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Love, Obedience, Presence, Life (Part II)

JOHN 14:15-24

Introduction

1. Last week we looked at Jesus' words to His disciples in the upper room and how, according to Him, we may know that we truly love Him.

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2. As we noticed in our study, Jesus tells His disciples four times in John 14:15-24, that our love for Him is evidenced by our obedience to Him:
 - a. "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments" (John 14:15).
 - b. "He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me" (John 14:21a).
 - c. "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him" (John 14:23a).
 - d. "He who does not love Me does not keep My words" (John 14:24).
3. Tonight, I would like for us to the assurance of His presence which He gives to the disciples and, ultimately, to us as well.
4. As we noticed in our study of the previous chapter, Jesus had told them that He would be with them "a little while longer" and that "where I am going, you cannot come" (John 13:33).
5. Peter asked Jesus where He was going and why he could not follow Him right then (John 13:36).
6. Jesus then reassured the disciples that He was going to prepare a place for them and that He would come again and receive them to Himself, so that where He is, there they might be also.
7. It was Thomas who said, "we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?" (John 14:5), to which Jesus replied, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me" (John 14:6).

8. It was last week that we looked at Jesus' promise to ask His Father to send them another Helper, the Holy Spirit, who would be with them forever (John 14:16).
9. He added that though the world would be unable to receive the Spirit because "it does not see Him or know Him," they already knew Him because He was presently abiding with them, and would be in them (John 14:17).

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10. It is Jesus' next statement to which I want to draw your attention tonight: "I will not leave you as orphans" (John 14:18).
11. There are some questions which I want us to consider as we examine this statement and those which accompany it:
 - a. How would Jesus keep His disciples from being orphans?
 - b. Is this something which applies to us as Christians today?
 - c. What further assurances do we have of His presence in our lives and a life beyond this life?

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I. Blessed Assurance

A. NEITHER ABANDONED NOR FORSAKEN

1. "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you" (John 14:18).
 - a. An orphan is a child who has been deprived of both parents by death.
 - b. In Jesus' day, disciples of rabbis were described as "orphaned" when their rabbi died.
 - c. Jesus knew that His disciples might consider themselves orphaned when Jesus was crucified.
 - d. So it was that in the upper room, on the eve of His crucifixion, He reassured them that even though He would be put to death, He would not leave them as orphans — He would come to them.
 - e. Jesus knew this would happen through His resurrection from the dead.
 - f. They did not understand this.

2. “After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you will see Me (John 14:19a).
 - a. Jesus’ crucifixion was only a few hours away.
 - b. Following His death, the world would no longer see Him.
 - c. However, His apostles would see Him numerous times over a forty day period following His resurrection.
 - d. In 1 Corinthians 15:4-8, Paul wrote, “. . . He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He appeared to Cephas [Peter], then to the twelve. After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also.”

Slide 5**B. THE ASSURANCE OF LIFE**

“Because I live, you will live also” (John 14:19b)

1. Jesus’ resurrection from the dead was a pledge to the disciples of their own resurrection.

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2. Earlier, as Jesus was speaking to the Jews in Jerusalem, following the healing of the man who had been born blind, He spoke these words which John records for us in 10:17-18, “For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life so that I may take it again. No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father.” (John 10:17–18, NASB95)

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3. After the death of her brother Lazarus, Jesus had this to say to Martha, “I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?” (John 11:25-26, NASB95).

4. In 1 Corinthians 15:20-21, Paul, in his defense of the resurrection, wrote, “But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep. For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead.” (1 Corinthians 15:20–21, NASB95)
5. Because Jesus lives, you and I, as Christians will live also. The fact that He lives gives us strength for each day.

**God sent His son, they called Him Jesus;
He came to love, heal and forgive;
He lived and died to buy my pardon,
An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives!**

**Chorus
Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,
Because He lives, all fear is gone;
Because I know He holds the future,
And life is worth the living,
Just because He lives!**

(Bill & Gloria Gaither, 1971)

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C. THE ASSURANCE OF GOD’S PRESENCE

1. There is one more word of assurance which Jesus gives to His disciples prior to his death.

“In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you” (John 14:20).
2. Already, here in verse 16, Jesus has spoken to them of asking the Father to give the disciples “another Helper,” who would be with them forever.

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3. In chapter 15, verse 26, Jesus says, “when the Helper comes, who I will send to you from the Father . . .”
4. And in chapter 16, verse 7, Jesus adds, “I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you” (John 16:7, NASB95).

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5. In Acts 1:4, Luke tells us that Jesus gathered the apostles together, “commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, “Which,” He said, “you heard of from Me.”
6. Then in Acts 1:8, Jesus said to them, “you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, even to the remotest part of the earth.”
7. Here, when Jesus says, “In that day,” He is referring to the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the apostles.
8. Through this, they would know that they had received what He had promised them through His Father and that He was in His Father, and they were in Him, and He was in them.

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II. Love Reciprocated

A. IF WE LOVE JESUS, WE WILL BE LOVED BY BOTH HIM AND HIS FATHER

1. We now encounter two verses in which Jesus speaks of this reciprocal love.
2. In both verses Jesus is telling the disciples and us that the person who loves Him will in turn be loved by His Father and by Him.

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3. Notice verse 21: “. . . he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and disclose [manifest] Myself to him” (John 14:21).
4. What does Jesus mean by the phrase, “I will . . . disclose or manifest Myself to him?”
5. The second verse in which Jesus speaks of this reciprocal love seems to explain it best: “If anyone loves Me . . . My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him” (v. 23).
 - a. Again, Jesus says that His Father will love that person who loves Him (Jesus).

- b. He then adds this, “We will come to him and make Our abode with him.”
 - c. Other translations (i.e. NKJV, ESV, NIV84, HCSB) render this as, “We will come to him and make our home with him.”
6. The Greek word (μονήν) translated as “abode” or “home” does not mean temporary lodging, but permanent dwelling.

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7. Consider what the apostle John says in two verses in his first epistle:

“No one has seen God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us.”(1 John 4:12, NASB95)

“And we have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.”(1 John 4:16, NASB95)

8. John is thinking here of that state when we as Christians experience the immediate presence of God.

Slide 14**B. THE CONDITION UPON WHICH SUCH LOVE IS BASED**

1. A closer look at these two verses here in John 14 reveal a condition which must be met for such love to exist in our lives.

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2. Let’s look at all of verse 21: “He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him” (John 14:21).
- a. Here, Jesus tells us that love for Him is seen in our having and obeying His commands.
 - b. “To have” is to “grasp with the mind”
 - c. Jesus’ desire is that we internalize His commandments by making them our own.
 - d. “Keeping” them means that we observe them in our daily lives.
 - e. Obedience is the mark of true love.

- f. The person who loves Christ in this way will be loved by the Father.
2. In the second verse, (v. 23), Jesus says, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him” (John 14:23).
 - a. If a man truly loves Christ He will keep His word.

Conclusion

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“He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father’s who sent Me” (John 14:24).

1. Jesus extends to us, as He did to His disciples in the upper room, the opportunity for life that is abundant (John 10:10) and eternal (John 3:36; 5:24).
2. He offers to us His presence in the form of the Holy Spirit who is the pledge of our inheritance as saints (Ephesians 1:14), and the One who not only renews our inner man (2 Corinthians 4:16), but strengthens it with power (Ephesians 3:16).
3. I am going to ask you the same question I asked you last week, “Do you love Jesus?”
4. Have you obeyed Him by turning from your sin, confessing Him as Lord and Savior, and being buried with Him in baptism?
5. If so, are you continuing to keep His Word?
6. If not, why not make the necessary changes in your life tonight?