

THE BIG IDEA: When Jesus gets more of me, you will, too.

The Take-Off

Have you ever noticed how you change depending on how the people around you are?

If you're around happy people, you tend to be a bit more, well, smiley.

Around grumps, well, you get the idea.

And this really has very little to do with loving Jesus. It's just the way we are as humans, right?

Somebody compliments you and you're more likely to see the good in the next person you see.

Somebody cusses you out and you're probably going to see the bad in the next person you see.

The point here that all of us need to get is that we were made to be vessels: what goes in is what comes out.

We learned this early on in our kids' lives when their aunt gave them blue icing - really blue - and the next time we changed their diapers they had blue poo.

I still remember the first time I heard a kindergarten student drop the F bomb. I was shocked because it was so natural and yet so out of place, and I asked him where he'd heard it.

You guessed it - at home watching a movie no kindergartener should.

What goes in doesn't stay in. It comes out.

And whether you follow Jesus or not or are into the church thing or not, it's still true. The God you may not be following made you that way because He had a plan to take over the world, and you being a vessel is a big part of that plan.

His plan is something that we're calling "The Love Buzz" and we're taking 4 weeks to learn that sometimes we overcomplicate the plans of God.

We study, learn, argue and debate strategies when maybe all we need to do is be loved and then love.

Last week, Phil did such a great job calling us back to friendship with Jesus and what it looks like when we become true companions with Him.

Remember the Big Idea from that? As a believer, you can't get more of Jesus, but Jesus can get more of you.

It's the personal buzz - the excitement and momentum that comes from being loved by Jesus.

But what happens next? if I'm loved by Jesus, what happens when I start to get filled up with that love?

We start to leak, or the word we're using, ooze. And we ooze out.

So this week, we're looking at the buzz privately - among those closest to us, and to do that, we'll be spending our time in 1 John 3:16-18.

1. Want to know love? Look at the cross.

a. 1 John 3:16 is one of those great verses that isn't hard to understand

b. I love that John defines love with what might as well be a big neon sign: HEY! WANT TO KNOW WHAT LOVE IS? LOOK OVER HERE!!

c. For John, the purest definition of love was always the cross.

d. Now, it's Mother's Day and for many of us, a mom's love is close, isn't it?

e. You've heard the expression "a face only a mother could love" before.

f. Well, Jesus loved us like that and more at the cross.

g. He didn't excuse our sin, He diffused our sin.

h. He proved in His sacrificial death for us that He wanted friendship with us.

i. John 15:13

j. We were sinners that only a Father could love, and He did so even while we were his enemies

k. Romans 5:8

l. And again, how perfect is it that we're talking about sacrificial love on Mother's Day?

m. Sometimes we put Jesus on a shelf and observe Him - we don't know what to do with Him

n. So God gives us living illustrations of sacrifice in moms

o. I asked on Facebook this week what things moms sacrificed for us. Responses: time, money, clothes, sleep.

p. Maybe no story shows it more than Elizabeth Joice - [<http://fox4kc.com/2014/04/02/mother-sacrifices-self-to-save-unborn-baby-girl/>]

- q. But sometimes moms don't sacrifice. Some moms are selfish. And sometimes moms sacrifice like martyrs, and make everyone around them feel guilty.
- r. So, as great as moms are, they aren't perfect. When John wrote these verses, he didn't say to look at Mary to know what love was. He pointed to Jesus.
- s. Jesus didn't die on the cross to make you and me feel guilty. He died because we were guilty.
- t. What was His motivation? Hebrews 12:2 says He did it for the joy set before Him?
- u. The joy of seeing the lost found, of seeing God's glory fulfilled and His wrath appeased.
- v. He did it because He was so full of the love of God that even the sacrifice paled in comparison.

2. Want to show love? Start in the church.

- a. Beautiful story, right? The kind that makes us feel good personally, because we were that kid. Jesus died so that we could live.
- b. But the buzz can't stop there. John expects something else to happen, a chain reaction of sorts.
- c. "And we also ought to lay down our lives..."
- d. What? We have to die?
- e. The thought of dying for someone else is a bit freaky, and many of us - even if we could wrap our brains around it, would have to admit to being a bit fearful about it
- f. 1 John 4:18 - perfect love leaves no room for fear
- g. This is going to sound a little weird, but work with me: **instead of being selfless, we need to reinvest.**
- h. What drives a woman like Elizabeth Joice to make a decision to die in order for her child to live? Being full of love.
- i. That's what John wants us to understand. That when we're full of the love of Jesus - the sacrificial, pure love of Jesus - it so fills us that there is an overflow of that love that oozes onto the family around us.
- j. John believed this truth so strongly that he says if we don't love like that, we don't know Jesus. That's strong.
- k. Before we land this thing, let me show you one more example of what this looks like in real life.
- l. Another story that perfectly illustrated to millions what can happen when we love like this.
- m. [Kevin Durant's MVP speech]
- n. If you could ask Kevin Durant's mom, or Elizabeth Joice, or Jesus, they'd all say the same thing: it was worth it.
- o. Why? Because we're family.
- p. How will we know when we're filled with the love of Jesus? When sacrificing for others in the family no longer seems sacrificial as much as it seems normal.
- q. Like Phil said last week, as believers we can't get more of Jesus, but Jesus can get more of us.
- r. Well, when Jesus gets more of me, you will, too. And that's this week's Big Idea.
- s. **When Jesus gets more of me, you will, too.**
- t. It just makes sense, right? It all goes back to the blue poo, right? What goes in doesn't stay in, and John literally wrote that we would be moved in the bowels for brothers and sisters in need.
- u. Who lives like that? Christ followers, and for one reason only: they have been filled with a love like that.
- v. Matthew 9:36 - Jesus was moved like that.

The Landing

What this means is that if Jesus gets more of me, the natural result is that you'll get more of me, too.

When we're loved, we love. When we're served, we serve. It's the love buzz, and it allows us to ooze in service instead of feeling like we lose in service.

And it starts in this house first. Seeing brothers and sisters in need and oozing onto them the love of Jesus.

Not by waiting to take a bullet for them if by some chance we both are in the same store when it gets robbed, but daily as the needs arise.

And today, on Mother's Day, the needs are obvious.

One of the groups that we feel uniquely called as a church to love, protect and serve are single moms (well, single parents, but today is for the moms, right?).

So we want to end this morning by oozing some Jesus love on single moms.

If you're a mom living with school-aged children, we'd like the honor first of praying for you, and then we have a special gift for you.

Why do we do this? Not to embarrass you or make you feel smaller than a “normal” mom, but because the Bible gives us clear direction about how to love widows and orphans, and while you may not technically be those, we feel like single moms fit in that group.

And as John said in verse 18, we cannot love you with words only, but with action.

So, when you’ve finished praying for these awesome moms, we’re going to finish today by turning you loose on them to bless them financially. Moms, you can do whatever you want with it, but in here, you just need to say thank you and receive, because we’re living out practically the miracle of The Love Buzz by letting the blessings we’ve been given ooze out and be reinvested in you.

Happy Mother’s Day!