

Sermon Title: Radical Neighbourliness and Love

Bible References: Exodus, Matthew

Thesis sentence: As followers of Jesus we are called to live out God's Kingdom through and expression of radical neighbourliness and love.

Introduction

The Biblical ethic of loving your neighbour as yourself is non-negotiable. The good news of the Kingdom of God is summed up in the command to love God and to love people. This vertical and horizontal definition of love connects us to God and humanity. Most people think the Bible is about personal happiness, personal well-being, being with God when you die and being privately moral. Such view exists because we've lost our connection and privatized our faith. This morning in both our Exodus and in Matthew's gospel we are reminded that we live in community. The sharing of ourselves, resources and love is at the heart of our readings this morning.

Transition

Being a good neighbour is a central to being a follower of Jesus. It's through radical neighbourliness and love that we express God's Kingdom on the earth. This morning we explore two texts that invites us to live out our faith by loving our neighbour, sister and brother.

God instructed Moses to tell the people that those who have a lamb must share with those who do not have. This way of generosity was vital or the community as the people of God exited slavery. God was forming a people that lived by a generous ethic.

We see this theme of neighbourliness and love expressed in our gospel reading too this morning. Love reconciles and forgives even when you've been wronged. Jesus was reminding them to live this way and ethic of love.

What does this mean for us this morning?

In a city where we've lost our way. A city where neighbours don't speak, a city where the majority live well below human standards. A city that treats those on the margins as commodities and not human. As the people of God we ought to be leading the way of transformation. Seeking to love our neighbours and go to where they are. During this season of creation we start with our neighbours and move to the earth. For the 2020 Season of Creation, the theme is "Jubilee for the Earth: New Rhythms, New Hope."

Conclusion

In 2020 the question isn't who is my neighbour the question should be where is my neighbour? By changing the question we find location and place ourselves in proximity with others. So that justice, mercy, and the public good all find meaning in relationships. As I close, let us seek to be the radical neighbours, Cape Town needs during these trying and uncertain times.