

A photograph of a man with long, dark, curly hair and a beard, wearing a light-colored t-shirt, embracing another man from behind. The man being embraced has his eyes closed and is wearing a white shirt and a brown, textured shawl or blanket. The background is bright and out of focus, suggesting an outdoor setting. The overall mood is one of comfort and support.

Following JESUS

Part 9 – His LOVE

Introduction

- As we enter the final set of teachings on our Lord Jesus, it is important we pause to reflect on today's teaching.
- It is the pinnacle of the nature and character of God.
- It would take books upon books to try to do justice to this subject matter.
- That is why every true believer spends a lifetime discovering the depths of the LOVE of GOD!



GOD is LOVE...

- *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.*
- Jesus told His disciples that whoever has seen Him has seen the Father.
- The nature of the Father and of Jesus is LOVE.



GOD is Love...



- *²³ Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.
John 14:23*
- One of the key realities of becoming a Child of God, is the sweet loving fellowship that comes with it.
- When I converted to becoming a follower of Jesus from Islam, one of the biggest differences was the loving Presence of Jesus.
- I was able to come to Him and share everything in my heart with Him without feeling judged or condemned.

Jesus is always welcoming...



- *28 Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.
Matthew 11:28*
- *37 On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink
John 7:37*
- *14 But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven."
Matthew 19:14*
- *All whom My Father gives (entrusts) to Me will come to Me; and the one who comes to Me I will most certainly not cast out [I will never, no never, reject one of them who comes to Me].
John 6:37 AMP*

Welcoming Love...

- Jesus sees you and 'gets' you completely.
- He wants you to come to Him as you are.
- Jesus' heart is always warm towards us and wants the best for us.
- He wants to unburden your soul of the weights you carry.
- Jesus understands all our faults and issues but still loves us.
- You and I can come into His presence at any time to talk with Him.





Welcoming...

- The world is a dark place full of sin, fallen humanity and evil.
- In the midst of this darkness is the Light of God's Love which is constant and unwavering
- Every time we come to Jesus, He cleans us inside and out:
- *⁷But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.*
- *⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.*
- *⁹If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness*
1 John 1:7-9

Yet Sinners...

- *But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."*
Romans 5:8
- Jesus didn't wait for us to become perfect before sacrificing Himself for us.
- His love is unconditional, reaching out to us even in our brokenness and sinfulness.
- This attitude is a prevailing mood of God in your life even when you fail and fall.
- You can sense this as you come into His presence with your worship, or your brokenness.





The Mindset of Love...

- *"And walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."*
Ephesians 5:2
- Jesus gives Himself for us and He still has that attitude!
- God will go all out to save you, protect you and help you.
- This is the mindset of our Lord. He is sacrificial in His relationship with us.
- This mindset did not stop at the Cross but continues even to today – "Jesus the same yesterday, today and forever.."
- Jesus' love was not just words; it was demonstrated through His actions, culminating in His ultimate sacrifice on the cross for our salvation.



A New Law...

- *"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.*
- *By this everyone will know that you are my disciples if you love one another."*
Jn 13:34
- In the Old Testament, Israel as a nation were given commandments which we popularly call the Ten Commandments.
- Jesus is basically saying that if there was any 'LAW' to abide by in the New Covenant era; it was to LOVE one another!!

Transformed...

- When you walk with the LORD, you will be transformed by His attitude to things.
- His primary language of choice is that of great depth of love and understanding of others.
- He will make you love people beyond their mistakes and issues.
- He will open your eyes to a new way of viewing and discerning people.



Transformed...

- ³⁸ *“You have heard that it was said, ‘AN EYE FOR AN EYE, AND A TOOTH FOR A TOOTH [punishment that fits the offense].’*
- ³⁹ *But I say to you, do not resist an evil person [who insults you or violates your rights]; but whoever slaps you on the right cheek, turn the other toward him also*
- *[simply ignore insignificant insults or trivial losses and do not bother to retaliate—maintain your dignity, your self-respect, your poise].*
- ⁴⁰ *If anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, let him have your coat also [for the Lord repays the offender].* ⁴¹ *And whoever forces you to go one mile, go with him two.*
Matthew 5



Transformed...

- *38-42 “Here’s another old saying that deserves a second look: ‘Eye for eye, tooth for tooth.’*
- *Is that going to get us anywhere? Here’s what I propose: ‘Don’t hit back at all.’*
- *If someone strikes you, stand there and take it. If someone drags you into court and sues for the shirt off your back, gift-wrap your best coat and make a present of it.*
- *And if someone takes unfair advantage of you, use the occasion to practice the servant life. No more tit-for-tat stuff. Live generously.*
Matthew 5 - The MESSAGE



Love Enemies...

- *43-47 “You’re familiar with the old written law, ‘Love your friend,’ and its unwritten companion, ‘Hate your enemy.’*
- *I’m challenging that. I’m telling you to love your enemies. Let them bring out the best in you, not the worst.*
- *When someone gives you a hard time, respond with the supple moves of prayer, for then you are working out of your true selves, your God-created selves.*
- *This is what God does. He gives his best—the sun to warm and the rain to nourish—to everyone, regardless: the good and bad, the nice and nasty.*
Matthew 5 – The Message



Grow Up!!

- *If all you do is love the lovable, do you expect a bonus? Anybody can do that.*
- *If you simply say hello to those who greet you, do you expect a medal? Any run-of-the-mill sinner does that.*
- *⁴⁸ “In a word, what I’m saying is, Grow up.*
- *You’re kingdom subjects. Now live like it. Live out your God-created identity.*
- *Live generously and graciously toward others, the way God lives toward you.”*
Matthew 5: The MESSAGE.



**LOVE LIKE
JESUS**

HOMEWORK...

- Meditate on the Sermon on the Mount...
- Matthew Chapter 5-7

