

Daily Devotional. August 30, 2021 Love One Another

“And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us..” – 1 John 3:23

The lives of the original Disciples were filled with wonderful adventure. The first Disciples followed Jesus and witnessed, firsthand, the teachings and the miracles. They helped to spread the good news about Jesus all over the world. These were the followers who built the church that we are now baptized into.

Of the many disciples who followed Jesus, John is thought to have been one of the youngest. Early in his ministry, John was brash and somewhat arrogant. Later, as he grew in his faith and relationship with Jesus, John changed. He became a leader and teacher of the faith. He is thought to have written much of our Holy Bible. John led the early church to deeper faith in Christ Jesus. He pushed the young church to live out the teaching of Jesus that we, “Love one another.”

Some of John’s later story was told by the historian Jerome in the early 300s. Jerome recalls that in John’s old age, he would be brought into gatherings. Barely able to stand and speak, John would be helped to his feet to teach the church. With their attention focused on this disciple who walked with Jesus, those gathered would hear John say, “Love one another.”

It was a shorter sermon than we are used to hearing. John would then sit down, as if all that needed to be said had been spoken. Jerome goes on to tell that one of the leaders of the church in Ephesus asked John, “Master, why dost thou always say this?” to which John replied, “It is the Lord’s command, and, if this alone be done, it is enough.”

In all that John saw and experienced during his long life, he truly understood, the most important thing we could do is, “Love one another.” John received wonderful dreams and visions from God, but he also realized that we needed to be reminded to “Love one another” from time to time. I hope today we are all reminded of the ancient commandment that is as true for us today as it was for John: we are called to love one another.

Prayer: God, we know you are calling us to go. Some you call to the nations, some just to a neighbor’s house. You are calling all of us to say, “Here I am, send me.” God, send us to those who are in need of hearing your love story, whether it is a parent, coworker, child or checkout clerk. Whoever and whenever, open our spirit to listen to your voice when you tell us to go. In Christ’s name, Amen.