

“We will make Our abode with him.”

John 14:21-24

21 "He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him." 22 Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, "Lord, what then has happened that You are going to disclose Yourself to us and not to the world?" 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 abode with him. 24 "He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father's who sent Me.

Last Sunday, we took a wider view of this passage in the context of all of John 13-17. We looked at seven passages in succession where Jesus spoke about love and obedience.

Jesus spoke about a unique kind of love that exists between Jesus and His Father and His disciples.

/This love is an ongoing, deepening, intimate, unselfish bond among members of the family.\

Jesus taught His disciples about this love in a masterful way. He revealed more aspects of it each time He returned to this subject.

He anchored His teaching in two essential principles.

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1. The disciples were to love one another as Jesus had loved them.
2. They loved Jesus by keeping His word. \

He builds His castle of mutual love on these two anchors.

/This morning, we will see how He brings His Father into this mutual love.\

John 14:21 "He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him."

/His disciples have His commandments and have kept them. \

John 17:6-8

6 "I have manifested Your name to the men whom You gave Me out of the world; they were Yours and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. 7 "Now they have come to know that everything You have given Me is from You; 8 for the words which You gave Me I have given to them; and they received them and truly understood that I came forth from You, and they believed that You sent Me.

/In John 17, Jesus expands this circle to include all who would believe in the Father and the Son on account of the testimony of His disciples.\

John 17:20-21

20 "I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; 21 that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.

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/The one who loves Jesus is the believer. \

John 16:27

27 for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me and have believed that I came forth from the Father.

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The love that the Father has for the Son knows no bounds. He automatically loves anyone who loves His Son.

/So Jesus will disclose Himself to everyone who believes in Him.\

But what does He mean by “disclose Myself”?

/The Greek word means to show, make manifest, or appear before.\

It could refer to several different appearances, such as His post-resurrection appearances or His second coming. /But in this case verse 23 will define it.\

John 14:22 Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, "Lord, what then has happened that You are going to disclose Yourself to us and not to the world?"

Now when Jesus speaks about disclosing Himself, it confuses at least one of His disciples – Judas (not Iscariot)]. This Judas is also mentioned in Luke and Acts.

Now it's significant that Judas would conclude here that Jesus was not going to disclose Himself to the world.

*/He understood that He who has My commandments and keeps them is a synonym for a believer – and only a believer. *

John 5:38

38 "You do not have His word abiding in you, for you do not believe Him whom He sent.

/No unbeliever has Jesus' commandments or keeps them. Therefore, Jesus is not going to disclose Himself to unbelievers.\

Yet the world is made up of unbelievers, and nothing but unbelievers. Therefore, Jesus is not going to disclose Himself to the world.

Why was Judas (not Iscariot) surprised by this?

/Judas was thinking about the Messianic king who will appear in glory to the entire world. \

Jesus had spoken of this Himself:

Matt 24:30

30 "And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory.

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/But as we have seen, that is not the disclosure that Jesus was talking about.\

Next, Jesus gives His answer to the question Judas asked.

John 14:23 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 abode with him. 24 "He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father's who sent Me.

Once again, Jesus does not appear to give a straightforward answer to the question.

For instance, you might expect an answer such as “because I have been rejected as the Messiah by the Jewish nation”, or “when I said I would come to take you with Me to heaven, don’t think that will happen any time soon”.

But He doesn’t give that kind of answer at all.

/He begins by essentially restating what He just said in verse 21. \

"If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him,
And these are the people to whom Jesus will disclose Himself.

But now He has something new to add. One can surmise that this new thing will help answer the question that Judas just asked. Let's see if that is the case.

and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him.

So what is He saying?

/He is saying the way He will disclose Himself to them is by coming to him - with His Father – and by making their abode with him\.

And that makes sense, since He and His Father are one. HE is in His Father and His Father is in Him, after all.

This raises another question however:

/What does He mean by “make our abode with them”?\

Well, um, do you want the short answer or the long answer?

Short answer – I figured! Good because that is what I am prepared to give you this morning!

/Quite simply, He is saying that they – He and His Father – are going to come down and make their home with them.\

Now right away we know that this coming is unique. It’s different from His appearances after His resurrection.

/It’s different from His appearance at the end of the age.\ Why?

Because then He is coming as the Glorified Son of Man. God in resurrected flesh.

/Every eye will see Him. But no one has seen the Father.\

John 4:24

24 "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

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/So the Father won't be coming with the Son at that time – the Second Coming.\

Now the disciples were no doubt familiar with the concept of God dwelling with His people.

/In the Old Testament, the Lord dwelt with men in His sanctuary.\

Ex 25:8

8 "Let them construct a sanctuary for Me, that I may dwell among them.

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This was the tabernacle and later on the Temple.

But the house He is talking about here is not the Temple in Jerusalem.

/ It's a spiritual home for the Father, the Son, and the children that the Father has given the Son. \

Now you can start to appreciate why there is a long answer concerning this abode!

But let's not forget about the question that Judas asked Jesus.

/There were two parts: 1. how is it that you are going to disclose yourself to us?

3. And how is it that you are not going to disclose yourself to the world?\

Well now that we understand what kind of disclosure this is – living in that spiritual home – the answer to this second question is easier to grasp.

/Jesus answers this second question in verse 24.\

John 14:24 "He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father's who sent Me.

/“He who does not love Me does not keep My words”. This is a synonym for an unbeliever. \

John 8:37

37 "I know that you are Abraham's descendants; yet you seek to kill Me, because My word has no place in you.

Not only are they not loving Him and not keeping His words. /They are not loving the Father or keeping the Father's words either.\

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John 8:47

47 "He who is of God hears the words of God; for this reason you do not hear them, because you are not of God."

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/The Father and the Son will never open their spiritual home to an unbeliever.\ This kind of disclosure is not possible for them.

The world hates the Son, hates the Father, and does not keep their word. They reject the words Jesus spoke about who He is. And they reject His instruction to believe in Him.

/The only hope for them is the convicting ministry of the Holy Spirit.\ We will see what that's all about when we reach chapter 16.