

THE MYSTERY OF LOVE

John 14: 16-31 (10-23-05)

INTRODUCTION: Last week I closed with these thoughts. I am in a battle at times in my life, so are you. The battle is a legal one. It is a fight over my very life. Where am I going to live? How am I going to live? What or who shall own me? Where will I live? Who shall rule my mind? We wrestle not against flesh and blood but against principalities and powers. I shared that Jesus promised me a Parakletos (legal counselor) and that He would not leave me “comfortless.” We shared how Jesus was asking the Father to appoint my legal advocate, or lawyer. The Judge picking my lawyer. Imagine the very best team to fight my case and the bill all paid by Jesus. Let’s look at this relationship closer, because the foundation of this whole thing, is LOVE!

THE MAGNIFICENCE OF LOVE: In **John 14:18**, as if having the perfect Judge and Lawyer wasn’t enough, He adds more to my life. Jesus says: “I will not leave you comfortless” or as an orphan. This word is *orphano, fatherless, one without parents or guardian*. It is only used twice in Scripture. Here and in James 1:27 as “fatherless.” **Jesus says in John 14:21: “I will come to you!”** My parents have both been deceased a long time now. They have moved to a different city. They lived in SANDSTONE, but now they are resting on the ROCK. Their city is a place whose builder and maker is God. I counted on them a lot in my life. *They financed me, clothed me and fed me. They prayed, interceded, wept and hunted me down when I was lost, wiped my nose, applauded my successes, carried me in defeat, bound my wounds, and gave me to Jesus.*

THE CONDITIONS: There are two different conditions or responses to Him that are important to His coming to me as counselor and comforter or parent. **John 14:21** lays out the attending to His commandments, as the FIRST condition. Commandments here is “orders, precepts, commands.”

THE MANIFESTATION OF LOVE: The SECOND condition is in **John 14:23** where Jesus lays out the keeping of His “words.” IN verse 22 Judas has asked “how shall you manifest yourself to us and not the world?” In Verse 21 MANIFEST is: *emphanizo* 1) to manifest, exhibit to view 2) to show one’s self, come to view, appear, be manifest 3) to indicate, disclose, declare, make known. This makes verse 23 very important since it is a an insight and answer to a very direct question. This is logos which is: (including the thought); by implication a topic (subject of discourse), also reasoning (the mental faculty) or motive. In this verse Jesus says that the one that responds to the condition set forth, is going to have the Trinity operating in his life. Jesus says they will MOVE IN WITH US. That word in verse 23, make our “abode” with him, is the same word used in John 14:2 as mansions. Jesus is saying that keeping His words bring a mansion or dwelling place into your life, not just waiting for one in heaven. I mentioned my parents care for me. Coming to visit, calling, paying some bills, but I shall never forget when at a very difficult point in my life, they packed up, left there home where they were so comfortable, and headed down to Kansas to move in with me. They even moved in with me at the point of my greatest need. This wasn’t love mentioned this was love manifested in the flesh!

This condition of: IF we LOVE Him and keep His words is the dividing line for many. I am weary of a gospel that does not *emphasize a response*. That somehow His grace is enough to cover me but not enough to change me. I can only love by His grace. I can only respond in choice by His grace, but choose I must, and respond I must. That’s the big IF that Jesus keeps saying. IF you love me grab the rope. He will rescue, He will save, He will provide the rope, and if you love Him, you will grab onto Him, for He is the rope. Do not say, later, or I’ll have seventy times seven chances. Do not presume upon His grace, for it is at His discretion that He offers it, not ours. While you have ears to hear, may you hear AND respond to His love with your love.

SO IT GOES LIKE THIS: *The one that keeps His precepts receives a manifestation of Him, but the one that loves Him ALSO keeps His words which means His sayings, His reasoning, His mind-set, His motives. An example of this might be found in the story of the rich young ruler found in Mark 10:17-21. He said to Jesus that he had kept the commandments, using the same Greek word that Jesus used when saying "if you love me keep my commandment." Jesus then went further and manifested Himself to the young ruler. If you keep my "words" boiled down to a different motive, a different mind-set. "I want you to give yourself away and take up 'your' cross and come into MY life. Has He manifested Himself to you? He has to many. Manifestation does not change everyone. Many see and believe, many see and do not believe, because His words, motives, mental disposition, mind-set is far different than a nice comfortable set of rules. One is behavioral stuff, the other is heart and mind stuff. The rich young ruler had performed behaviorally from his youth up, maybe even with a degree of love. Yet, there is such a difference between behavior driving the heart, and the heart driving the behavior. If I have His mind-set, my behavior can change, and will. It must. My motives are His motives. If we change behavior by positive and negative re-enforcement, it can work for a time, but it will eventually blow up. Sheer discipline, sheer determination will not do it. It must be written on my heart AND my mind, until love drives me. Look The flow is something like this: **1.** You attend to or guard His precepts out of love, and that begins a love and intimacy cycle. **2.** You are loved by the Father, **3.** Jesus will disclose Himself to you. (Things beyond commandments; you, His mind, motives, words, heart and SAYINGS). **4.** IF YOU LOVE HIM you will attend to these things disclosed. **5.** The Father will love you...AND **6.** THEY will come and make residency IN YOU. Many Christians have been of the behavioral modification model. As long as the benefits, as I see them, keep flowing from Him, I will follow His precepts.. Then what happens when those things I call "blessings" don't come in the form I desire or am accustomed to? Well, I tire out and now the "effort" doesn't seem worth it. I end up feeling, "I've done this long enough and it hasn't paid off, I QUIT. What happens when He makes some new disclosures to me? Some new sayings that challenge my thinking?*

THE MOVING AWAY FROM LOVE: How committed to Him? The difference in a contribution and total commitment is usually the difference in failure and success. A chicken and a hog were walking past a church building one day when they noticed the Sunday morning sermon posted on the outside bulletin board, "Helping the Poor." They walked a ways when the chicken suddenly came across with a suggestion. "Say, Brother Hog, why don't we give all the poor people a nice breakfast of ham and eggs?" The hog thought a moment and replied, "That's all right for you to say because for you it is only a contribution, but for me, it's total commitment!"

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was the last thing he expected to hear, and he walked off with a heavy heart. He was holding on tight to a lot of things, and not about to let go. The King James says he was sad at that “saying” OR WORD. The ruler could keep the precepts as rules, but not the “sayings” of the manifest Christ.