

Sunday, 30 January 2022

God With Us

Introduction

- A very warm welcome
- Congratulations to all who have joined in with our 21 days of prayer and fasting. I believe it has been significant.
- Thank you to everyone who has prayed for our daughter Sophia who had surgery this month. She is making good progress.
- As I have reflected upon Sophia's journey I have felt the Lord showing me parallels between what she has been going through and what God is desiring/or needing to do in His body the church.
- Sophia has been unwell for the last few years and on medication to treat the different symptoms. Doctors said that the medication was buying Sophia time.
- The church, I believe has not been healthy for sometime and medicating for various dysfunctions, buying us time.
- Sophia needed surgery to remove what was toxic so that she could be cured, recover and live an abundant life. It was not easy but painful, as all that hindered life, (the tumour) was removed.
- God desires to remove all that is toxic in our lives and in His body so that we can know life in all its fullness.

- John 10:10: The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

Our theme for 2022: Kingdom Come

- When the Kingdom comes we see a release of Kingdom life and power.
- We desire to be kingdom people, devoted to king Jesus, to live kingdom values and see the realm of God's reign over our lives.
- We want to be little Christs who carry the Kingdom; a Jesus people who are salt and light.
- It's time to be the Acts church; devoted to Jesus, to one another and to reaching people with the message of Christ. We want to see the healing of the sick in the power of Jesus name.
- New Testament power—signs, wonders, miracles and living our New Testament lifestyle—get ready.
- His Kingdom is coming in our lives, our marriages, our families, our neighbourhoods, our city, our nation and the nations of the world.
- The messages on the Kingdom are an invitation to align ourselves with God's Word and to see His Kingdom come.

Pray: Lord Jesus we pray that you would give us eyes to see and ears to hear what you are saying. Give us a spirit of wisdom and revelation to know you better. May we hear you more clearly and obey you more fully in Jesus name.

Main message: God With Us

Enjoying the risen Christ

(Hymn)

I serve a risen Savior
He's in the world today.
I know that He is living,
Whatever men may say.
I see His hand of mercy;
I hear His voice of cheer;
And just the time I need Him
He's always near.

He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow
way.
He lives, He lives, salvation to impart!
You ask me how I know He lives?
He lives within my heart.

- May we know Him like this. May we love Him and experience Him more.

John 14:15-24

Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit

15 "If you love me, keep my commands. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— 17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be[a] in you. 18 I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. 19 Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. 20 On that day you will realize

*that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.
21 Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.”*

22 Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, “But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?”

23 Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. 24 Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.

Words of Jesus spoken just before he went to the cross. The most important act of love in all of history.

- Jesus death on the cross so that whoever believes in Him shall be forgiven all sin and accepted; adopted into God’s family.
- The disciples are about to lose Jesus and so this message to them and to us is so important— he will die, he will live again and will send the Holy Spirit to be with us forever and never leave us no matter where we go or what is happening to us.

Pray: Lord give me eyes to see and ears to hear

There are two observations and two questions

First observation:

- **Gods special love for us**
- Those who belong to Him. The gifts that he is promising are not given to the world!

John 14:16-17

16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— 17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be[a] in you.

- Talks about a love God reserves for His own.

19 Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.

22 Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, “But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?”

- These verses make clear that the gift of the intimacy, help and love that are promised cannot be experienced by the world.
- Love so real, personal, intimate and relational

Second observation:

- Our special love for Jesus

- This intimacy with the father is promised to those who love Jesus. Not church attenders, not christians.
- Four times it is described for those who “love Jesus”

15 “If you love me, keep my commands. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever

21 Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.”

- Not a love he has for the world but a special love he has for those who love Him.

23 Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.

- God has a special intimate love for us who are His
- For those who love Jesus

2 Questions:

1. What does it mean to love Jesus?
2. What are we promised if we love Him?

1. What does it mean to love Jesus?

- Loving God results in keeping His commands; His Word.
- Loving Jesus is not the same as keeping His commands e.g. *You can give without loving, you can't love without giving.*
- Loving is the root; obedience is the fruit.

15 *“If you love me, keep my commands.*

21 *Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.”*

23 Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.

24 *Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.*

- Keeping His commands and obeying His Word is a result of loving Him.

- Loving is not about doing but about giving our affections to the one we love e.g. marriage cultivate love, affection and desire.
- Desiring Him, wanting Him, admiring Him, being satisfied in and enjoying Him.
- God is worthy of our love. 'Hallowed be your name'
- Love is a response to His greatness and beauty.
- The commandments in Jesus mind when we read through John are not just moral commands such as love each other, there are many:
 - Receive me (John 1:12)
 - Follow me (John 1:43)
 - Believe in the light (John 12:36)
 - Believe in God (John 14:1)
 - Abide in me (John 15:4)
 - Abide in my love (John 15:9)
 - Receive the Holy Spirit (John 20:22)
- If you love me.....
 - Receive me, believe in me, abide in me.

What does it mean to love Jesus? To desire Him, to long for Him, to treasure Him, to give Him first place?

- We need His help o love Him
- Ask the Holy Spirit to give you a fresh love for Jesus.
- How much do we love Him and want Him? E.g. Judah hungry for encounter.

Lord help us to love you.

2. What are we promised if we love Him?

- God with us

16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever

- The helper, the Holy Spirit will be with us forever.

17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be[a] in you.

- He will provide

18 I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

- He is with us
- He will help us, protect us and guide us
- He will reveal himself to us.

21b The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.”

23b we will come to them and make our home with them.

- The Father, the Holy Spirit and Jesus are with us.

God us with us and will never forsake us no matter what we go through and no matter where we are.

- God with us— our comforter, Shepherd (Psalm 23), “*when you pass through the waters*” Isaiah 43:2, Protection (Psalm 91).

Conclusion

- God is with us and has a special love for those who love Him.
- He wants us to desire Him and love Him; for our love to result in obedience and overflow to others.
- Then he promises to give us the Holy Spirit to be with us forever.

The Result

- The Kingdom of God will come on earth as it is in heaven.

23 My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.

- Intimacy with Jesus releases the Kingdom
- When Jesus makes us his dwelling place our lives will be transformed.
- Know Him, become like Him and make Him known.

Let's love Him, keep His commands by receiving and abiding in Him, overflow His love to others, know God is with us, know His protection, His provision and leading, His comfort and see an outbreak of His Kingdom.

Pray—May we know you, love you and be transformed into your likeness. And let us see the Kingdom of God come in our lives. In Jesus name Amen.