|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Slide** | **Sermon** |
| 1 | Title Slide  Sitting at Jesus Feet Luke 10:38-42 |
| 2 | Welcome to this 4th of July Sunday. It is a day we remember our country, express our gratitude for the freedom we have simply because we live in the US and remember the great sacrifice made by many to keep us free. It is also a day to pray for our leaders starting with President Trump and national leaders, Gov. Cooper and state leaders as well as for our local leaders. We love this land we live in but recognize there are lots of problems we must solve, like racial justice, feeding hungry people and fighting the coronavirus! (  So, in the holiday time we consider how can we love those we don’t agree with but always seek ways to make our country better. |
| 3 | Our scripture today says “Love one another as I have loved you.”  Familiar, so familiar!! You’ve heard it in sermons, discussed it is Sunday School classes, was taught it by your parents, and along the line you have probably seen it lived out in someone’s life.  Sums up the commandments of Jesus quite well, doesn’t it? |
| 4 | It is difficult to think about loving someone so much that you’d lay down your life for that person . . . that is until you become a parent - -- and most parents really suffer when their children suffer. A parent will make tremendous sacrifices. I’d give my life for Riley if that would preserve his live!! Many men and women have sacrificed their lives for their love of this country. |
| 5 | **We are aware that it is hard to love those leaders we feel are making poor decisions and are not helping the needy or creating justice for all.**  And what about those people you just don’t like?  You know those that get on your nerves,  who can always find something wrong with what you are doing,  kind that correct you all the time,  who always have a better way of doing it?  Ex. - **Comment**: I took a trip out west – saw the Grand Canyon – oh how beautiful , how breath-taking!!!  **Response from someone who had been there**: We did that but what was really special, we rode horses down the canyon, camped at Phantom Ranch. You can’t really say you’ve seen the Grand Canyon unless you’ve seen it from the Colorado River!  How do you love that person that always have a story that tops yours, that really didn't listen to what you had to say? |
| 6 | How do you love those co-workers that just annoy you, that have a completely different set of values.  Ex. – Several years ago I served as an associate minister of program and youth. At the beginning my senior minister and I got along fine. We both were excited about our work at this church but as time went along it became obvious that our philosophies of ministry were very different. We were in constant conflict over the way I was running the youth program I felt he distrusted the youth too much, he distrusted me, and that he knew what they needed, he knew best.  I probably trusted them the youth too much and gave a bit too much freedom, but I felt I was making progress winning them over to the youth group and coming regularly. I spent most of my time defending what I was doing and trying to justify what we wanted to do. To This day I cannot truthfully say I love him. |
| 7 | Sometimes loving your neighbor, loving those in need, sometimes even your own family members is extremely difficult.  Who fits in this category for you? I think all of us have a person or two we’ll do almost anything to avoid!!  Questions is – “How do we love such people?” |
| 8 | Our story from Luke helps us here. Retell.  Radical Story for 2 reasons:   1. Rabbi received into a woman’s home (Lazarus’ house) 2. Allowed Mary to sit at his feet (only men allowed to be a rabbi’s disciple)   Insinuation is Martha is very upset with Mary – not helping as is her ‘role’.  Martha wants Jesus to intercede and set her straight. But Jesus TAKES MARY’S SIDE!!! Martha is dismayed.  Jesus’ message seems clear. As important as food is and as important as hospitality is . . . . Listening to the words of Jesus is more important. |
| 9 | The Word of God is the only thing needful.  Deuteronomy 8:3, Luke 4:4, John 6:27 - - “For we do not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.” |
| 10 | But let’s not jump to be too rough on Martha and lavish praise on Mary.  Ecclesiastes – time for all things  3:7b – time to keep silence and a time to speak  3:5b – time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing.  Time for us to be hard at work, doing, serving, helping others  Also, a time to be quite and listen to God and each other.  To know which and when is a matter of discernment. |
| 11 | Way to discernment is the way of Mary – sitting at Jesus’ feet!!! [Repeat]  Dare we sit awhile?  Work of Good Samaritan and Martha is short lived due to discouragement and exhaustion unless there is time to sit and listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit talk to us! |
| 12 | Sitting at Jesus’ feet is preciously important to discerning how to love the unlovable how to become lovable ourselves.  Love begins at Jesus’ feet. Love begins at Jesus’ feet.  John uses the word “abide” – abide=a relationship of trust, knowledge, love and unity. |
| 13 | Are you sitting at Jesus’ feet enough?   1. Attendance at Church and Sunday school 2. Long walks in the woods, around the lake, getting away quiet and listening to the Holy Spirit 3. Scripture reading and Study – home alone plus group – Disciple Bible study 4. Journaling – writing to God 5. Prayer – Speaking to God, listening for God 6. Use the altar – pausing to meet Jesus – Public and Private |
| 14 | Ex. – Tom Landry – a hall of famer and legend in pro football, tells how he came to the truth of how important it is to sit at Jesus’ feet.  1939 – as high schooler – football was his whole life, goal to be professional someday.  Won high school district championship, all-district half back but wasn’t enough.  At University of Texas – co-captain, one year beat Alabama in Sugar Bowl, another year beat Georgia in the Orange Bowl - - but wasn’t enough.  Next step – New York Giants – successful – but still not enough.  Full time coach in NFL – New York Giants – created new system of defense that became a model for other teams – still not enough.  Then coach for Dallas Cowboys. While there, he got involved in a 7:30 a.m. Wednesday Bible study – over a period of time, a slow change occurred in Landry.   * Could this Jesus help him in the downs and ups of pro ball? * Was there more to life than football? * Could this Jesus help him love those that weren’t dedicated and didn’t put forth their best effort? |
| 15 | Quote: Complete serenity of mind is a gift of God, but this serenity is not given without our own intense effort. You will achieve nothing by your own effort alone. Yet God will not give you anything unless you work with all your strength. Tis is an unbreakable law. |
| 16 | Landry had found what was missing. It mattered when his team lost, but it wasn’t the end. The players, as people with struggles, became more i8mprotant to him. In 1960 he decided that he needed to take a stand before his players and let them know ‘before whose feet he had decided to sit.”  And regularly coming before Jesus, Landry said, made all the difference. He’d finally found that satisfaction. “When I get out of touch with Him, I flounder, power seems to ebb away, and that restless feeling returns. When God is in control of my life, the gnawing sense of dissatisfaction is gone, and I know for myself what Augustine, that great 5th century saint meant when he wrote, “Our hearts are restless until they find rest in Thee.” |
| 17 | LOVE begins at Jesus’ feet.  And what’s so special about sitting at the feet of Jesus? The more we sit and let Jesus by the Holy Spirit move in us, the more we are able to love. The miracle is not that God changes those annoying people so that we can stand them, but God begin to change us so that we are able to look beyond our difference to the person God sees in that individual! Sitting at Jesus’ feet changes our hearts. our hearts gradually become like His. |
| 18 | On this celebration of our nation's birth, may we look at this and love and support those who lead us with our prayers. May we express our disagreements but at the same time know that all of our leaders are created by God. Let us let our love be shown through our efforts to support justice and fairness to all people. This can happen if we sit at Jesus' feet and let the Holy Spirit change our hearts.  And there is no time like now to start. Normally I would invite you to the Altar but today, All you at home, join me as we kneel for a few moments and let the Holy Spirit enter our hearts.  Amen |