

IS IT A TRUE LOVE RELATIONSHIP?

Luke 19:1-10 (NLT)

*"Jesus replied, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind."<sup>38</sup>This is the first and greatest commandment."*

Matthew 22:37-38 (NLT)

❖ The Truth of Today:

- God loved me FIRST, so I would love Him BACK.

*We love because he first loved us.*

1 John 4:19 (NIV)

*This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.*

1 John 4:9-10 (NIV)

*This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live <sup>20</sup>and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the Lord is your life...*

Deuteronomy 30:19-20 NIV

*Jesus entered Jericho and made his way through the town. <sup>2</sup>There was a man there named Zacchaeus. He was the chief tax collector in the region, and he had become very rich. <sup>3</sup>He tried to get a look at Jesus, but he was too short to see over the crowd. <sup>4</sup>So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree beside the road, for Jesus was going to pass that way.*

Luke 19:1-4 (NLT)

❖ How Do You Have a True Love Relationship with Jesus?

1. Know God is PURSUING you.

*When Jesus came by, he looked up at Zacchaeus and called him by name. "Zacchaeus!" he said. "Quick, come down! I must be a guest in your home today."*

Luke 19:5 (NLT)

2. Know God desires an ON-GOING relationship.

*Zacchaeus quickly climbed down and took Jesus to his house in great excitement and joy. <sup>7</sup>But the people were displeased. "He has gone to be the guest of a notorious sinner," they grumbled. <sup>8</sup>Meanwhile, Zacchaeus stood before the Lord and said, "I will give half my wealth to the poor, Lord, and if I have cheated people on their taxes, I will*

give them back four times as much!" <sup>9</sup>Jesus responded, "Salvation has come to this home today, for this man has shown himself to be a true son of Abraham. <sup>10</sup>For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost."

Luke 19:6-10 (NLT)

Jesus responded, "Salvation has come to this home today, for this man has shown himself to be a true son of Abraham."

Luke 19:9 (NLT)

"Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends."

Revelation 3:20 (NLT)

3. Know God will NEVER leave you.

Jesus responded, "Salvation has come to this home today, for this man has shown himself to be a true son of Abraham. <sup>10</sup>For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost."

Luke 19:9-10 (NLT)

Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death?

Romans 8:35 (NLT)

No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us. <sup>38</sup>And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love.

Romans 8:37-38 (NLT)

❖ How Do You Cultivate a Love Relationship?

1. Choose to put God FIRST in your life.

"Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need."

Matthew 6:33 (NLT)

"Does a young woman forget her jewelry, or a bride her wedding dress? Yet for years on end my people have forgotten me.

Jeremiah 2:32 (NLT)

2. Spend time DAILY with God.

Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world.

James 4:8 (NLT)