

To Walk With Jesus
Part 5
“Love the Lord

Mark 12

28 One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?”

29 “The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 30 Love the Lord your God with all your **heart** and with all your **soul** and with all your **mind** and with all your **strength.**’ 31 The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”

32 “Well said, teacher,” the man replied. “You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but him. 33 To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is **more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.**”

34 When Jesus saw that he had answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.”

- To Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength is more important than burnt offerings and sacrifice...

I’ve heard it said that there are two things that motivate us in life:

1. **Fear**
2. **Love**

- **I have to say Fear is a Powerful motivator...**

Story: Youth Group in Sheep Springs, NM

- **But Love is the Most Powerful Motivator...**

Revelation 2

“To the angel of the church in Ephesus write:
These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands. **2** I know your deeds, **your hard work** and **your perseverance**. I know that **you cannot tolerate wicked people**, that **you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not**, and have found them false. **3** **You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name**, and **have not grown weary**.

4 Yet I hold this against you: *You have forsaken the love you had at first.*

The Church in Ephesus:

Worked Hard and persevered...

Didn't tolerate wicked people...

Tested those who claimed to be apostles but were not...

Endured hardship and didn't grown weary...

And the Lord said:

4 Yet I hold this against you: *You have forsaken the love you had at first.*

- The Church in Ephesus did an amazing job loving Jesus with their Soul (Mind and Will)
- But wavered in loving him with all their heart...

Fear may say the cost is too great...

But Love says the cost is only relative to the value...

John 3:16

For God so **loved** the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Story: One day the Lord asked me; “Josh will you sell everything you have, leave your home and follow me?”

- I had read that in the Gospel, but when I heard the Lord ask me that, It surprised me...

- I pondered what that meant for a moment... It all ran through my mind... I took inventory, Am I willing to leave it all?
- Maybe that's a question we should all ask?
- Would I leave it all to follow Jesus?...
- The Willingness is everything, it has more to do with the heart than God wanting our things...
- As a matter of fact he promises if we will give it all up to follow him, he will give it all back a hundred times over in this life...
- Home carries with it homes reward, but obedience to the Lord carries with it the reward of the Lord...
- Life carries with it life's reward, but obedience to the Lord carries with it the it the reward of the Lord...

Mark 10 - The Rich Young Ruler

17 As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. "Good teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

18 "Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good—except God alone. 19 You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, you shall not defraud, honor your father and mother.' "

20 "Teacher," he declared, "all these I have kept since I was a boy."

21 Jesus looked at him and loved him. "**One thing you lack,**" he said. "**Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.**"

22 At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.

23 Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!"

("How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!")

NKJV)

24 The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! 25 It is easier for a camel to go

through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”

26 The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, “Who then can be saved?”

27 Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but not with God all things are possible.”

28 Then Peter spoke up, “We have left everything to follow you!”

29 “Truly I tell you,” Jesus replied, “no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel 30 will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—along with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life.

Vs. 21

Jesus looked at him and loved him. **“One thing you lack,”** he said. **“Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”**

Did Jesus require that of anyone else to follow him? - Sell everything and give to the poor?

This is what I believe:

- That wasn't the first time he felt God ask that of him...
- What Jesus was saying was a confirmation of what God had already asked...
- Jesus said, “One thing you lack”, there was still one thing standing in the way of the Rich Young Ruler loving God with all his heart, soul, mind and strength. All the other Commandments he had kept since his youth.

*(“How hard it is for those who have **riches** to enter the kingdom of God!”*
NKJV)

Riches: something useful or needed; a thing, a matter, business, money

*“How hard it is for those who have **something useful or needed** to enter the kingdom of God!”*

The Rich Young Ruler placed those things that are useful and needed, His business or money over following the Lord.

- The Rich Young Ruler may have had a lot
- But what is following Jesus worth?
- He missed his opportunity to walk with God for riches?
- Now how much are his riches worth?

Fear may say the cost is too great...

But Love says the cost is only relative to value...

Acts 6

8 Now Stephen, a man full of God’s grace and power, performed great wonders and signs among the people. 9 Opposition arose, however, from members of the Synagogue... 10 But they could not stand up against the wisdom the Spirit gave him as he spoke.

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15 All who were sitting in the Sanhedrin looked intently at Stephen, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

Ch. 7

51 “You stiff-necked people! Your hearts and ears are still uncircumcised. You are just like your ancestors: You always resist the Holy Spirit!

54 When the members of the Sanhedrin heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. 55 **But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right**

hand of God. 56 “Look,” he said, “I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.”

57 At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, 58 dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.

What a powerful example Stephen was of unwavering love for Jesus in Heart, Mind, Soul and Strength.

Stephen was a Deacon in the Church which means he served tables. He was willing to do whatever the church needed him to do. He was full of God's Grace and Power and ministered powerfully. He was Lover of Jesus and the Word of God. Even to the point of being stoned to death for His unwavering witness of Jesus. His pure, bold commitment to Jesus was witnessed that day by a man named Saul. This Saul will later have an encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus. Saul will pick up the torch of Love and Devotion to Jesus and become the Apostle of Grace to the Gentiles.