

TOPIC: BECOMING A DISCIPLE WHOM JESUS LOVES

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SUMMARY OF MESSAGE

Introduction

The most important thing we need to know and do is to love the Lord with every fiber of our being (Matthew 22:37). We love because He first loved us (1 John 4:19).

God loves us all the same; He did not love only John. However, John was special in that he was able to appreciate and grasp the Father's love for him. Not all knowledge is truth but all truth is knowledge. For all of us, we need to come to the same realization that God loves us personally. This has to settle into our consciousness. This is the essence of the Gospel of John.

Lessons from John:

FIRST MENTION - John 13:23, 25

Context of the passage: Jesus is celebrating the Passover and washing the disciples' feet. During the Passover, John was leaning on the chest of the Master. John longed to be beside Jesus, and they had a close and intimate relationship.

I. A disciple whom Jesus loves develops intimacy with Him. How?

a) Spend time to partake His Word (1 Pet 2:2-3, Matthew 4:4, Heb 5:14). In the 60s & 70s, the way we communicated with one another was through letters and we would lap up every word. That was what happened with John. John wanted to hear from Him.

What does it require to read the Bible though in a year? On average, it would require us to read about 4-5 chapters a day. If you have not begun, start somewhere. Set a goal for 2009 so that you will not be biblically illiterate and suffer a famine of the Word.

Next comes operating in the spirit of faith. This comes with meditating and speaking forth His Word (2 Cor 4:13, Joshua 1:8, Psalm 1:1-3). How do you do it? Whenever you feel guilty, declare: "I have the gift of righteousness. I am washed. I have the abundance of grace. The Lord is my light and salvation, of whom shall I be afraid? If the Lord is for me, who shall be against me?" We have all the divine wisdom for decision making. It is not released because it is blocked by the unregenerate mind. It is not manifested because the soul is blocking it. God wants us to operate in the spirit of faith.

b) Chat-connect with God continuously.

Everything in life has already been given. He surrounds the righteous with favor as a shield. Ps 5:12.

c) Magnify God in your hearts and minds.

Intentionally build your altar of thanksgiving, praise and worship. We cannot come into the house of God with our arms folded. We are to come humbly into His presence, and corporate worship is a time for celebration. This is why we raise or clap our hands.

SECOND MENTION – John 19:26-27

II. A disciple whom Jesus loves obeys and serves Him. He is a doer of the Word.

Application #1. We are commanded to love one another (John 13:34-35).

Unity supercedes any one agenda, even that for evangelism or Bible study. Unity is when we come together on common ground, and we make the effort to deepen and widen that common ground. When we come together, we come for the corporate agenda. In this regard, help your cell leaders to succeed.

Application #2. We are commanded to submit to authority – in the family, workplace, church and nation. The only time we do not do so is when we are asked to do something that contradicts the scriptures, e.g. falsifying an account. Beware of the spirit of lawlessness and rebellion. Why do we need to submit? By doing so, we will then have spiritual authority to rule and reign, to share, to minister to the sick, to cast out demons. We have true spiritual authority to the degree we submit to human authority.

Application #3. We are commanded to share Christ (Mk 16:15, Matt 28:19).
In line with scripture, our mission statement is to share Christ as we mature in Him.

THIRD MENTION – John 20:2-4

III. A disciple whom Jesus loves develops passion for God.

Passion or zeal has to be developed. It does not come overnight.

Application #1. Passion to love and worship the Lord (Ps 63:1). We cannot be worshipping God half-heartedly. We may have different expressions of worship but we are celebrating all the same (John 4:24).

Application #2. Passion to serve the Lord (1 Cor 15:58, Matt 6:33). We need to persevere and to do so with passion.

FOURTH MENTION – John 21:7

IV. A disciple whom Jesus loves grows in discernment, i.e. from information to revelation.

In John 21, John was able to perceive that it was the Lord when He appeared by the beach. The demonic realm does not have discernment otherwise they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. John had discernment and perception because of the simplicity of faith and purity of heart. When the stone to the tomb was rolled away, John outran Peter. He saw the empty tomb and he simply believed (John 20:8). Some people are more feelers while some, more thinkers. We may respond differently but for John, he believed. Revelation and spiritual discernment are not ordinarily available to the shallow Christian. 1 Cor 2:14. There may be knowledge but true knowledge and discernment come from the Holy Spirit. This is for such who walk with God. Let us not misrepresent God.

Application #1. We need to pray for the spirit of wisdom and revelation (Eph 1:17-18, Phil 1:9).

Application #2. Posture your heart to seek revelation from your intake of scriptures (Psalm 19:8).

FIFTH MENTION – John 21:19-20

V. A disciple whom Jesus loves continually follows the Lord.

Peter had to be restored but John did not because he never lost that closeness with the Lord.

Application #1. Decide to walk and follow the Lord all the days of our lives. Our faith should not be dependent on the weather or on the financial tsunami.

Application #2. Build our lives on the Word to anchor us through difficult times (att 7:24, 25).

Application #3. Walk with people who walk with God. Heb 10:24,25. Spend time with people to strengthen one another and to build faith.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Share how you develop your own intimacy with the Lord?
2. What would you expect to be the traits of a disciple whom Jesus loves?
3. Share your thoughts on how one might grow in spiritual discernment.
4. Is there someone in need of restoration? How can I help him?
5. On what kind of foundation are we building our house upon? You may want to do a personal check.