

Lighthouse Bible Church

August 10th, 2014

John 16: 25 – 33 *Scripture Reading: Romans 8: 31 - 39*

‘Because you have loved Me’

Stand – Read – Pray

As we draw Chapter 16 to a conclusion, we have seen that Jesus has been instructing His disciples about some very important things just hours before He is to be betrayed, arrested and killed by crucifixion.

He told them that he was leaving to go back to the Father and after He leaves, the religious unbelieving world would come against them and put them out of the synagogues and kill them thinking they are doing service to God.

That created sorrow in the hearts of the disciples so Jesus tells them that He will not leave them alone but that He will send the Holy Spirit of truth and use them to pen what the Holy Spirit declares to them about Jesus and for the glory of Jesus.

Jesus tells His disciples that He will come to them again but it will be in the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit in their lives and after the world rejoices in My death and you have sorrowed your sorrow will be turned to joy that no one can take away.

And now, Jesus is about to give His final words of instruction to His disciples. He will not speak directly to them again except for only one time, recorded in John, before His death, and that's to Peter to tell him to put his sword away. All of Chapter 17 will be Jesus talking with His Father in an incredible prayer that includes you and me as well, as we shall see. But for now let's look at verse 25

Verse 25: these things I have spoken to you in figurative language; but the time is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figurative language, but I will tell you plainly about the Father.

Jesus sometimes spoke in **figurative language** and in parables to both believers and unbelievers alike. When Jesus spoke a parable or in figurative language to a crowd of people, He would sometimes explain it privately to His disciples. He does that in **Matthew 15: 10 – 20** when the disciples say **explain this parable to us** and it was a parable about the Pharisees not being a plant planted by the Father and that they were blind leaders of the blind.

In **Matthew 13: 3 – 23** after Jesus told them of the parable of the sower, He sent the crowds away and in **Verse 36** it says **His disciples came to Him saying ‘explain to us the parable of the tares of the field’** and He explained it to them alone.

Jesus told His disciples in **Matthew 13: 11 – 13** because **it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given...therefore I speak to them in parables because seeing they do not see and hearing they do not hear nor do they understand...which He goes on to say fulfills a prophecy in Isaiah 6: 9 – 10.**

Well, Jesus doesn't used the normal word for 'parable' here which is *paraballas*, for the word **figurative language**. He uses another word *para-oh-me-ah* which means a more veiled, hidden, difficult to understand saying.

It would be like what Jesus said back in **John 2: 19** when He said **destroy this temple and in 3 days I will raise it up**. Now they thought He was talking about (what) the physical temple where they worshipped but He was talking about His body and the resurrection.

The disciples didn't even get it then but listen to what that Verse goes on to say in **Verses 20 – 21** then the Jews said it has taken 46 years to build this temple and will You raise it up in 3 days? But He was speaking of the temple of His body. Therefore when He had risen from the dead His disciples remembered that He had said this to them and they believed the Scriptures and the word which Jesus had said. They understood because the Holy Spirit guided them into the truth.

Jesus talked about being the light of the world, the water of life, the door to the sheep fold. Those were all veiled sayings that had profound meaning when they were understood.

Here Jesus tells His disciples **I have spoken these things to you in figurative language 'about the Father'** the end of Verse 25 says. He had talked with them about coming from the Father, doing the Father's will and going back to the Father and He had been talking to them in somewhat of a figurative, veiled kind of way that they didn't quite understand.

He also told them that when the Holy Spirit comes, He would guide them into all truth and it would become crystal clear to them just like Jesus saying about rebuilding the temple in 3 days. There would be no more veiled statements , no more parables, the Holy Spirit will speak exactly what He hears from Jesus and will declare it to the disciples who would declare it to us in the New Testament.

That is why Jesus says in Verse 25 **the time is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figurative language about the Father.** That 'coming time' is when the Holy Spirit comes and guides them into all truth about the relationship between the Father and the Son.

Jesus said in **Matthew 11: 27 – 28** all things have been delivered to Me by My Father and no one knows the Son except the Father nor does anyone know the Father except the Son AND the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.

And the Father will be revealed, things will be made perfectly clear, when the Holy Spirit comes. Then Jesus says in Verse 26

Verse 26: in that day you will ask in My name and I do not say to you that I shall pray the Father for you...

First of all Jesus says **in that day**. That is the same day He talked about in Verse 23, the day of Pentecost, the day the Holy Spirit will live within them. In that day they will have direct access to the Father as they pray to the Father consistent with the will of the Son, the will of Jesus, **in His name**.

Jesus says '**and I do not say to you that I shall pray the Father for you**'. He says 'you can go straight to Him on your own because if you are asking in My name, in My will, as if I were asking Myself, and because I dwell in you by the Holy Spirit, and because the Father loves Me, He will hear you.

When we come to the presence of the Father in prayer as a born again believer with the Spirit of Christ indwelling us, we are received by the Father just as He would receive His own Son, Jesus. That is a pretty incredible thought that we have total and complete access to God the Father because we are identified with His Son.

Ephesians 2: 18 says for through Him, Jesus, we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. Hebrews 4: 14 – 16 says that because of Jesus we can draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Later in Hebrews 10: 19 – 22 it says in part therefore, we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus Christ.

Jesus says ‘in that day, you can go immediately to the presence of the Father in My name’. Just tell Him I sent you. You don’t need priests, or saints or Mary or angels, just go to Him in My name. And by the way, if you don’t know what to pray or how to pray in a certain situation, Jesus will be there to help you. Isn’t that what **Romans 8: 26 – 27** says. **He, the Spirit of Christ, helps in our weaknesses for we do not always know what we should pray so the Spirit intercedes for us ... according to the will of God.**

Jesus not only helps us in those times when we do not know how to pray as we ought to, but He helps us in those times when we sin and do those things we ought not to. **1st John 2: 1** says **my little children, these things I write to you so that you may not sin, and if anyone does sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.** Jesus is the one who pleads our case to the Father because His blood has cleansed us from all the penalty of our sin. You know why God and Jesus do that? Look at Verse 27 of John 16.

Verses 27 - 28: for the Father Himself loves you because you have loved Me and have believed that I came forth from God. I came forth from the Father and have come into the world. Again, I leave the world and go to the Father.

Because the **Father loves** us; and why does He love us? Because we love His Son Jesus and believe that He **came forth from God.** Listen, when we love Jesus, God loves us; and it is a unique personal kind of love that allows us to experience the blessings of answered prayer, amongst many other kinds of blessings.

And, by the way, how do we best show that we love Jesus? Through our obedience to Him, right? **John 14: 15, 21: if you love Me (what) keep My commandments...He who has My commandments and keeps them it is he who loves Me and He who loves Me will be loved by My Father.**

We have value and worth in God's sight because He loves us in a very personal intimate way that He does not love the world. Do you realize that God loves everyone? Isn't that what **John 3: 16** says? **For God so loved the world.** And He uses the world 'agape' there; it is a divine, all encompassing love.

In Verse 27 it says the Father Himself **loves** you. He uses a different word; it is the word *phileo*. It is a deep affection, family caring kind of love. It is one thing to be loved by God generally, like in John 3: 16, but it is something else to be loved like a father does his son because we love His Son Jesus. And by the way, in the original Greek construction of the sentence; it is a continual love for us. And that love that He loves us with as born again believers and in love with His Son Christians, is even in spite of us. In spite of how unfaithful, sinful, critical, hurtful, lustful, angry we are at times or how bad a man or husband or father or how bad a woman or mother or wife you are or child you are, He still loves us. That is why we can always go to Him and cry out 'Abba, Father' with complete trust and confidence and not in fear.

And don't you think that if He loves us that way when He knows all of our faults and sins, that we should love one another as well even though we may or may not know certain things about people.

Let me just stop and say something to you who may be here and have never loved Jesus and experienced the love of God. You have great value and worth in the sight of God no matter how you value yourself or how others value you. He put enough worth on you that He sent His own Son to die for you. That is what **Romans 5: 8** says **God demonstrated His love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us.** And when you put your faith and trust in Jesus and love Jesus then you experience the intimate love of God that the world does not know and can not have.

This kind of love you can't find on your own, it has to be revealed to you by God through His Son and He demonstrated it to you in giving His Son in your place.

Why else does God love us? Not only because we love His Son Jesus but because, as the end of Verse 27 and the beginning of Verse 28 says, **we believe that Jesus came from God.** We believe that He is God in human form. That is what we saw back in **John 1: 1, 14 in the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God ... the word became flesh and dwelt among us** and many other places as well.

And as we have said before, you cannot be saved, you cannot be born again without believing in that most important doctrine of the deity of Jesus Christ. And as we have also seen before, many other religions believe Jesus to be a God, a good teacher, a moral man, a prophet but not the God of the Bible. And to put your faith in that kind of a Jesus is not saving faith.

And why did Jesus **come forth from God? To come into the world Verse 28** says, to redeem mankind from the penalty of their sin. We not only love Jesus and believe in Jesus but we believe in His finished work on the cross for the atonement of our sins. **2nd Corinthians 5: 21 says He who knew no sin became sin for us..** How did He do that? **Philippians 2: 7 – 8 says that He abandoned His equality with God and **took on the form of a man and humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death on a cross.****

It is never enough to just believe in Jesus because the **demons believe, James 2: 19** says. It is taking that belief to the point of commitment and faith in the finished work of Christ on the cross, repenting of your sin and entering into a love relationship with Him and the salvation He offers. Then Jesus says at the end of Verse 28 **Again I leave the world and go to the Father.**

His redemptive work is done and so He is going back to the Father. And if you think about it, you have the simple gospel message in Verse 28. Jesus, God the Son coming forth from the Father in heaven, coming to this earth and completing His redemptive work through His death, burial, resurrection and ascension and then returning to the Father in heaven.

Verses 29 – 30: His disciples said to Him ‘see, now You are speaking plainly and using no figure of speech. Now we are sure that You know all things and have no need that anyone should question You. by this we believe that You came forth from God.

The disciples were finally beginning to get what Jesus was saying. They were beginning to understand His redemptive plan and the reason He came from the Father, and the reason He came into the world and the reason and the means in which He would leave and go back to the Father. And they would really get it once Jesus comes to dwell in them in the person of the Holy Spirit, but for now, it is a breakthrough for them on who Jesus is and why He came into the world. Something a lot of people still miss today.

They said **they are sure He knows all things and that no one needs to question You and that He came from God.** They believe in His omniscience, His all knowing and they believe in His deity, as coming from God. Although, until the Holy Spirit comes, they certainly don't act like what they say they believe. In just a few hours they are going to run scared when Jesus is taken. Look at Verses 31 – 32.

Sometime we act the same way, don't we? We say we believe and yet sometimes we doubt God in a given situation, we become fearful or our faith waivers for some reason. We are kind of like the man in **Mark 9: 24** who said to Jesus **Lord I believe, help my unbelief.** But like the disciples, Jesus takes us right where we are, He accepts us right where we are at and increases our faith.

Verses 31 – 32: Jesus answered them, do you now believe? Indeed the hour is coming, yes, has now come, that you will be scattered, each to his own, and will leave Me alone. And yet I am not alone because the Father is with Me.

Jesus says 'what you say you believe about Me will be put to the test soon enough and it is a test that you will not pass'. The disciples said earlier that they would die with and for Jesus because Peter said that. And as we all know, he didn't, He denied Jesus 3 times.

They believe in Jesus and His deity and power and love but they overestimate themselves in their pride. They failed to see the weakness of their faith and their new found understanding of who Jesus is. *I like that to when I came out of the Police Academy thinking I knew everything.*

I like what one writer said 'the secret of spiritual strength is SELF DISTRUST and humility'. *MacArthur*. Their faith would be tested and they failed and **scattered** from Jesus because it was written that they would. Jesus told them in **Matthew 26: 31** where He was quoting **Zechariah 1: 7, I will strike the Shepherd and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.** And they did, didn't they? They **left Him alone.**

But Jesus says **I am not alone because the Father is with Me.** God the Father was ever present with God the Son. The only time He was not was when Jesus was on the cross as a guilt offering for the sin of the world and Jesus cried out 'My God, My God, why have you (what) forsaken Me?'

You know that we are not alone either? Jesus said I will never leave you or forsake you and I will be with you always, even to the end of the age. We are never alone, even when we feel abandoned by everyone, He is always there. Then Jesus ends with Verse 33.

Verse 33: these things I have spoken to you that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.

Jesus concludes this chapter with words of encouragement, promise and hope for the disciples and for us. He says **in the world you may have tribulation**, the **world** may kick you out of the synagogue, they may kill you thinking they are doing God service but **be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.**

And in knowing Me and loving Me and My Father loving you, you can have **peace** no matter what kind of **tribulation the world** will bring against you. You do not have to fear anything or anyone. The world and Satan came against Christ at the cross and He defeated him who had the power of death because He is the resurrection and the life and because He lives, we can live also and we can never be separated from that love.

Remember what **Romans 8: 37 – 39** in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life nor ... anything will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

We have overcome the world and have peace with God when we have been born of God and justified by faith and believe in Christ as the Son of God and by faith trust in Him **1st John 5: 4 – 5** and **Romans 5: 1** says.

What about you? Are you loved by the Father because you love His Son, Jesus and believe that He is God in human form and He came to this earth to redeem you from your sin. Do you experience true and full joy and peace because of the hope that you have in Christ Jesus, even in the most difficult tribulations the world or Satan may bring against you? If not, you need to trust Jesus today.

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Introduction and Review:

Verse 25:

Matthew 15: 10 – 20, 13: 3 – 23, 36
Isaiah 6: 9 – 10, John 2: 19 – 21
Matthew 11: 27 – 28

Verse 26:

Ephesians 2: 18, Hebrews 4: 14 – 16
Hebrews 10: 19 – 22, Romans 8: 26 – 27
1st John 2: 1

Verses 27 – 28:

John 14: 15, 21, John 3: 16, Romans 5: 8
John 1: 1, 14, 2nd Corinthians 5: 21
Philippians 2: 7 – 8, James 2: 19

Verses 29 – 30:

Mark 9: 24

Verses 31 – 32:

Matthew 26: 31, Zechariah 1: 7

Verse 33:

Romans 8: 37 – 39, 1st John 5: 4 – 5
Romans 5: 1

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