

# ***Intimacy with Father, Son and Spirit***

## ***Session 25: The Life That God Calls Great: Loving Jesus***

### ***(Jn. 14)***

#### **I. JOHN 13-17 IS THE GREATEST TEACHING**

A. Jesus speaks of distinction in His body, amongst the bride. He called some “great” and some “least” in the Kingdom.

The Father will call their life choices “great” because they loved and obeyed Him. And this greatness is attained without regard to receiving a reward for outward achievement. What He calls us to walk in is completely void of scam artist, you cannot fake humility into the Kingdom.

It is based on the size of one’s heart response to the Lord.

<sup>19</sup>***Whoever breaks [consistently] one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does [consistently] and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. (Mt. 5:19)***

<sup>41</sup>***...for one star differs from another star in glory.*** <sup>42</sup>***So also is the resurrection of the dead. (1 Cor. 15:41-42)***

B. John 13-17 is the greatest teaching given by the greatest teacher in history! Jesus spoke this to the leadership of His new Church to prepare them to walk in a way that the Lord calls “**great**” and to thrive spiritually even in the face of intense pressures and temptations that they would face.

- There have been, are, and will be millions of believers that have been equipped by the truths, promises, and commands these 5 chapters set forth to be **overcomers** as we walk towards being Jesus’ prepared bride. **(Rev 19:7)**

And this will be done in context to the most intense persecutions, temptations, and difficulties in history **(Mt. 24:21)**

***The truths in Jn 13-17 define the way of the heart of the overcoming Bride in the End Times!!!***

C. When Jesus said to “ask anything” (14:13), He immediately focused them on the grace to love Him (14:15). The ultimate “anything” we can ask for is the grace to walk out the first commandment.

We are to pray with faith for the Spirit to “impart the Father’s love for Jesus in our heart” (17:26).

<sup>26</sup>***...that the love with which You [the Father] loved Me may be in them...*** (Jn. 17:26)

D. Jesus offered His people a promise to ask for “whatever”—similar to what Solomon was offered.

<sup>24</sup>...whatever things you ask...believe that you receive them, and you will have them.  
(Mk. 11:24)

<sup>7</sup>...God appeared to Solomon [in a dream] and said to him, "Ask! What shall I give you?"... <sup>10</sup>"Give me wisdom and knowledge..." <sup>11</sup>God said to Solomon: "Because this was in your heart, and you have not asked riches...or honor...nor...long life..." <sup>12</sup>[Therefore] wisdom and knowledge are granted to you; and I will give you riches, wealth and honor..." (2 Chr. 1:7-12)

The same blessing bestowed on Solomon, can be bestowed on us, in the context of full surrender for His glory not yours.

E. The greatest pleasures available to the human spirit are the spiritual pleasures that come to us as **God reveals God** to us—empowering us to love Him. We are freed from the **inferior pleasures** of sin by experiencing the **superior pleasures** of the gospel.

The First commandment is much more than a command of obedience; it is an invitation into relationship.

Only a caring and compassionate being would want first to be loved. Abba could have asked for obedience first. That is what slave owners do, the Fathers' obsession with us is that we choose Him First.

F. Affection-based obedience is the most reliable—compared to duty-based or fear-based obedience. The King in Song of Solomon described His Bride's heart of loyal love as a "locked garden" (4:12). The Bride described herself as lovesick (5:8).

<sup>12</sup>A garden locked is My sister, My bride, a spring locked, a fountain sealed. (Song 4:12; ESV)

<sup>8</sup>...daughters of Jerusalem, if you find my Beloved, that you tell Him I am lovesick!  
(Song 5:8)

## II. ALL BELIEVERS ARE CALLED TO ENJOY GOD'S MANIFEST PRESENCE (JN. 14:21)

A. In 14:21, Jesus repeated what He said in connecting love to obedience in 14:15, then He added two promises—that He and the Father will *love them* and He will *manifest Himself to them*.

<sup>21</sup>"He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him." (Jn. 14:21)

Just for clarification:

The idea of the Father loving us “because” we love and obey Jesus confuses some because it appears to be a contradiction to the truth that we love God because He first loved us (1 Jn. 4:19).

Our Love springs from His love for us.

The revelation of His love for us is what awakens love and gratitude in our heart towards Him.

<sup>27</sup> *...for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me... (Jn. 16:27)*

<sup>19</sup> *We love Him because He first loved us. (1 Jn. 4:19)*

B. Jesus spoke of two distinct expressions of God’s love for His people:

**#1 God so loves the world in fullness** (Jn. 3:16). The Father loves all people in the world *redemptively* in the sense of valuing, caring for, and pursuing them. God so loved the world with His infinite and everlasting love—He proved it by sending His Son to die for them. His love for all the people in the world is not caused or motivated by their response to Jesus.

**#2 He loves or enjoys His relationship with those who obey Him.** The Father enjoys and esteems the life choices and fruit of those who obey Jesus. He enjoys His relationship with them and delights in working “with them” in partnership (Mk. 16:20). He loves to see their relationships that result from walking in humility. Paul referred to this as being *well pleasing* to God (2 Cor. 5:9). John spoke of himself as “*one of the disciples Jesus loved*” (13:23).

An angel said something similar to Daniel, calling him “*beloved*” by God (9:23; 10:11, 19).

<sup>14</sup> *“Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore...I will set him on high...” (Ps. 91:14)*

<sup>17</sup> *“...My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again.” (Jn. 10:17)*

<sup>21</sup> *“Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful...” (Mt. 25:21)*

<sup>5</sup> *By faith Enoch was taken...he had this testimony, that he pleased God. <sup>6</sup>But without faith [confidence to persevere] it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe...He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him... <sup>35</sup>Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection... (Heb. 11:5-6, 35)*

### III. JESUS’ PERSPECTIVE OF HIS DEATH—GLORY, VICTORY & LOVE (JN. 14:28-31)

<sup>28</sup>“...If you loved Me, you would rejoice because I said, ‘I am going to the Father’ ...

<sup>30</sup>“...for the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me...” <sup>31</sup>But that the world may know that I love the Father, and as the Father gave Me commandment, so I do.” (Jn. 14:28-31)

<sup>32</sup>He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all... (Rom. 8:32)

A. Jesus exhorted (strongly encourage to urge) them to see His death through His eyes as an expression of His love for the Father.

Jesus wanted them to see the positive side of His death in His going to the Father (Rev. 4).

Satan was not victorious in killing Jesus, Paul makes that clear in Rom 8.

B. Jesus’ obedience unto death was the costliest display of love for the Father in all of history.

\*\* Take a moment and let that sink in, and ask yourself, does His bride today carry the same mantle\*\* Then say “***She Will***”\*\*

Jesus knew that in God’s timing “every living being” would know the truth: that He embraced the cross out of love for God (Phil. 2:11). “*I love the Father*” will be stamped over His story forever.

<sup>8</sup>...He became obedient to the point of death...<sup>9</sup>Therefore God also has highly exalted Him...<sup>10</sup>that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven and...earth... (Phil. 2:8-10)

<sup>24</sup>Then comes the end [of the Millennium] , when He [Jesus] delivers the kingdom to God the Father...<sup>28</sup>When all things are made subject to Him [Jesus during the Millennium], then the Son Himself will be subject to Him [the Father]...that God may be all in all. (1 Cor. 15:24-28)