



Things to Talk About and Reflect Upon

“Love Behind Enemy Lines”

Points from Sunday’s Message

1. Christlike love is counter-natural and extraordinary.
2. Biblical love is not a theoretical concept or theological idea; it is the practical calling to which we’ve been called.
3. Hate can blind us to the very ones God desires to reach and heal through us.
4. The Kingdom of God advances and overcomes as God demonstrates His love through His people.

Key Verse:

“When Jesus heard these things, He marveled at him, and turned around and said to the crowd that followed Him, ‘I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!’”

— Luke 7:9

Discussion Questions:

1. Christlike Love: Counter to Nature

Questions: Pastor Miles said, “Christlike love is counter-natural and extraordinary.” Why do you think Jesus calls His followers to something that feels unnatural?

Further Reading: Matthew 5:43-48; Romans 12:14-21

Follow-up: How have you seen God stretch your ability to love someone difficult?

2. Love in Action

Questions: The centurion’s story shows that love is not theoretical but practical. In what ways does your faith motivate you to do good to those outside your comfort zone—or even those who might oppose you

Further Reading: 1 John 3:16-18; James 2:14-17

3. Faith that Amazes Jesus

Questions: Jesus marveled at the centurion's faith. What was so remarkable about the centurion's humility and trust in Jesus' authority?

Further Reading: Luke 7:6-9; Matthew 8:5-13

Practical Application: How can we cultivate a kind of faith that would "surprise Jesus" today?

4. When Hate Blinds Us

Questions: Pastor Miles said, "Hate can blind us to the very ones God desires to reach and heal through us." Who might fit that description in your own life or culture?

Further Reading: Ephesians 4:31-32; Jonah 4:1-11

Follow-up: What steps can you take to see people through God's eyes rather than political or personal bias?

5. The Witness of Jesus

Questions: Jesus modeled love for His enemies even to the cross—washing Judas's feet and praying for His executioners. How does this example challenge the way we handle injustice or offense?

Further Reading: Luke 23:33-34; John 13:12-17; Romans 5:6-10

Practical Application: What would it look like this week to "love behind enemy lines"?

6. Kingdom Allegiance Over National Identity

Question: Pastor Miles reminded us that "our citizenship is in heaven." How does remembering this reshape our reactions to cultural or political division?

Further Reading: Philippians 3:20-21; 2 Corinthians 5:18-20; James 1:19-20

Follow-up: In what ways can our group embody the gospel as ambassadors of another kingdom in a polarized world?

Use these blended questions for deeper personal reflection, prayer, or small group discussion.