

The Love of Jesus (Slide 1)

Reading: 1 John 4:7-16

In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

The Son Loves the Father and the Son Loves Us and has willingly given His life for ours!!

The depth of Jesus' love is evidenced by His sacrifice on the cross. He experienced an intense hate by those who He gave His life to save. Yet, He even loved those who put Him on that cross.

His life ends with a compassionate prayer:

Luke 23:34 (Slide 2)

"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do."

In that utterance, on behalf of those who stood at the foot of the cross watching Jesus give His life for the souls of all mankind, every element of pure Love proceeded from His lips into the hearing of our God.

What a privilege we have today to hear, understand and rejoice to know that what He accomplished is also for us.

His divine Love is full of Grace:

Ephesians 2:8 (Slide 3)

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God

Most are filled with joy when they receive a gift. But so many reject the free gift because it means giving up what they think they “enjoy.” *Let it never be said of those who have accepted the free gift through Grace!*

Hebrews 2:1-4 (Slide 4)

1 Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. 2 For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, 3 how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, (Slide 5) which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him, 4 God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?

The Gift According to His Grace:

Romans 6:23 (Slide 6)

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

We earned death but can receive, as a free gift.....life!!

Romans 3:21-26 (Slide 7)

21 But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; (Slide 8) 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, (Slide 9) because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, 26 to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

The righteousness of God is witnessed through faith in that redemption of Jesus and His sacrifice on the cross.

Titus 2:11-14 (Slide 10)

11 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, 12 teaching us that, denying ungodliness and

worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, 13 looking for the blessed hope and (Slide 11) glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.

If we fully visualize each and every day, our Savior on the cross looking intently at us with love in His gaze and love in His heart, our lives can be transformed to ***live soberly, in righteousness and in godliness.***

When we neglect to reflect daily on the cross upon which our sins were nailed, we fall victim to the lures of this life!!

Because of God's grace through faith in Christ Jesus, can we declare as did the Apostle Paul in our Christian walk?

1 Corinthians 15:10 (Slide 12)

But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

Apostle Paul counted himself as the least of the apostles, which became his motivation to work even harder than

them all. Motivated by the Love of Jesus' from the express vision of His sacrifice. A vision that includes His loving gaze toward those who put Him to death.

That picture in the Apostle's mind compelled Him to preach, not for personal gain, not for a wage but that the Grace of God would be made known:

1 Corinthians 9:16 (Slide 13)

For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel!

His divine Love is full of Mercy and Compassion:

When Jesus asked His Father to forgive those who had put Him to death He was truly asking Him to cancel the debt of their sin. They had no idea what they had done nor did they know what Jesus was asking on their behalf.

We hear at times family members who have lost a son or daughter or someone close by the hands of someone else say; *"I forgive them."*

In my feeble mind, I don't think I can convey in words a more profound way of my understanding of mercy than

that sentiment. I believe to forgive and ask God to forgive in this circumstance may be one of, if not the most difficult things a person can do.

Luke 22:54-62 (Slide 14)

54 Having arrested Him, they led Him and brought Him into the high priest's house. But Peter followed at a distance. 55 Now when they had kindled a fire in the midst of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them.

(Slide 15) 56 And a certain servant girl, seeing him as he sat by the fire, looked intently at him and said, "This man was also with Him."

57 But he denied Him, saying, "Woman, I do not know Him."

(Slide 16) 58 And after a little while another saw him and said, "You also are of them."

But Peter said, "Man, I am not!"

59 Then after about an hour had passed, another confidently affirmed, saying, (Slide 17) "Surely this fellow also was with Him, for he is a Galilean."

60 But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are saying!"

Immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. 61 And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. (Slide 18) Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had said to him, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." 62 So Peter went out and wept bitterly.

That look that Jesus gave Peter has always had a profound impact on me. It is a circumstance that I have given a great deal of consideration to because I believe it is the look Jesus has given me when I've failed Him.

He didn't look at Peter with disgust, indignance, anger or even with the attitude; *"Peter, you traitor!"*

No! He looked at Peter as if to say; "I still love you! I forgive you!"

Jesus predicted that Peter would deny Him just as He did. Three times and then the rooster would crow. The divine elements of Love: Grace, Mercy, and Compassion were on full display in the eyes of Jesus as they met those of Peter. He knew Peter would become one who would serve Him for a lifetime.

Luke 22:31b-32 (Slide 19)

31b "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. 32 But I have prayed for you, that

your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren."

John 21:15-19 (Slide 20)

15 So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?"

He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You."

He said to him, "Feed My lambs."

(Slide 21) *16 He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?"*

He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You."

He said to him, "Tend My sheep."

(Slide 22) *17 He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?"*

And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You."

(Slide 23) *Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep. 18 Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, (Slide 24) and another*

will gird you and carry you where you do not wish.” 19 This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, “Follow Me.”

*Jesus even knew that in death Peter would honor God! He told Him, “**Follow Me**” to signify that Peter’s death would glorify God as did His own death!*

His Love is born out in His compassion for the hardship of others:

Matthew 9:35-38 (Slide 25)

35 Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. 36 But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, (Slide 26) because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. 37 Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. 38 Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”

His compassion, His concern is also born out when His followers become the laborers and serve as He served. By example, Jesus was conditioning and teaching His disciples

*that humble service is more important than prominence/
stature among men and even in the Kingdom to come.*

Luke 22:24-27 (Slide 27)

24 Now there was also a dispute among them, as to which of them should be considered the greatest. 25 And He said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those who exercise authority over them are called 'benefactors.' 26 But not so among you; (Slide 28) on the contrary, he who is greatest among you, let him be as the younger, and he who governs as he who serves. 27 For who is greater, he who sits at the table, or he who serves? Is it not he who sits at the table? Yet I am among you as the One who serves.

Invitation:

Jesus' love is demonstrated to all who are called a friend:

John 15:13-14 (Slide 29)

Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.

*Are you a friend of Jesus? Jesus told His disciples; **You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.** He commands obedience and to be obedient is to believe in and obey the facts of the Gospel. To be baptized,*

reenacting the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. Born again of water and spirit.

If you have not been baptized, we encourage you to be born again and become His friend.

If you are a child of God but need prayer for whatever reason, we are here to do just that.....

Please let us know how we may assist you.....

Reading

1 John 4:7-16

7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8 He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9 In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. 10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

12 No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us. 13 By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. 14 And we have

seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world. 15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. 16 And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

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