

## OUTLINEFOREASTER5C16

“Are You Missing the Point?” based on John 13:31-35

Story of Alexandre Dumas, French writer of mid 1800's. “He missed.”

- Amazing at how many Christians have ‘missed’ the Gospel. Many still bound to OT legalisms and the restrictions of the Law.
- Jesus gave new commandment, “that you love one another as I have loved you”

Must have ‘love’ in our hearts.

- We love world, but not the people
- Jesus advocated a total love, especially those who are hard to love, i.e. the Samaritans(bitter enemies of the Jews), prostitutes, tax collectors, the lepers.
- We are called to love the grumpy cashier, policeman who stopped us, obnoxious person we work with or who is our neighbor.
- We are judged by actions, not intentions. Have you written that letter supporting a cause, followed up on volunteer activity, spent time with an elderly person?

The source of our love is Christ.

- Response to unconditional love of Jesus on the cross. Old Testament demands love, but Jesus is the perfect example. He showed the content and character of God's heart.

Our love for one another is our primary witness to the world.

- By this love, all people will know that you are Christ's disciple.
- Opening chapters of the Book of Acts is devoted to those who were witnesses by their acts of love, such as Peter, John, Stephen, and Paul. Wasn't easy or pain-free, but love was so deep that they could do no other.

How do we witness to the world that Christ is alive and well? We do it by being ‘alive and well’ ourselves!

- In an unloving world, there are still people who do care about others. It comes from the very heart of God.
- What is your response? Are you missing the point of the Gospel? You are if you fail to love as Christ has loved you!

Love is our primary witness to the world.