

A Word from Our Preaching Pastor:

Sunday February 14, 2010

*Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another,
because love covers a multitude of sins.*

1 Peter 1:22

Happy Valentine's Day to all! I hope by now you've done something to express your love to the special valentines in your life. (Notice, I put that in the plural. I've always enjoyed including my daughters in my valentine's day expressions!) I think it's important for us to take the time to let those around us whom we love know how special they are to us.

But what I really hope is that you have made it your practice to express your love to family and friends every day, and not just on that one day set aside in the year by calendar makers! My prayer is that your loved ones, both in and beyond your family, receive regular tokens of your love as a normal part of their relationship with you. For surely it is in our *actions*, as well as your words, that the depth of our devotion to others can be seen!

But let's be honest! Expressions of real devotion are *costly*! And by "costly" I don't just mean flowers, candy and cards! True devotion to another person demands that you go outside of yourself – that you stop being self-centered – and begin to put that person and their needs ahead of your own! This is the essence of love! And, of course, such love begins with devotion to Christ. *"We love, because He first loved us!"* (1 John 4:19).

In this morning's message from Mark 14:1-11, we're going to see a clear contrast between the kind of love for Christ that springs from a heart that is willing to lavish itself on Him – even when it is costly to do so – and the kind of heart that is unable to move outside of itself and pay the high cost of devotion required to truly love anyone. My prayer is that each of us will be moved to see that joy comes from losing yourself and learning to lavish all you have upon Him Who first loved and gave Himself for you!

Serving Him with gladness!

Pastor Scott