

Love Is as Love Does

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2 Baby Ded: 3rd. *Justin Angel Gomez (1st B-day)*. Parents: Joel & Yelitza. [Elijah/Jaclyn]
- B. Slide3-7 Gilbert: Baptism & Class. *Journey of Hope*. Sum Fam Night. *Sun Night Prayer*. *MC Vid*
- C. Slide8 Machaca Summer Camps: Trying to Sponsor 600 campers [have 56] (\$50 per child)
1. Theme: *Create & For me Simply Jesus*. (we are God's masterpiece)
 2. Special Needs Camp: (trying to sponsor 40, includes family members) now called **CAMP MIGHTY**. T-shirts for sale. Also, a supply list at the booth for needed items for camp.
 - a) Text the word Kabod to 77977, link will take you rt to their giving page.
 3. *Update, in 2004, The Gotz family became our **directors** in Belize under the covering of CM. After about 2 yrs of discussions & prayer *we will be releasing Machaca to become its own entity*. They have decided on **Kabod** (kavod) for their new 501-C-3 (non-prof). It is the Hebrew word for **Gods Glory**.
 - a) The ministry has grown from discipleship & youth development, to a church plant, outreach cafe, market place ministry hotel, chaplaincy in the Belize military, nation wide prayer ministry, working w/HT, community outreach, discipling a nation both on local and national government level, also cross cultural training, food to the nations ministry, & leadership development. [Vision mtg Thurs/Fri]
- D. Slide9 Parenting Summit: 40 speakers on parenting, faith & culture. **FREE** (each for 3 days) or \$125 unlimited pass to watch anytime.
1. *John Stonestreet* talks about *undercurrents & waves* in culture.
 2. Old Chinese proverb...*If you want to know what water is, don't ask the fish*. Fish don't know they're wet. *What water is to fish culture is to humans*. Culture is just the environment where we swim and where we live. Sometimes our culture hits us like being pounded by **waves**. **But also** there are a **undercurrents** that make us drift one way or another: **in what we believe to be true**. **In how we live our lives**. **In the decisions we make**.
 - a) *"On an average day a student will encounter more information in today's culture than a student in the 1200's experienced in their entire lives."* *We live in a diff day!*
 3. Andrew P & Tony will be in info booth - **Topics** for Parenting classes in Sept.

- E. **Slide10 Ladies Summer Series:** Next Tues. **A night of worship** (prayer/communion).
Led by Andrea Hamilton. *Free event...but* if you'd like to help, see list bring an item for Operation SafeHouse.

II. Slide11 **Intro: Love Is as Love Does**

- A. Ken Gire said, *It was in a garden ages ago that **paradise was lost**, & it is in a garden now that it would be **regained**.* Ken Gire, Mary Magdalene, pg.130.
- B. *The great resurrection truth is **not** that we are to live forever, **but** that we may now live **nobly** because we are to live forever.* Phillips Brooks
- C. **God** has a **Word** for each character in the Res story & a **Word** for *each of us* this morning
- D. *All 4 gospel accounts end with the resurrection story. **Some people** get worried about the **different** accounts.* [4 different *individuals*, giving 4 different *perspectives*]
1. **If a detective** calls in 4 **eyewitnesses** & they all give the **exact-same-story**, it is usually **not trustworthy** because most likely they have **collaborated**.
- E. The stone was not rolled away to permit Jesus to come out, **for** He had already left the tomb.
1. It was rolled back so that the people would see for themselves that the tomb was empty.
- F. **In John's account** they saw the grave clothes lying on the stone shelf, still wrapped in the **shape of the body** (cocoon-ish).
1. The burial wrappings were made rigged by the resin from the spices. The linen cocoon lay intact on the stone slab. **Intact but hollow.** *Ken Gire*
 2. **Jesus passed thru** the grave clothes & left them behind as evidence He was **alive**.
 3. Showing no sign of struggle, the napkin, wrapped around the face, was **folded** carefully in a place by itself. [showing 2 miracles: the res & a man folding his own cloths]

III. Slide12a **LOVE CASTS OUT ALL FEAR**

- A. (5) The message of the empty tomb is, *Do not be afraid*.
1. **And what's to fear** when Jesus defeated the World, the Flesh, the Devil, & Death itself?

2. Slide12b The World - *In the **world** you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.* Jn.16:33
3. Slide12c The Flesh - *knowing this, that our **old man** was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.* Rom. 6:6
4. Slide12d The Devil - *Now is the judgment of this world; now **the ruler of this world** will be cast out.* Jn.12:31
5. Slide12e Death Itself - *knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. **Death** no longer has dominion over Him.* Rom.6:9

a) You need not be afraid of *Life or Death; Time or Eternity.*

B. (8) Note the difference, *not Joy & great fear, but fear & great Joy.*

C. (4,5) Now note the difference between vs.4&5. *The unbelieving guards shook for fear, & became like dead men. Whereas, the angels told the believing woman, do not be afraid.*

1. *Shook* = same word as 27:51 quake.

2. Those who *seek Jesus* need not fear. (5b)

D. In Luke 24:5-8 Luke adds, *Then, as they were afraid and bowed their faces to the earth, they said to them, Why do you seek the living among the dead? 6 He is not here, but is risen! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, 7 saying, 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again. 8 And they remembered His words. :)*

1. **Forgotten words** come back w/**fresh meaning** when circumstances have changed & we have made progress in knowledge & character.

a) An encouragement for **parents** who have had **kids** that have *walk away from the truth*. If you have stored truth in your child's minds *it is a little task for the Spirit of God* to illuminate them in later life. [*Love Cats Out All Fear*]

IV. Slide13 **LOVE CHANGES EVERYTHING**

A. There were many Significant changes because of the resurrection:

1. **Sabbath** - For centuries they honored the 7th day. *Then* these *Jewish men* change their day of worship to the **1st day of the week**.

2. **Gentiles** - The Jews had been God's people, now **Gentiles** are included. Peter even goes so far as to say, *But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved in the same manner as they.* Acts 15:11
3. **The NT** - is all a lie if the res isn't true, because it is weaved in/out of all the NT
4. **Change in the disciples** - Apostles were willing to go to their death...for a lie?
5. **The Emphasis it had on their preaching...**
 - a) It was in **Peters 1st sermon** in Acts 2:31,32. It was in **Peters 2nd sermon** Acts 3:15. It was in **Peters 1st persecution** addressing Sanhedrin in Acts 4:10. It was in **Peters 2nd persecution** in Acts 5:30.
 - b) Also, **Paul** spoke of it at **Athens** in Acts 17. With the **Sad/Phar** in ch.23. With **Felix** in ch.24. And with **Herod Agrippa** ch.26. [Love Changes Everything]

V. Slide14 **LOVE IS LOYAL**

- A. **Abraham Lincoln** said in December of 1839, *"Many free countries have lost their liberty, and ours may loose hers, but if she shall, be at my proudest plume, not that I was the last to desert, but that I never deserted her."*
 1. Lincoln was a man of loyalty to his country, & his loyalty made him a great man
- B. We want to look at **a woman** who was **loyal to her Lord**, and also **became great** because of it. Mary Magdalene was not the last to desert Jesus in His hour of crisis. She never deserted him at all. She was not only loyal to the end, our text tells us she was loyal **beyond the end**, for even **after death** she maintained her loyalty, and was the first to come to the tomb.
- C. **Mary Mag** - her hope was dashed, her Master missing, her friend gone.
 1. Her hope was **Jesus**. He changed her life. He had cast out **7 demons**. He freed her from untold torment. He had given her life, a reason to live, a place in His kingdom, worth, dignity, understanding, compassion, love, & hope.
 2. Now, that **hope** lies at the *bottom* of her heart. Ken Gire; Intimate Moments w/the Savior.
 3. But as **love** brought her to **the cross**, now **love** draws her to **the grave**.
 - a) And the woman who was once possessed with **demons**, finds herself in the presence of, & conversing with,...**angels**.

(1) **Ps:** she was not a *reformed harlot*. The confusion started in 591ad by Pope Gregory the Great...likening her to *the sinful woman in Lk.7*.

Continues even in 1973 JC Superstar. [7 demons, ok. Immoral? no evidence]

D. **Mary Mag loved her Jesus** – He changed her life forever. Cast out 7 demons. Freed her from untold torment. He gave her life. A reason to live. A place in His kingdom. Worth & dignity. Understanding & compassion. Love and Hope. [Love Is Loyal]

VI. Slide15 LOVE OBEYS

A. Here is the Christian life in 4 commands: *Come. See. Go. Tell.*

1. **Come** (the great word of the gospel. Come reason together. Come & see where I live. don't forbid the children to come to Me).

2. **See** (check it out. perceive. Good by *sight*, better by **insight**).

3. **Go** (as you go. On the go. Always as you're going).

4. **Tell** (the good news. the gospel).

a) Women 1st *saw the empty tomb*. Women 1st *saw the living Lord*.

Women 1st *heard loving words*. Women 1st *told joyful news*.

b) **Tell** – These women also were the **1st preachers**. [The rest could only share *death & burial*]

B. (9) **Took hold of his feet** - This is no apparition or hallucination; Jesus is physically alive.

1. Jn.20:17 **Do not cling to Me** - it is possible for us to **miss the best** in the Lord **while** holding on to **the good**.

2. Mary was not to continue *clinging to Him*, **but** was to **bear His message to the apostles**. **This is suggestive to us...** It is very special to see Jesus' tomb in Israel...**yet** we are not simply to *linger about the shrine of the resurrection*, **but** are to go **declaring the fact of it!**

C. The women *met* Jesus (9a). The women *heard* Jesus (9b).

The women *worshiped* Jesus (9c). The women *obeyed* Jesus (11a). [Love Obeys]

VII. Slide16 LOVE FOLLOWS

A. (9) **Jesus met them on the way** - You'll always *meet Him* on the path of obedience.

1. As you go, as you live the missional life.

- B. He's going before you - **Where** do you need Him to **go before you?** - Where would you like to be assured that **He'll be there waiting.** - Where do you need to know **He's been there first?**
- C. In Heb.6:19,20 it talks about Christ as being our **Forerunner**. This spoke of the men or troops which were sent to explore before the advance of an army.
1. **Jesus** was our **forerunner**, **our trail blazer**, **our pioneer**, **our guide**, **our scout**, **our leader** who opened up **The Way**.
 2. I see the image of Jesus as **the lead climber**(forerunner) w/a mountain climbing team.
 - a) He **goes ahead** & anchors the **pitons**/pee-tons (the metal spike w/eye for rope) into the rock.
 - b) **At salvation** we clipped our **carabineer**, onto **His rope of salvation**. **And we follow behind** progressing **onward & upward** w/**faith & patience**.
 - c) **Faith** is when He anchors to a place **out of our sight**. [Picture up over the rock where you can't see]
 - (1) **Jesus has gone 1st through the veil**, into His Fathers presence, **& though we don't see it yet**, we're climbing close behind.
 - (2) **You can't be in a hurry when you're climbing**. Every step & grip better be calculated. **We are anchored**, w/**His pitons**, **so we can make progress**.
 3. [Love Follows]

VIII.Slide17a **LOVE CONTINUES** [Infinity sign]

- A. They must **not** have expected His Resurrection. **For** they brought spices to **complete** the anointing Joseph & Nicodemus had begun.
1. (Mrk16:1) **Brought spices** – *αρωμα* (aroma) perfumed oils.
 - a) **Since embalming** wasn't a Jewish custom, these **aromatic perfumes** were poured over the body to counteract the stench of decay.
 - b) **But** this was also done as an expression of **loving devotion** (as we bring **flowers** to the grave today)
 2. **Slide17b/c** Her **Faith** had failed, **but** her **Love** outlived **Faith** & held fast. **Love** lives still, as **Faith** & **Hope** lie **crushed** in the grave.
- B. **We are part of this great story**. It is unfolding right before us.

1. **We do not tell a completed story.** At the beginning of the book of Acts, Luke says that in his 1st volume he recorded *all that Jesus began to do*. The history of the Church is what Jesus **continues** to do.
- C. We look back at these first disciples like Mary & Mary Mag here...our role is to **live as consistent characters** in line with the unfolding story.
- D. **And we can because**...if anyone is in Christ, he is a **new** creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become **new**.
 1. **What is old in your life?** *sin, sickness, pain, suffering, grief, heartache*...but Christ has opened to us the path to what is New.
 2. **What is new in Christ?** *Forgiveness, salvation, eternal life, a new creation. New birth by faith. New nature, new heart, new life, new hope, and a new task. Finally, a new body in a new home called Heaven.* [Love Continues]

IX. Slide18 **LOVE DOES NOT SEEK ITS OWN**

- A. (12) For a Roman soldier to fail in his duty was an offense punishable by death.
 1. Acts 12:19 *But when Herod had searched for him (Peter) and not found him, he examined the guards and commanded that they should be put to death.*
 2. Acts 16:27,28 *And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself.*
- B. (13) **Stolen** - If stolen by **friends**: His friends & followers, who thought he was dead & gone, would have to had broken the Roman seal, rolled the enormous stone (up hill), somehow squeezed Jesus body out of the cocoon like linen, took the time to place the head piece nicely, & carried him out...all w/o the Roman guards noticing???
1. **If stolen by his enemies**: They could easily have produced the body & shut down the whole res story. **And**, if they were **sleeping**, how did they know what happened, and who took the body? [Love Does Not Seek Its Own]
- C. **End**:
- D. **Slide19** It's interesting, they could **see** the evidence of the resurrection, **but** it did not change their lives. *They needed a meeting with the living Christ.* (see 9) (same today!)

- E. *Easter morning was the Father's **audible amen** to **all** the claims of Jesus Christ.*
1. **It declares** God's acceptance of His sacrifice. **It reveals** our power for life. **It assures** us of a present Friend. **It anticipates** our future Glory.
 2. **Christianity then is **trust in** a Person; a Living Person; a Present Person; a Powerful Person.**