to spend their time with me. This is my love language. This is how I equate that someone loves me. This isn't the same relational energy for everyone though. But this isn't the way that everyone equates being loved by someone. Some people equate the love that someone has for them, by their expressions through an act or some effort to perform something that they value.

Either way, taking the time and making the effort to understand the way that someone is emotionally wired, and the way that they perceive love from me, is my responsibility. Love is patient, love is kind, love bears all, love covers all. I believe also, and that as Paul infers, that the spirit of love itself, is strong enough to cover and to compensate for the lapses in judgment and or the dumb things that I might have said in the past and or will say or do in the future; *when it is applied accordingly.*

When the love is conveyed through the negative experiences it has the power to supersede them all. When love is shed abroad, it has the power to heal and to save lives. When love flows in the home, the inhabitants are blessed with her warmth. And when I show my love, my lover's heart is melted and mended.

Questions:

- 1) What does Paul's statement, a tingling brass, mean?
- 2) How do we know that we aren't being charitable, at home?
- 3) What are some ways that you show charity to people, in general?
- 4) How do Grace and Charity compare to each other?
- 5) What does Paul mean when he says having an outward appearance of love?
- 6) What compels you to be long-suffering?
- 7) Who provides for us an ultimate example of love?
- 8) How does the convent marriage compare with Grace?
- 9) How does a man show his love for God?
- 10) What does love never fail, mean to you?