

**“LIVING AS EASTER PEOPLE”
“Rooted in Love”**

Today is Second Sunday after Pentecost – the Celebration of the “Birth of the Church.”

Things I’d like to remember from today’s sermon: **“Rooted in Love”**

Prayer for the Week

Lead me from death to life,
From lies to truth.
Lead me from despair to hope,
From fear to trust.
Lead me from hatred to love,
From war to peace.
Let peace fill our hearts, our world,
Our universe with peace.

- *From Common Prayer: A liturgy for Ordinary Radicals* by
Shane Claiborne and Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove

This week’s sermon may be viewed at <http://sundaystreams.com/go/firstwichita>

Study Guide

Monday, 6/19/17 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

If we are to be rooted in love, we first must know what love is. Chapter 13 of 1 Corinthians is sometimes called “the love chapter.” It is a nicely laid out description of what love looks like, and what it means to do “good” without love. It is also a good picture of what God looks like, for we know God is love. Try reading through this text, but everywhere you see the word love, replace it with “God.” We are to be rooted in love. Is this not also to be rooted in God?

Tuesday, 6/20/17 Ephesians 3:14-21

Reread the scripture lesson from last Sunday. Taken in context, this is prayer for the Christian Church. It is the desire of the author his audience (and we also) experience great power through Jesus Christ. Take a moment and read this portion of scripture as a prayer for your church, and then again as a prayer for yourself. What could happen in our community if we prayed ourselves into such a foundation as described in Ephesians?

Wednesday, 6/21/17 Matthew 7:15-20

The metaphors used through this part of Matthew are rich with meaning, but also very accessible. Though I am not an arborist, I can see dead branches on a tree, poorly formed fruit or no fruit at all, and from the evidence tell you something is wrong with the tree. We are the same. Our fruit, or acts upon the world, are the direct evidence of where we are rooted.

Thursday, 6/22/17 Matthew 7:21-29

Reread our Gospel lesson from Sunday. The first portion of the text is a pretty clear indication we are not dealing with a sliding scale according to the convenience of obedience. Our call is not simply to claim a brand of religion, attend church, and do our best to maintain a good reputation. We are called into a proactive relationship with a living God. Putting into practice the word of God is the only way to stand with sure footing on solid ground.

Friday, 6/23/17 John 15:1-8

The Gospel of John offers yet another metaphor from nature to try to describe this relationship we are called to pursue. We do not wish our way to good fruit. We must firmly place ourselves in the vine of Jesus Christ and trust the fruit will produce honestly from this relationship. We remain in the word, remain in Jesus, and remain a fruitful branch.