

"Inheriting the Promises!" 2021 Summer Series at the Village Church

#11- "Feeling at Home!" John 14: 23- "Jesus answered him, 'If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him!'"

Introduction: Urge a careful, personal study of the Bible- eyes trained to see God's imprint on everything we investigate! Suggestions for getting the most out of your study: PRAY; Ask- What does the text SAY? MEAN? MEAN TO ME? Practical word- **context**- today we will examine the immediate context of this promise in verse 23- include verses 22 and 24. The broader context is chapters 13 to 17, what is often referred to as Jesus' "farewell" or "Upper Room" discourse, especially chapter 17 which is Jesus high priestly prayer to the Father before His crucifixion. One major blessing of chapter 14 is the promise of the coming of the Holy Spirit to indwell every child of God! That means that the entire Godhead- Father, Son and Spirit, is promised to those who know Jesus as Savior. It means that true disciples can have a deeper, fuller communion and fellowship with God. Their confident assertion is:

I can have a greater experience of God's love by:

...choosing to obey His every word! "...he will keep My word and..."

This experience I refer to is only for believers! It is not intended to say, "obey and you'll become one of Mine!" The purpose of this intimate gathering before Jesus went to the Cross is to give His disciples then and since then insight into the goal of a close, personal walk with Him! Jesus is making a crucial point here that obedience to His word, all of it- is evidence that we love Jesus and honor His words! Obedience is proof positive that we are already a true follower of Jesus! We could also say, Biblically, that obedience is the fruit of a life devoted to deepening my relationship with my Savior! Self-sacrificing, caring, committed service to God and for others will flow out of that deepening love! To obey His commandments and all His words of truth we need to HAVE them close to our hearts and minds, and understand them and experience them consistently, daily! There are plenty of people who say the right things but only mouth the words, not mean the words! It was true in Jesus' day and still true today! In Matthew 15 Jesus called the Pharisees and scribes 'hypocrites' (a word that we get the word 'actor' from) and in verse 8 of that chapter He quoted Isaiah as applying to them- "This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me!" True believers experience His love, exude joy over the loving relationship we share, express praise because God's presence is with us moment by moment, and in an ongoing way exhibit obedience to His Word! Many, if not all of God's children admit that we do not faithfully and completely "keep" or obey His words, but we do realize that the issue isn't perfectionism but pursuit of that deeper walk along life's way! Even the Savior spoke of His disciples and their honest walk with Him. In His prayer in John 17: 6 He said to the Father, "I have manifested Your name to the people whom You gave me out of the world. Yours they were and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word!" 1 John 5: 3 reminds us: "For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments, and His commandments are NOT burdensome!" **IL-** Parent to a child- "Eat your ice-cream!" (Easy!) But how about, "Eat your brussels sprouts!" (Not so easy!) The point of this 23rd verse is that

obedience results in experiencing God's love and a fuller revelation of Jesus. Judas, NOT Iscariot, (a true disciple, NOT a traitor!) asked in verse 22- "How is it that You will manifest Yourself to us and not to the world?" Someday all the world will see the Messiah, according to Matthew 24: 30- "Then will appear in Heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of Heaven with power and great glory." But for now, that manifestation is internal in a believer's life. And because Jesus and the Father and the Holy Spirit are IN us, our intimate fellowship with them should result in obedience to them! Our walk with Jesus is not mystical but it also is not mechanical, robotically "performing"! We respond joyously to **all** the words of Jesus, not just the commandments, though they are important to us, to be sure! So, the source of obedience is love, and the outcome, the manifestation of love is faithful obedience. The reward of our obedience is a divine manifestation in us that the world does not experience, nor can it without faith in Jesus! For the child of God this is all very real and personal- a reverent regard for Jesus' words and a realization of the presence of the Godhead in us and working through us!

...making my inner man His home- "...we will come to him and..." IL- Warren Wiersbe- "It is one thing for us to go to Heaven- and quite something else for Heaven to come to us!" When we are in love with Jesus our heart becomes His abode, and our fellowship together becomes sweeter as our relationship develops! Think of it- God condescending to live with and IN us!! Theologians often speak of the immanence of God. What that means is that the God who made this universe chooses to have a relationship with those He created- He loves each of us and longs to live in us and for us to live with Him! He longs to have us invite Him into our inner being- our 'heart' as it were. Some people refer to it as a "hole" in them that only God could fill. But Jesus speaks here of that inner man as a home where Father, Son and Spirit can commune with us and us with them! The promise is very clear- "We will come and make our abode with him"- the one who loves Jesus. Since it is a promise of God there is no doubt that it will happen in us! That word "home" in verse 23 is the same word as "rooms" or "mansions" in verse 2. We are not having Jesus and the Father and the Spirit reside in a run-down shack inside of us, but a mansion where there is room for one more- **you!** Jesus abides personally with you and corporately with His Church! "My Father will love Him" means that God will continue to love each of His children! 1 John 4: 10- "In this is love- not that we loved God but that He first loved us!" He already loves us and will continue to love us- it will never change or diminish for eternity! The world of Jesus' day would not see Him once He ascended to glory after His resurrection, but they would continue to see His followers. To live that life of love for God that extends to people around us we NEED, and we HAVE the constant presence of the Lord in us shining out from us! We know He loves us, and we can fall more in love with Him day by day if we choose to. Jesus answered Judas (NOT Iscariot) in part by saying that "the word you hear is not Mine but the Father who sent Me!" Jesus' disciples heard the audible voice of God the Father twice during Jesus' earthly ministry- once at His baptism and again at His Transfiguration on the mountain. They knew the Father was pleased with His Son. They also heard, in this chapter and again and again during His time with them in the Upper Room, that He loved them and would keep on loving them. Verse 21: "Whoever has My commandments and keeps them,

he it is who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will manifest Myself to Him!" You and I have no higher privilege than to make our heart His home!

Conclusion: IL- 1954- Robert Boyd Munger wrote a book titled, "My Heart, Christ's Home" through Intervarsity Press that sold hundreds of thousands of copies- still available today. Only 28 pages long but it is a parable about how WE either control the use of and keep the doors closed to the rooms in our heart that are too private, or we give loving ownership of our heart-home to Jesus! How about YOU?