

Continue . . .

Understanding the love that God has for you is the # 1 priority in your life because without it, you can't CONTINUE!

John 15:9 *As the Father hath loved me, even so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.*

Jesus had to understand how much the Father loved Him before he could continue to spread that same love.

2Peter 1:17 *For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*

Jesus was trained (as the Father has loved me) to assume the work of the Father (love others).

John 5:19 *Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise. (In the same way) **20** For the Father loveth the Son, and sheweth him all things that himself doeth: and he will shew him greater works than these, that ye may marvel.*

The Father gave the son a revelation of the love that he had for him, and this equipped the son to love others in the correct manner.

Every response to the circumstances that he faced and every interaction with the people that He came in contact with was a direct reflection of the love that held his relationship with His Father together. Jesus only did what the Father spoke to Him; He loved! He duplicated His Fathers works!

How did Jesus Approach People?

God equipped Jesus with Holy Spirit so that he could directly communicate the things of the kingdom with his Son.

Acts 10:38 *How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.*

Luke 4:18 *The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised*

Jesus was moved with the Father's compassion, and recognized people's need for deliverance. He saw people with the same eyes that the Father saw people with.

Matthew 9:35-36 *And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted and were scattered abroad, all sheep having no shepherd.*

People wanted what Jesus had- they were drawn to the love of God that flowed through him.

Multitudes followed him.

Matthew 12:15-*But when Jesus knew he withdrew himself from thence: and great multitudes followed him, and he healed them all.*

Sinners were attracted to him.

Matthew 9:10-12-*And it came pass, as Jesus sat at meat in the house, behold, many publicans and sinners came and sat down with him and his disciples. And when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto*

his disciples, Why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners? But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician but they that are sick. But go ye and learn what that meant, I will have mercy: and not sacrifice, for I am not come to call the righteous, but the sinner to repentance.

Jesus was sent to demonstrate the Father's love to the people.

John 3:16-17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

Zacchaeus

Luke 19:2-10 Jesus invited himself to the home of a rich man named Zacchaeus who was chief among the tax collectors. People did not ordinarily talk to people who were tax collectors, they avoided them. Jesus received Zacchaeus joyfully. The Pharisees were appalled that Jesus would talk to a sinner. Zacchaeus' whole life changed simply because he got a revelation of how much the Father loved him.

Luke 19:8 *And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor and if I have taken anything from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold.*

Woman caught in adultery

John 8:3-11- The scribes brought a woman to Jesus who had been caught in the act of adultery. According to the Old Covenant, anyone caught in such an act should be stoned to death. The scribes knew this, but in an attempt to trip up Jesus, they asked him what he would do, and this is how Jesus responded.

John 8:7..*He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.*

This convicted their consciousness and no one stayed to stone her, because none of them were without sin. When Jesus saw this, he said, *Woman, where are those thine accusers? Hath no man condemned thee?*

John 8:11 *she said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go and sin no more.*

Jesus came to bring deliverance to people that had needs. He approached them with compassion because he loved people. He saw the God given value in every man. He honored them above himself.

Luke 22:26-27 *And he said unto them, The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and they that exercise authority upon them are called benefactors. But ye shall not be so: but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve. For whether is greater, he that sitteth at meat or he that serveth: Is not he that sitteth at meat: but I am among you as he that serveth.*

Jesus said, my kingdom, God's kingdom, does not work the way other kingdoms work. We value the people in the kingdom more than we value ourselves. Who is greater? The one who is being served, or the one serving.

Typically we would say, of course, it is the one being served. And it is about this time that we ask the question to the audiences that we are speaking to, "Who is greater, the one serving or the one being served?" Now something happens every time we ask that question, because the people we ask know that Jesus says he himself is sitting in the servants position. The response is always, the one serving. But, that is a learned answer that tradition has taught us. Jesus says the greatest one, the one seated in the position of honor is you! I came to serve you because you I am doing the work of my father and we love you as we love ourselves; in fact we honor you above ourselves!

Children of the highest are in love with people, and not just lovable people!

Luke 6:35-36 *But love 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. Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful. Judge not and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven. Give, and it shall be given unto you: good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measure to you again.*

When we approach people with the love that Jesus approached people with [that he approaches us with] that love is reciprocated. People who are approached in love respond to that love just like people responded to the love that Jesus approached them with. It does not matter who the people are, what they believe, or where they come from. It does not matter how rich or poor they are. Everyone is looking for God and if they see Him manifest himself through us, they will follow the God in us just like they followed the God that they saw in Jesus.

The Samaritan Woman

John 4:7-29 Jesus met a woman from Samaria at a well. He asked her to draw some water for him. Right away she was impressed because ordinarily Jews thought it beneath themselves to talk to Samaritans. Jesus said he would give her living water and told her to go call her husband. She answered him and told him that she had no husband. Jesus said, You are right, you have had five husbands and the one you are living with now is not your husband. Now usually when we are confronted with something so revealing as that, we tend to end the conversation and go hide somewhere. Not this woman! She went running into town screaming, Come and see the man who told me everything I ever did! You see, somehow Jesus

communicated something different to her than it appears because she obviously did not feel threatened. She knew that he knew that she had some serious issues, and yet he still reached out to her in love.

All Things things to all men

Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit before he could do the Father's work. He only did what the Spirit inspired him to do. Jesus said that he has given us that same Spirit for the same purpose that the Spirit was given to him. The Holy Spirit is our God connection that teaches us what to say and what do do.

John 16:13-15 *Howbeit, when he, the Spirit of truth is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you. All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall show it unto you.*

We have the same power that Jesus had and we can either hold people captive to their sins, or we can release them from its captivity.

John 20:21-23 *Then Jesus said unto them, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. And when he had said this, he breathed on them and saith unto them, receive ye the Holy Ghost. Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained.*

The message of God's love is for everyone. He says, I have poured out my Spirit on all flesh. **Acts 2:17**

God told Peter not to call any man common or unclean.

Acts 10:28 *And he said unto them, Ye know how that it is an unlawful thing for a man that is a Jew to keep company, or come unto one of another nation; but God hath shewed me that I should not call any*

*man common or unclean. Therefore came I unto you without gainsaying (**hesitation, doubt, reluctance**), as soon as I was sent for: I ask therefore for what intent ye have sent for me?*

Romans 12:9-16 let love be without dissimulation [genuine, without questioning whether they deserve it or not.] People can tell if our love is genuine. They can tell whether we really love them, or if we have a hidden agenda. Be kind; Put their needs ahead of your own. Rejoice with people, cry with them, pray with them. Bless them even if they don't seem to deserve it.

Treat everyone with the same respect and sense of value that you would want to be treated with. Take a real interest in them and the situations and things that they may be dealing with. Refuse to hold an "us and them" attitude: My way is better than your way. You are wrong and I am right.

1 Corinthians 9:20-22 And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law. To them that are without law, as without law, (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ,) that I might gain them that are without law. To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all *men*, that I might by all means save some.

You can minister the love of God to anyone! Paul says, I desire to be everything I need to be in order to display the love of God to everyone.

Romans 14:1 Receive him that is weak in faith but not to doubtful disputations (without passing judgement.)

Romans 4:2-5 -God receives him, and is able to make him stand. Everyone has to be fully persuaded in his own mind and God has to do the persuading.

We are like Christ. We are the visible expression of God on this earth. We initiate God encounters with people that cause them to be drawn to the Father's love, and the Holy Spirit does the rest!

Col 1:25 *Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God;*

Col 1:27 *To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:*

We are simply here to continue the work of our Father. Jesus loves us with the exact same love that the Father loves him with, and we love others with that same love.

John 15:9 *As my Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue in my love.*

Why do you suppose that so many people have such a hard time believing that God loves them? I would dare to say that it is because people who don't know how much God loves them, are trying to tell others how much God loves them. You can't pass on what you don't have.