

“He who loves Me will be loved by My Father

*John 14:18-24*

*18 "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. 19 "After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you will see Me; because I live, you will live also. 20 "In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. 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.*

/John 13-17 is a supreme work of art. \ Like any great artwork, it is majestic no matter how you look at it. You can take in the whole picture at once. Or you can examine the finest brushwork.

Recently, we have been examining some of the brushwork so to speak. What I mean is that we have been studying a single verse from many angles to get a better understanding of what it means.

/Today, we will step back and take in a wide sweep of this work of art.\  
There is a practical reason for this. It's occasioned by the passage that comes next in our study.

*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."*

/If one were to try to make sense of this in isolation, it would be quite difficult. You might come to a wrong conclusion. \

In fact, the only way to really understand this statement is to see it as it contributes to the overall sweep of the picture that our Lord is painting, as it were.

What do I mean by that?

Let me show you. /The first part of verse 21 is familiar to us who have been following the great teaching of our Lord in the Upper Room.\

*He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me;*

/But it adds some new things to what Jesus said earlier on this subject. \

*he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him."*

Jesus has a great message to share with them, and the way He goes about it is similar to how an artist would paint a picture,

He makes a statement about it. Then He moves to other subjects. And then He returns to this earlier subject. Only now He, as it were, adds some new brushstrokes.

This is His method. He develops His teaching as He proceeds.

Why would He do it this way?

For one thing, it comports with how we typically learn things. A little at a time. Building on what we've already learned.

This is maddening for “great” theologians who would rather Jesus had just given a chapter on love and move on with it!

Let me show you how Jesus developed this teaching on love and obedience. I am going to read eight passages in progression. I may or may not comment on them.

Let me just say at the outset that /love here is an ongoing, deepening, intimate relationship among members of the family.\

*John 13:34-35*

*34 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."*

/This is a new kind of love for them: it is the same love with which Jesus has loved His disciples.\

*John 14:15*

*15 "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.*

Jesus adds to the picture. / He tells His disciples what it means to love Him. \ Keep His commandments. And He's already spoken of His new commandment – to love one another as He has loved us.

*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."*

Now Jesus adds something else to the picture:/ He who loves Jesus will be loved by His Father.\ Not only that, but/ Jesus will love him and will disclose Himself to him.\

I note in passing that Jesus has already said that He has loved His disciples. This love is a development, a deepening.

*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.*

/Now Jesus expands out from His commandments to His word, a more all-encompassing thing.\

/On top of that, He says that both He and His Father will come to this person and make their abode with him. What a remarkable thing! \

*John 15:10*

*10 "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.*

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/Now Jesus introduces the topic of abiding. This speaks of someone remaining, making one's home somewhere\ . And our abiding in His love is just like His abiding in His Father's love. /This is an ongoing, life-enhancing relationship. \

*John 15:12-14*

*12 "This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you.  
13 "Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. 14  
"You are My friends if you do what I command you.*

Jesus ends up where He began. We are to love each other just as He has loved us. /Only now, He describes the depths of that love.\ It's the greatest love of all. Laying down one's life for one's friends. /When we love like this, He calls us His friends.\

There are some major themes in chapters 13-17 that Jesus returns to again and again. Love and obedience – this is one of them.

/He completes His masterpiece with chapter 17. \

Now we usually proceed verse by verse, chapter by chapter and there's a lot to be said for that.

But when you are dealing with a work of art, it's very beneficial to see the final masterpiece occasionally, like the picture on the box of a puzzle.

By doing that, we can spot what's most important for us to master in chapters 13-17. Or in other words what themes rise to the top.

/Two of those great themes in chapters 13-17 are LOVE and UNITY.\

*John 17:20-26*

*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.*



*22 "The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; 23 I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me. 24 "Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.*

*25 "O righteous Father, although the world has not known You, yet I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me; 26 and I have made Your name known to them, and will make it known, so that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them."*

LOVE and UNITY. These are family affairs. The Father. The Son. The children.

So as we end this morning, let's go back to our passage – John 14:21 with new eyes as it were

There are two things I need to point out to you that I'm certain will make things clear.

*John 14: 20 "In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. 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?"*

Always pay attention to the pronouns. /In this passage, pay attention to the words "you", "us", and "he"/"him".\

/“You” (spoken by Jesus) and “us” (spoke by a disciple) refer to the same group of people – believers. \ /“He” (also “anyone”) represents a broader group of people. All people, in fact. The human race is made up of believers and unbelievers.\

Verse 20 is spoken to believers only.

*John 14: 20 "In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.*

Notice the incredible unity that Jesus describes here.

OK, with that, take a look at verse 22.

*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?"*

In his question to Jesus, Judas makes a distinction between “us” and the world.

/“us” refers to the disciples, and by extension believers generally.\

/“the world” refers to unbelievers.\

Judas (not Iscariot) is certain that Jesus will disclose Himself to the disciples.

Now let’s examine verse 21.

*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."*

/“He” represents the whole human race. The human race consists of believers and unbelievers.\

How can we tell who’s who? Jesus makes the distinction here in verse 21.

He is about to describe the believer. How do we know? Because He says that He will disclose Himself to these people.

/So in verse 21, Jesus is describing His disciples – and by extension, all believers. And not a special advanced set of believers – all believers.\

*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."*

Believers have Jesus' commandments and keep them. Not perfectly, but as well as they can at any point in time. This is the indication that the love Jesus. The Father will love these people. Jesus will love this people. And Jesus will disclose Himself to them.

You know what? I think the Thursday Bible study would be a great format in which to work this out further. Hmmmm

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