

Raised for More - A New Love

Acts 17:16-31; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21

"Who do you love?" A great song, asking an _____ question. It's an appeal for the love of a woman that says, "You need a new love. Look what I bring to the table. See what it would be like to be with _____?"

When someone loves you, it typically brings _____. They do things for you. They make you feel _____. They _____ at your jokes whether they're funny or not. Their love makes others _____ you. The _____ is true as well. If you love someone, they will inevitably benefit somehow.

Jesus is effectively asking us the same question today: "*Who do you love?*" Everyone should absolutely, positively love _____ over anyone and anything else. Loving Jesus, _____ in Jesus, has a TON of benefits for us: peace, joy, meaning, purpose, forgiveness, _____, eternal _____ and more!

If someone loves you as much as Jesus does, it's easy to _____ love for them. But today, he reminds us that real love goes _____ our feelings. So, Jesus says, "*If you love me you will keep my commandments.*"

When you love someone you _____ to do things that make them _____. You want to bless them. The _____ here today can tell you that. Love for their kids makes them want to _____ them and vice versa. Dads are the same, as are husbands, wives, grandmas and grandpas, friends, and Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

But it's not that _____. Love isn't either/or. It's not only reserved for one person. We love lots of people and things. You may love a _____ or friends, but if you love them more than your spouse or kids, that can spell _____. What if they ask you to do something that's really difficult...or wrong? "*If you love me...*"

If you do it anyway, you probably love them _____ than anything...which may not be a good thing. If you say no, then something else has priority over them and you have channeled your inner _____. "*I would do anything for love, but I won't do that...*"

Jesus says to us, "*If you love me, you will keep my commandments.*" How's that going for you? Jesus doesn't lighten up on the _____. He came to fulfill it, not abolish it. Where in your life are you saying to Jesus, "*I would do anything for love, but I won't do that...*"? Who/what do you love more?

Jesus made it even more _____! "*A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.*" (John 13:34) Consider how Jesus loved you. Consider how that kind of love is showing up in your life...or not.

The most interesting thing about all this of course is that _____ doesn't need this. But it sure is good for us.

In what ways is your life showing a love for Jesus?

Where do you see yourself keeping his commandments?

Where do you see yourself failing miserably at keeping his commandments?

Is it a lack of intentionality causing it? A lack of love? How could understanding Jesus' love for you help?

What are you going to DO about it?