Week 3: How Do We Live Together?  September 1, 2015

Read Mark 12:31.

During the summer of my sophomore year in high school, I had the incredible opportunity to sing with the North Carolina Baptist All State Youth Choir. In addition to memorizing music and performing every evening, we would do a combination of fun activities and service activities during the weekday afternoons. One service project that I vividly remember was washing the feet of the homeless men and women in downtown Raleigh. We then provided them with new socks and new or gently worn shoes. These people were complete strangers to me, but the love and compassion I had for them was evident though my actions.

Love, real love, is not a feeling; it is an action that does not require anything in return. We think that the love we give should be rewarded, but that is not the case. Being able to love everyone is not always an easy task. Sometimes there are people who are easy to love, and sometimes there are those who are completely unlovable. However, Jesus calls us to do that very thing, love, because he first loved us.

The second is this, Jesus says in Mark 12:31, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these.” If I can love myself, there is no reason why I can’t love others in the same way. After all, God created each and every one of us in His image, and all people are fearfully and wonderfully made. The love God has is the perfect example of what love should look like and we must follow his example.

Life Question: How can you extend the love you have for yourself to other people you come into contact with on a daily basis?

Prayer: Dear Lord, please give me the ability to love others like I love myself. I pray that I show love freely and selflessly to everyone I meet. Amen.

Sarah Black, Class of 2016