

Summary

What if the entire foundation of our Christian walk rests on a single word—'if'? In John chapter 14, we encounter this conditional word repeatedly: 'If you love me, keep my commandments.' But here's the beautiful transformation: when we truly love Jesus in response to His love for us, that 'if' becomes 'since.' Since we love Him, everything changes. This passage reveals seven profound blessings that flow from loving Jesus: we know the Father through Him, our prayers are heard, we receive the Holy Spirit, we become completely new creations distinct from the world, we experience supernatural peace, we have the promise of His word, and we rest in knowing Jesus perfectly accomplishes the Father's will. The heart of Christianity isn't religious activity or ritual—it's a love relationship that begins when we recognize that 'we love Him because He first loved us.' This supernatural love transforms us from the inside out, giving us a new identity, a new power through the indwelling Holy Spirit, and a new eternal destiny. The question we must each answer isn't whether we attend church or perform religious duties, but whether we truly love Jesus—and He has no difficulty distinguishing who loves Him and who does not.

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Points

Title: Since You Love Me: The Blessings of Loving Jesus

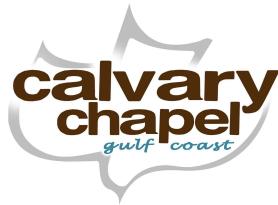
Sermon Summary: This sermon explores John 14 with a focus on the conditional word "if" - specifically how for believers, "if you love me" becomes "since you love me." The pastor emphasizes that our love for Jesus is a response to His love for us first (1 John 4:19), and this love relationship forms the foundation of Christian life. The message unpacks seven blessings that flow from loving Jesus: knowing the Father, having our prayers heard, receiving the Holy Spirit, becoming distinct from the world, experiencing supernatural peace, having the promise of His word, and understanding that Jesus perfectly accomplishes the Father's will. Central to the sermon is the concept of being "born again" - not merely religious activity, but a supernatural transformation where the Holy Spirit indwells believers, making them new creations. The pastor stresses that Jesus is the exclusive way to eternal life, and this exclusivity is no concern to those who genuinely love Him.

Key Points:

- The word "if" in John 14 becomes "since" for true believers - a conditional that is fulfilled through genuine love for Christ
- We love Jesus because He first loved us; our love is always a response to His initiating love
- Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life - the only path to the Father and eternal life
- Seven blessings flow from loving Jesus: knowing the Father, answered prayers, receiving the Holy Spirit, distinction from the world, supernatural peace, the promise of His word, and confidence in God's will
- Being born again is a supernatural experience where the Holy Spirit takes up residence in the believer's heart
- The Holy Spirit has three relationships with people: "with" (para - alongside unbelievers), "in" (indwelling believers), and later the baptism of the Spirit
- True Christianity is supernatural, not natural - marked by genuine transformation and the indwelling presence of God
- The Holy Spirit always points to Jesus, never to Himself, and helps believers understand and keep God's word
- Religious activity without genuine relationship is insufficient; Jesus distinguishes between those who truly love Him and those who merely claim to
- Believers can have peace in a world that hates them because Jesus has overcome the world
- The pre-tribulation rapture is the biblical position that allows all Scripture to speak without contradiction

Scripture Reference:

- John 14:1-31 (primary focus)
- John 13:33-34
- 1 John 4:19



- 2 Corinthians 5:1-8, 17
- 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
- Romans 5:6-11
- Hebrews 4:11-16
- Matthew 7:21-23
- John 15:18
- 1 John 2:24-27

Stories:

- The pastor's personal testimony of transformation from his college fraternity days to present, illustrating the supernatural change that occurs when the Holy Spirit indwells a believer
- Reference to Jesus raising people from the dead (the widow of Nain's son, Jairus's daughter, Lazarus) contrasted with the greater work of spiritual resurrection through being born again
- The account of Pentecost (Acts 2) where 3,000 souls were saved through Peter's preaching, illustrating the "greater works" Jesus promised believers would do
- The Israelites creating the golden calf while Moses was on the mountain, illustrating humanity's struggle with worshiping an invisible God and the tendency toward idolatry
- Israel's exile to Babylon for 70 years as judgment for idolatry, followed by their return and shift from idolatry to legalism
- Jesus washing the disciples' feet (referenced from previous week's sermon) as an example of God the Father's servant-hearted nature revealed through Jesus



Scripture

Scripture References from the Sermon

Explicitly Mentioned References:

1. **John 14:15** - "If you love me, keep my commandments"
2. **John 14:21** - "He who has my commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves me"
3. **John 14:23** - "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word"
4. **John 14:28** - "You have heard me say to you, I am going away and coming back to you"
5. **1 John 4:19** - "We love him because he first loved us"
6. **John 13:33** - "Little children, I shall be with you a little while longer"
7. **John 13:34** - "A new commandment I give to you that you love one another"
8. **John 14:1-4** - "Let not your heart be troubled... In my Father's house are many mansions"
9. **2 Corinthians 5:1-8** - "For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed"
10. **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18** - "For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout"
11. **1 Thessalonians 5** - (Referenced regarding the church not experiencing God's wrath)
12. **John 14:4** - "And where I go you know, and the way you know"
13. **John 14:5** - Thomas's question: "Lord, we do not know where you are going"
14. **John 14:6** - "I am the way, the truth, and the life"
15. **Romans 5:6-11** - "For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly"
16. **John 14:7-11** - Philip's request to see the Father
17. **John 14:12-14** - "Greater works than these he will do... whatever you ask in my name"
18. **John 3** - (Referenced regarding Nicodemus and being born again)
19. **John 20** - (Referenced regarding Jesus breathing on disciples)
20. **Acts 2:40-41** - 3,000 souls saved at Pentecost
21. **Luke 15** - Rejoicing in heaven over one soul that repents
22. **John 14:15-18** - "I will pray the Father and he will give you another helper"
23. **Acts 1** - (Referenced regarding third relationship with Holy Spirit)
24. **2 Corinthians 5:17** - "Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation"
25. **2 Corinthians 13:5** - "Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith"
26. **John 14:19-21** - "A little while longer and the world will see me no more"
27. **John 14:22** - Judas (not Iscariot) asks how Jesus will manifest himself
28. **Matthew 7:21-23** - "Not everyone who says to me, Lord, Lord, shall enter the kingdom"
29. **John 15:18** - "If the world hates you, you know that it hated me before it hated you"
30. **John 14:25-27** - "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you"
31. **1 John 2:24-27** - "The anointing which you have received from him abides in you"
32. **John 14:28-29** - "I am going away and coming back to you"
33. **Hebrews 4:11-16** - "Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest"
34. **Hebrews 1:1-4** - "God who at various times and in various ways spoke"
35. **John 14:30-31** - "The ruler of this world is coming... Arise, let us go from here"



36. **Matthew 24** - (Referenced regarding end times teaching and rapture)

Additional References Alluded To:

37. **Exodus 32** - (The golden calf incident)

38. **Mark 5:37-43** - (Raising of Jairus's daughter with Peter, James, an



Quotes

We love him because he first loved us. And so the context of John 14 going back there is so important. Jesus has informed his disciples he is going away.

If you wanna know what God looks like, look at Jesus. If you wanna know what the Father's voice sounds like, it sounds like Jesus' voice. If you wanna see the kinds of works that the Father does, then look at the works of Jesus.

Jesus is the only way to eternal life and Jesus is the only truth about eternal life. And the interesting thing is that eternal life begins the moment our hearts are opened to the love of Jesus.

When we are born again, when the Spirit takes up residence, since we love Jesus, then we are immediately aware that something supernatural has taken place in our hearts, in our lives.

Jesus has no difficulty whatsoever determining who loves him and who does not. Not everyone who says to me, Lord, Lord, shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father in heaven.

You don't have to clean yourself up before you come to Christ. He'll take care of that part. We love him because he first loved us. He loves you so very much.

Christianity isn't meant to be a natural religion. It's meant to be a supernatural faith. And it's a supernatural faith based upon the fact that when you are born again, the Holy Spirit takes up residence in your heart.



Discussion Questions

In what ways have you personally experienced the supernatural change that comes from being indwelt by the Holy Spirit, and how has that transformed your daily life?

The sermon emphasizes that we love Jesus because He first loved us—how does understanding the depth of Christ's love for you impact your obedience to His commandments?

Jesus says in verse 6 that He is 'the way, the truth, and the life'—how do you respond to the exclusivity of this claim in a culture that values religious pluralism?

The pastor explains that the Holy Spirit always points to Jesus rather than to Himself—how does this understanding shape the way you evaluate worship experiences and church services?

When Jesus promises to prepare a place for us in His Father's house, how does this future hope influence the way you face present trials and suffering?

The sermon distinguishes between the Holy Spirit being 'with you' and 'in you'—can you identify moments in your life when you experienced each of these relationships?

Jesus promises that believers will do 'greater works' than He did—how do you reconcile this promise with the reality of your own spiritual life and ministry?

The pastor challenges us to examine ourselves to see if Christ is truly in us—what specific evidence would you point to that demonstrates the Holy Spirit's presence in your heart?

How does the peace that Jesus offers differ from the peace the world offers, and where in your life do you need to rely more on Christ's peace rather than worldly solutions?

Considering that Jesus has no difficulty distinguishing who truly loves Him from those who merely practice religious activity, what would He see when He examines your heart today?



Small Group Guide

John 14: Since You Love Me

Based on the sermon from John 14

Opening Prayer (5 minutes)

Begin by asking God to open hearts and minds to His Word and to help the group grow in their love for Jesus.

Ice Breaker (10 minutes)

Question: Share a time when someone's love for you was demonstrated through their actions rather than just their words. How did that impact you?

Key Scripture Review (10 minutes)

Read together these key verses from John 14:

- Verse 15: "If you love me, keep my commandments"
- Verse 21: "He who has my commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves me"
- Verse 23: "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word"
- Verse 6: "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me"

Main Discussion Questions (30-40 minutes)

1. Understanding "If" vs. "Since"

Question: The pastor explained that "if" can mean "if and it is" (which becomes "since") or "if and it isn't." How does understanding John 14 as "since you love Me" rather than "if you love Me" change your perspective on these promises?

Follow-up: What evidence in your life demonstrates that you love Jesus?

2. The Exclusivity and Inclusivity of Jesus



****Question:**** Jesus says "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (v. 6). How do you reconcile Jesus' exclusive claim with His inclusive love for all who will receive Him?

****Discussion point:**** Why do you think Thomas's question (v. 5) was so important? How does it relate to questions people ask today?

3. Seeing the Father in Jesus

****Question:**** Jesus tells Philip, "He who has seen Me has seen the Father" (v. 9). What does this reveal about God's character that might surprise people who view God as angry or distant?

****Personal reflection:**** How has your understanding of God the Father changed through knowing Jesus?

4. The Seven Blessings

Review the seven blessings from the sermon:

1. ****We know the love of the Father**** (v. 7-11)
2. ****Jesus hears our prayers**** (v. 12-14)
3. ****We receive the Holy Spirit**** (v. 15-18)
4. ****We become distinct from the world**** (v. 19-21)
5. ****We have peace despite the world's hatred**** (v. 25-27)
6. ****We have the promise of His Word**** (v. 28-29)
7. ****We know Jesus does the Father's will**** (v. 30-31)

****Question:**** Which of these seven blessings resonates most with you right now? Why?

****Group sharing:**** Have each person share one blessing they've personally experienced since coming to faith in Christ.

5. The Holy Spirit's Role

****Question:**** The pastor explained three relationships with the Holy Spirit:

- ****Para**** (alongside) - before salvation
- ****In**** (indwelling) - at salvation
- ****Baptism**** (empowering) - to be discussed in Acts



Can you identify times when the Holy Spirit was "alongside" you before you were saved? How did that change when He came to dwell "in" you?

****Reflection:**** The pastor said, "When the Holy Spirit became alive in me, I was floored. I was aware of it." Can you describe your own experience of being born again?

6. Love Demonstrated Through Obedience

****Question:**** Jesus repeatedly connects loving Him with keeping His commandments. Why do you think obedience is the evidence of love rather than emotions or religious activity?

****Challenge question:**** What's the difference between legalistic obedience and obedience that flows from love?

7. Greater Works

****Question:**** Jesus promises that believers will do "greater works" than He did (v. 12). The pastor explained this includes leading people to be born again. How does this change your understanding of what "greater works" means?

****Discussion:**** Why is leading someone to salvation a "greater work" than Jesus' physical miracles of healing?

Self-Examination (15 minutes)

The pastor referenced 2 Corinthians 13:5: "Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves that Jesus Christ is in you? Unless indeed you are disqualified."

Personal Reflection Questions:

1. Can you point to a specific time when you were born again and the Holy Spirit took up residence in your heart?
2. Is there evidence of supernatural change in your life since that moment?
3. Do you have a genuine love for God's Word and a desire to obey it?



4. Can you distinguish between religious activity and authentic relationship with Jesus in your own life?

****Group share:**** If comfortable, allow time for anyone who may be uncertain about their salvation to express that and for the group to pray with them.

Practical Applications (15 minutes)

This Week's Challenge:

Choose one or more of these action steps:

1. ****Daily Declaration:**** Each morning this week, read John 14:1-6 and declare, "Since I love Jesus, my heart will not be troubled today."

2. ****Prayer Practice:**** Practice praying "in Jesus' name" by first considering His character and asking only for things that align with who He is (v. 13-14).

3. ****Holy Spirit Awareness:**** Journal each day about one way you sensed the Holy Spirit teaching you, convicting you, or comforting you.

4. ****Love in Action:**** Identify one specific commandment or teaching of Jesus you've been avoiding. Take one concrete step toward obedience this week as an expression of your love for Him.

5. ****Share Your Story:**** Tell someone this week about the supernatural change that occurred when you were born again. If you've never been born again, talk to your small group leader or pastor this week.

6. ****Examine Religious Activity:**** Make a list of your religious activities (church attendance, Bible reading, prayer, etc.). Honestly assess: Am I doing these out of love for Jesus or out of obligation/tradition?

Key Takeaways

Write down 2-3 main points from today's discussion that you want to remember:

1. _____

2. _____



3. _____

Closing Discussion (5 minutes)

Question: The sermon ended with Jesus saying, "Arise, let us go from here." What is one specific thing you need to "arise" from and move forward in this week?

Prayer Requests and Closing Prayer (10 minutes)

- Share prayer requests related to today's study
- Pray specifically for:
 - Anyone questioning their salvation
 - Growth in love for Jesus that produces obedience
 - Awareness of the Holy Spirit's presence and work
 - Boldness to do "greater works" by sharing the gospel
 - Peace in the midst of a world that may hate us for loving Jesus

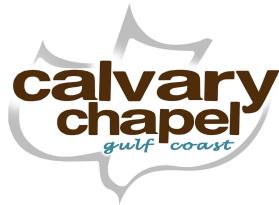
For Further Study

Recommended Scripture reading for the week:

- Monday: John 14 (reread the entire chapter)
- Tuesday: 1 John 4 (the love chapter)
- Wednesday: Romans 5:1-11 (God's love demonstrated)
- Thursday: 2 Corinthians 5:14-21 (new creation in Christ)
- Friday: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (Jesus' return for His church)
- Saturday: Hebrews 4:11-16 (Jesus as our High Priest)
- Sunday: Matthew 7:21-23 (true vs. false disciples)

Questions to consider during your personal study:

- What does it mean practically to "keep" Jesus' commandments?
- How does knowing Jesus loves me change how I approach my day?
- In what areas of my life do I need to yield more fully to the Holy Spirit?



Leader's Notes

- Be sensitive to those who may be questioning their salvation. Create a safe space for honest discussion.
- Emphasize that salvation is by grace through faith, not by works, while also maintaining that genuine faith produces obedience.
- Be prepared to pray with anyone who wants to receive Christ or gain assurance of salvation.
- The pre-tribulation rapture view mentioned in the sermon may not be held by all group members—focus on the certainty of Jesus' return rather than debating timing.
- Encourage authentic sharing about the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit while avoiding pressure for dramatic experiences.



Daily Devotional

5-Day Devotional: Since You Love Me

Day 1: The Foundation of Love

Reading: 1 John 4:7-21

Devotional:

Our entire relationship with Christ begins with a profound truth: we love Him because He first loved us. This isn't a love we manufacture or earn—it's a response to the overwhelming demonstration of God's love at the cross. While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. This divine initiative changes everything. Today, pause and reflect on the depth of God's love for you personally. He didn't wait for you to clean up your life or prove your worthiness. His love came first, unconditionally and sacrificially. When you grasp this truth, it transforms how you approach faith—not as religious duty, but as grateful response. Let this foundational love anchor your heart today.

Day 2: Knowing the Way

Reading: John 14:1-7

Devotional:

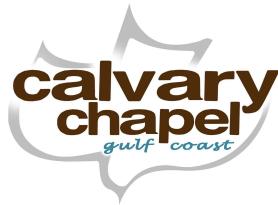
Thomas asked the question many of us secretly harbor: "How can we know the way?" Jesus' answer is both simple and profound: "I am the way, the truth, and the life." This exclusivity isn't meant to exclude, but to illuminate the one certain path to the Father. Jesus doesn't merely show us the way—He IS the way. When you know Jesus, you know the way. This means our spiritual journey isn't about mastering complicated religious systems or achieving moral perfection. It's about knowing a Person. Today, consider whether you're trying to find your own way to God through good works, religious activity, or self-improvement. Rest in the truth that Jesus has already made the way, and knowing Him is enough.

Day 3: The Indwelling Spirit

Reading: John 14:15-21; 2 Corinthians 5:17

Devotional:

Being born again isn't just theological language—it's a supernatural transformation. When the Holy Spirit takes up residence in your heart, you become immediately aware that something miraculous has happened. Old things pass away; all things become new. This isn't about trying harder to be good; it's about a divine power working within you. The same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead now lives in you. Examine yourself today: Do you know that Christ is in you? Can you identify the moment when everything changed? If you're uncertain, don't settle for religious activity. Seek the Lord earnestly, asking Him to fill you with His Spirit. True Christianity is supernatural, not natural.



Day 4: Peace in a Hostile World

Reading: John 14:25-27; John 15:18-19

Devotional:

Jesus offers a peace the world cannot give—and cannot take away. This peace doesn't depend on circumstances, acceptance, or comfort. It flows from knowing that the One you love has power over everything. The world may hate you because it first hated Jesus, but this opposition confirms your distinction as His beloved. You're no longer of this world. The Holy Spirit teaches you all things and brings Christ's words to remembrance, anchoring you in truth when storms rage. Today, let your heart rest in this supernatural peace. Whatever trouble surrounds you, Jesus has already overcome the world. Your peace isn't found in controlling circumstances but in trusting the One who controls all things.

Day 5: Greater Works Await

Reading: John 14:12-14; Acts 2:37-41

Devotional:

Jesus promised that those who believe in Him would do greater works than He did—a staggering statement. How is this possible? Through the worldwide, centuries-spanning work of the Church bringing people to new life in Christ. Before the cross, no one could be born again. Now, through the gospel and the power of the Holy Spirit, dead souls are made eternally alive. Every person who comes to faith represents a miracle greater than physical healing—spiritual resurrection that never ends. You are part of this extraordinary mission. Whatever you ask in Jesus' name, according to His character and will, He will do. Today, arise and move forward in faith. The same Spirit that empowered Peter to see 3,000 saved lives in you. What greater works await?

