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Love, Obedience, Presence, Life

JOHN 14:15-24

Introduction

1. There is a hymn that we sometimes sing which, though written almost 170 years ago still resonates in our hearts today.
2. Listen to these words by Frederick Whitfield.

**There is a Name I love to hear,
I love to sing its worth;
It sounds like music in my ear,
The sweetest Name on earth.**

Refrain

**Oh, how I love Jesus,
Oh, how I love Jesus,
Oh, how I love Jesus,
Because He first loved me!**

3. Do you love Jesus?
4. You may say, "Of course I do?"
5. How do you know?
6. You may say, "I just know."
7. Jesus said there is a definite way to determine if we truly love Him.

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8. As a matter of fact, in John 14:15-24, He tells us four times how we may know if we love 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).
9. There is an “uncompromising connection between [our] love for Christ and [our] obedience to Christ” (D.A. Carson).

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10. However, living in this world as faithful disciples of our Lord isn’t easy:
- a. “Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God” (Acts 14:21).
 - b. “Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted” (2 Timothy 3:12).
 - c. “For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places” (Ephesians 6:12, NASB95).
11. So, with such obstacles before us, how do we demonstrate our love for our Lord by keeping His commandments?
12. Here, in John 14:15-24, Jesus tells us. Listen to what He says. (Read John 14:15-24).

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I. Another Helper

A. OUR PARACLETE

- 1. This Greek term is rendered in many ways by our various English translations:
 - a. Comforter (KJV)
 - b. Counselor (NIV, RSV, HCSB)

- c. Helper (NKJV, NASB95, ESV)
- d. Advocate (NRSV)
- 2. It comes from a verb which means 'to call alongside,' and thus 'to encourage,' 'to exhort.'
- 3. Jesus said that He would ask the Father and that the Father would give them "another Helper."
- 4. Who was the initial "Helper?" Jesus
- 5. He was the apostles 'encourager,' 'helper' while here on the earth.

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- 6. He is now our 'Paraclete,' 'Advocate,' 'Helper' in heaven (1 John 2:1-2).

"My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world." (1 John 2:1-2, NASB95)

- 7. Who is this other 'Helper' that Jesus promised to ask His Father to give us?
- 8. It is the Holy Spirit.

Slide 6**B. THE HELP HE WILL BRING TO US**

- 1. Jesus called Him "the Spirit of truth" (v. 17).
 - a. In other words, He is the Spirit that communicates the truth.
 - b. Earlier, in John 14:6, Jesus described Himself as "the truth."
 - c. A little while later, on this same occasion, Jesus will tell the apostles that the Holy Spirit "will testify about [Him]" (John 15:26).
 - d. And, in John 16:13, Jesus said that "the Spirit of truth," when He came, would guide them "into all the truth."
 - e. The Word of God which you and I hold in our hands or read on our

electronic devices is made possible by that same “Spirit of truth.”

- f. Many years after this, the apostle Paul would write to a young evangelist named Timothy and tell him that “all Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16-17, ESV).
 - g. Peter put it this way in 2 Peter 1:21, “men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.”
2. Not only would the Holy Spirit guide them in all truth, but through His abiding presence, He would give them strength:
- a. “I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever” (John 14:16).
 - b. “. . . you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you” (John 14:17).

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- c. This emphasis upon the Holy Spirit’s indwelling of each Christian is seen in numerous places throughout the New Testament:

“And we are witnesses of these things; and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him.” (Acts 5:32, NASB95)

“However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.” (Romans 8:9–11, NASB95)

“Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?” (1 Corinthians 6:19, NASB95)

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“Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us is God, who also sealed us and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge.” (2 Corinthians 1:22, NASB95)

“Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!”” (Galatians 4:6, NASB95)

“In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God’s own possession, to the praise of His glory.” (Ephesians 1:14, NASB95)

“that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. . .” (Ephesians 3:16–17, NASB95)

Slide 9**C. THE INABILITY OF THE WORLD TO RECEIVE HIM, SEE HIM OR KNOW HIM**

1. After identifying our Helper as “the Spirit of truth,” Jesus adds, “whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him” (John 14:17a).

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2. What does Jesus mean by “the world”?
 - a. First, “the world” represents all those who live in rebellion against God:

1) **Jesus spoke of Satan as “the ruler of this world”**

“Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.” (John 12:31, NASB95)

“. . . the ruler of the world is coming, and he has nothing in Me;” (John 14:30, NASB95)

“. . . the ruler of this world has been judged.” (John 16:11, NASB95)

2) **The world hates those who are not of it:**

a) **Jesus to his own brothers** — “The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I testify of it, that its deeds are evil.” (John 7:7, NASB95)

b) “If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you.” (John 15:18, NASB95)

c) “If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you.” (John 15:19, NASB95)

3) **You and I are not to love the world:**

“Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.” (1 John 2:15–17, NASB95)

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3. Why is it impossible for “the world” to receive, see or know the Spirit of

truth?

- a. The world is suspicious of what it cannot see.
- b. To take it a step further, the apostle Paul said that “the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God’s law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God” (Romans 8:7-8, NIV84).
- c. In 1 Corinthians 2:14, Paul also pointed out “a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.”

Conclusion

1. I began this lesson tonight by asking you if you loved Jesus.
2. Jesus said that our love for Him is evidenced by the fact that we keep His commandments
3. Obedience is the mark of true love.
4. Is it apparent to God that you love His Son?
5. Have you given your life to Him in obedient faith?
6. Have you willingly confessed Him before men?
7. He tells each of us to be baptized for the forgiveness of our sins? Have you done this?
8. If not, why not tonight?