

LOVE LIKE JESUS

Int.

1. Aim: To show how we are to imitate Jesus in the way that we love
2. Some followers of Jesus are recorded as asking (Lk.11:1) "Lord Teach us to Pray"
 - a. Peter wrote (I Pet. 2:21) that we are to "follow in his steps".
 - b. Every Christian desires to possess in his heart the love of Jesus.
3. Jesus said, "As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love."
(John 15:9)
4. The Love of Jesus is taught throughout the Bible. We can look to Jesus and He indeed can "teach us to love".
5. Love is often thought of as a warm, kindred feeling that fills the heart. It is difficult to describe this thing called LOVE.
 - a. Perhaps it is best defined by seeing how it is expressed.
 - b. No doubt the love of Jesus can be known as we look at what He loved.
6. Jesus invites us to love as He loved.
 - a. How can we truly have the love of Jesus inside unless we love the things that Jesus loved?
 - b. Therefore we look to the Bible to see what it is that our Lord loved and then we will know the LOVE OF JESUS.
7. Jesus said in John 15:10, "If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love." Abide = stay, continue, dwell, remain
8. We can and we shall LOVE LIKE THE LOVE OF JESUS when we learn what He loved.
9. How did Jesus Love ? Who or what did He love ?

Discussion

I. JESUS LOVED HIS ENEMIES

A. Evidence of such expression of love is seen as Jesus went to the cross to die at the hands of those who hated him.

1. Lk. 23:34 "Father forgive them for they know not what they do".

2. Jesus taught such love:

a. Luke 6:27 "But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you,"

b. Luke 6:35 "But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and [to] the evil."

B. To LOVE LIKE THE LOVE OF JESUS we are careful to not retaliate and harm those who harm us.

1. Rom. 12:19-21 - do not avenge

2. Do good to your enemy - we do not approve of the bad things they do

3. But we do not respond in hate, but in love - doing good for evil.

II. JESUS LOVED THE SCRIPTURES

A. Why else would He have such bold use and need of the scriptures in response to Satan's temptation while 40 days in the mountain? Mt.4

B. Why else would Jesus be found sternly rebuking the religious leaders of the Jews for not knowing the scriptures.

1. Mk. 12:24, "Do ye not therefore err, because ye know not the scriptures, neither the power of God?"
 2. Jn. 5:38, "And ye have not his word abiding in you: for whom he hath sent, him ye believe not."
- C. Even the psalmist declared, "Oh how love I thy law!" Ps 119:97
- D. To LOVE AS JESUS LOVED we must love the word of God.
1. How is it that some today can say they love the Lord yet discourage serious Bible study and make fun of those who quote book, chapter and verse to uphold Christ's banner?
 2. How can entire religions claim to be followers of Jesus and yet their practices have no Biblical authority?
 3. And, God forbid that brethren should ever grow to loath Bible centered preaching for the kind of preaching that fills denominational pulpits across the land.
- E. "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me." Jn 5:39
1. We all look to the scriptures for eternal life.
 2. This is one reason Jesus loved them so.

III. JESUS LOVED THE CHURCH

- A. He loved it enough to shed his perfect blood. Acts 20:28.
1. Eph 5:25 - Christ loved the church and gave Himself for it
 2. This necessitates the Church being subject to Christ, for it belongs to Him - --
Eph. 5:24,30
 3. I Cor. 12:27 "Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular."
 4. John 15:9 "As the Father hath loved me, so have I love you: continue ye in my love."
 - a. As the Father love Him, so He loves His disciples
 - b. We are assured of the love of Christ, for God loved His Son
 - c. Since Jesus shed His blood for the church [Acts 20:28] then we know He loved the church !
- B. How is it that we hear "give me Jesus but not church"?
1. To LOVE LIKE THE LOVE OF JESUS is to love the church.
 2. To give allegiance to and serve in it.
 3. To respect its institution, design and purpose.
 4. We give our time, attendance, money, effort, service and devotion to its preservation.
 5. If we really love the church that Jesus died for we will do everything we can to make it stronger, healthier and bigger.

IV. JESUS LOVED THE BRETHREN

- A. Jn. 13:34-35 "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."
- B. This love of brethren involves the following:
1. **Care** I Cor. 12:25, "That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for each other."
 2. **Forgiveness** Eph. 4:32, "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."
 3. **Helping** Gal. 5:13b, "...but by love serve one another."

V. JESUS LOVED THE SOULS OF MEN

- A. His love for all the souls of men is seen in that, "... he by the grace of God tasted death for every man." (Heb. 2:9)
1. He said, "They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick." Mt. 9:12
 2. "For the son of man is come to seek and to save that which is lost" Lk. 19:10
- B. Paul was following Jesus therefore he could say, "My hearts desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they might be saved." Rom 10:1
1. Rom. 9:3 "For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh."
 2. Even the Proverbial author said, "...He that winneth souls is wise" Prov. 11:30

C. For us to LOVE LIKE THE LOVE OF JESUS we must love the souls of men and seek to save them.

1. Jesus knew his followers would love the souls of men as he did for he gave us the great commission. Mark 16:15
2. The salvation of the world is in the hands of his followers. "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us." 2 Cor 4:7
3. We must proclaim the glad message, ring it out.

CONCLUSION

1. The love of Jesus is defined for us in the way that it was expressed. Jesus loved
 - (1) Enemies
 - (2) Scriptures
 - (3) Church
 - (4) Brethren
 - (5) Souls
2. His Love is Our Love when expressed in the same way.
3. Children's song "To Be Like Jesus"
4. Jesus said: "If ye love me keep my commandments" John 14:15
5. He then said: "If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in His love." John 15:10

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