

The Ultimate LOVE STORY

John 13-17

“The Final Hours Before the Cross”

Study Number Six – Love Meeting Needs – John 15:26-16:15

We’ve been looking at John 13 to 17 at a demonstration of agape love. We’ve come into the love theater. We want to see God’s love demonstrated and made clear. In the love gallery we can walk along and see all the pictures that are demonstrations of this kind of love.

The reason we’re studying these chapters, and the reason they’re relevant to us is that as a result of a relationship with the Lord Jesus, this is the kind of love that ought to be flowing out of our lives.

If the Holy Spirit is in control of our life, and He is producing His fruit, the qualities of this kind of love are going to be present in our life in increasing measure, as we grow in grace and knowledge of the Savior.

So as we consider the chemistry of agape love in this episode, our longing is that the Spirit of God would begin to produce these qualities in each life.

Now get a handle on where we are. Christ has finished His three years of public ministry. This is basically a time to say goodbye to the men He is closest to. They started out with twelve men in the Upper Room when the scene of this study opens. We've traveled through John 13, 14 and 15. We're now getting ready to launch into John 16.

And as we have traveled through these chapters, thus far we have seen five studies of "The Love Story."

In study number one we saw LOVE SERVING—Christ stooped to wash some dirty feet. He redefined leadership and redefined greatness by His willingness to minister to His men's needs. We're just 24 hours away, a little less now, from the Cross.

In study number two we saw LOVE HURT—Christ said, "The person who has been eating bread with Me lifted up his heel against Me." He's referring to Judas Iscariot.

And He said, "Hurry, it hurts. You've made your decision. You've had three years to respond and you aren't going to respond, so go on, it hurts. Hurry. Get out of here."

And when he left, then Christ began a dialogue with His men. There are now eleven men left, along with the Lord Jesus.

Study number three was LOVE COMMUNICATING. It's just like Christ hears from one guy, asks a question, then another

guy, and another guy, and another guy, and another guy. And He talks in most of John 14.

We said that conversation flows freely where love is present. And it really does.

Peter starts out and says, “Where are You going and why can’t I go with You?” And then Thomas says, “We don’t know the way. How do we know it?” And then Philip says, “If You’d show us the Father that would satisfy us.” And Judas Thaddeus Lebbaeus says, “When are You going to reveal Yourself to us and not to the rest of the world?”

Christ, having answered those questions in study number 3—**LOVE COMMUNICATES**—we then in study number four talk together about **LOVE’S UNION**.

They have left the Upper Room and they are heading down toward the Kedron Valley and Christ stops by a vineyard on the hillside. As He talks with them, He talks about the fact that out of the living union, fruit will be borne and the Father is glorified if we bear a lot of fruit. That’s basically the concept that is underscored in the fifth study.

In the fifth study we saw **LOVE IN CONFLICT**. We found that the world hates this kind of love. The world hates anything that doesn’t conform to it. And this kind of love just does not conform to the patterns of the world.

This is a different kind of love altogether. It even loves that

which hates it. And Christ says, at the end of the study, “They hated Me without a reason. They didn’t have any reason, they hated Me.” And it’s because this kind of love doesn’t conform to the world, and they hate it.

Now we’ve called this particular episode that we’re looking at in study number 6 of “The Love Story,” **LOVE MEETING NEEDS**.

We’re going to see Christ, as they’re coming close to the Garden of Gethsemane—they’ve left the vineyard, they’re still walking along, they’re still talking. These last verses before we get to Gethsemane are before He goes to prayer.

In our next study we’ll see **LOVE IN SEPARATION**, because He’s going to talk about the pain of parting from them.

And then we’re going to get on our knees in chapter 17 in that final study. John 17 is the Holy of holies. It is an incredible passage of scripture. That’ll be **LOVE ON ITS KNEES** in our last episode.

In this message we’re talking about **LOVE MEETING NEEDS**.

Solomon told Shulamith that he was going to be the kind of lover that would meet her needs. She had **TWO NEEDS**:

1. She had a need for **SECURITY**.

2. She needed to have her SELF-IMAGE built up.

Solomon spends all of the Book of Solomon meeting her security needs and praising her and building up her self-image.

It's a delight in love to creatively discover needs and to long to satisfy, fulfill and meet needs and to care for the one loved.

That's what Peter meant when he told the husbands to live with their wives in an understanding way. The more we're aware of needs, the more effective we can be in meeting them. And really, if we love someone, there is great joy in meeting needs.

That is the unexpected, the unanticipated. It's the fun of doing things because we know somebody really appreciates it but they don't think we know. And we surprise them by meeting and fulfilling those needs. That's an expression of love.

Christ is the epitome of that. We're close now. The rendezvous is just about ready to take place. They're coming close to the Garden of Gethsemane and Judas Iscariot has the henchmen heading His direction. And when those two forces meet, we are going to get on a merry-go-round that isn't going to stop before the Cross.

And so we're almost there. And you would think, with the tensions that are going on inside of Christ, which are obviously revealed when He gets to the Garden of

Gethsemane, that He would finally fold. Or He would finally say, “You know, guys bug off.”

Or there would be some sign of human weakness or selfishness in His love. But that is never there. Right up to the last minute He is meeting needs, and that’s what agape love delights to do. It is to meet the needs of those that are loved. That’s a joy.

And when agape love is present, it is our sheer delight to be spent in the lives of others. Paul said, “If I’m poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy and rejoice with you all.” (ref. Philippians 2:17)

It’s a privilege to be spent if agape love is present in our lives, in the service and the interest of others. Let’s watch it unfold. Let’s pick up at verse 26.

v. 26 “When the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who is proceeding from the Father, that One will bear witness concerning me.

“When the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who is proceeding from the Father, that One will bear witness concerning me.”

Right away He’s focusing again upon the fact that because He’s leaving, it’s going to be necessary for Him to send somebody else. And He uses the term “Helper,” and He also

uses the term “Spirit of truth.”

He is “proceeding from the Father” as a source. And He’s going to have a very special function as He comes.

“that One will bear witness concerning me.”

The Holy Spirit never calls attention to Himself. Now there’s a real problem with some of these guys who are going around saying, “We’re having a Holy Ghost revival. The Holy Ghost did this and the Holy Ghost did that and the Holy Ghost did the other thing.”

He has done His work in giving us a fresh glimpse of Jesus. And He’ll always bear witness concerning Christ.

Now if this were the only verse that said that we’d have to back off a tad. We will come back to this in a few minutes because He’s going to say, “He is going to glorify Me,” when we get down to verse 14 in chapter 16. So just hang onto it for a minute and realize the fact that there’s a lot of people running around today that have the members of the Godhead kind of mixed up. And they’re putting them in places They don’t belong.

The Holy Spirit will guide into truth and He’ll always magnify the Lord Jesus. He’ll “bear witness concerning me.”

v. 27 And you also are bearing witness, because you are with me from the beginning.

“And you also are bearing witness, because you are with me from the beginning.”

What do we have in common with the Holy Spirit?

We are witnesses to the Lord Jesus. It’s our responsibility to be a witness.

In the Sermon on the Mount we learned that we’re to **BE WITNESSING** not **DO WITNESSING**.

We are “salt.” We are “light” to the society around us, by the fact of the qualities of our life. And that’s the last word Christ said before He died. “You shall be witnesses unto Me. Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, the uttermost part of the earth.”

One poet said it this way:

Ye Christian heralds, go proclaim
Salvation through Emmanuel’s name.
To distant climes, the tidings bear
and plant the rose of Sharon there.

God shield you with a wall of fire
With flaming zeal, your hearts inspire,
Be it raging winds their fury cease.
And hush the tempests into peace.

And when our labors all are o’er

Then we shall meet to part no more.
Meet with the blood bought throug
To fall and crown our Jesus, Lord of all.
(source unknown)

One little piece that speaks of the tragedy of knowing people real close, but never really talking to them about their soul, was written in a little piece called “You Forgot My Soul.” A lot of times we really want to be a good witness for the Lord but we don’t want to be aggressive either. We don’t want to turn somebody off. We don’t want to make them feel uncomfortable or be put on the spot:

“You Forgot My Soul”

You lived next door to me for years,
We shared our dreams, our joys and tears
A friend to me you were indeed,
A friend who helped me when in need.

My faith in you was strong and sure.
We had such trust as should endure.
No spats between us ever rose,
Our friends were like and so, our foes.

What sadness, then my friend, to find,
That after all, you weren’t so kind.
The day my life on did end
I found you weren’t a faithful friend.

For all those years we spent on earth
You never talked of second birth.
You never spoke of my lost soul,
And of the Christ who'd make me whole!

I plead today from hell's cruel fire,
And tell you now my least desire—
You cannot do a thing for me—
No words today my bonds will free.

But do not err, my friend again—
Do all you can for the souls of men.
Plead with them now quite earnestly—
Lest they be cast in hell with me!
(source unknown)

We have a responsibility, Jesus says, which is common to the Spirit. And that is to be a witness.

Isn't it interesting that when the Spirit of God fills our life, we are a witness for Him?

Acts 4:31

When they prayed the place was shaken where they were assembled together and they were filled with the Spirit and they spake the word of God with boldness.

Acts 1:8

You shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost has come upon you and you shall be witnesses...

The Spirit of God comes to take over the instrument and He witnesses through us. He is the one who points people to Jesus through us by what they see.

What is the Spirit of God's function in our lives to make us witnesses?

In Saint Peter's of Cologne there's an interesting painting of Peter and his crucifixion. There are actually two pictures that are so similar you can't tell the difference. And the story behind it is this:

When Napoleon ransacked Cologne, he took the painting that the artist had made of the crucifixion of Peter. And the artist was so upset by the fact that the picture had been stolen, he painted another one.

Sometime later they retrieved the other picture. And they put them side-by-side and most men who are art critics say you can hardly tell the difference between the two, they are so similar. You really can't tell which one is the original.
(source unknown)

It is the Spirit's function, since the original has gone to heaven, is to paint the image of Jesus Christ upon the face of each of us. And we are to witness to a lost and dying world of Jesus Christ and of His love.

There is a statement in John 16:1 that is concerning.

16:v. 1 These things I have spoken to you, in order that you may not be made to stumble.

“These things I have spoken to you, in order that you may not be made to stumble.”

These things are said so we won't stumble. What does the Lord mean by the stumbling business? How does that fit in?

When things are rough in our life, these are the times when we're most vulnerable to stumble? For instance, we can get bitter and resentful over what we're going through and we might stumble and fall—as far as the will of God is concerned.

“The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord and he delighteth in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down for the Lord upholds him with His hand.” (Psalm 37:23 and 24)

Alright, it's possible to stumble. But what can we trip over?

Well, we can trip over TEMPTATION—of course we know that—and fall.

But what is being talked about here is tripping over TESTING. And we draw WRONG CONCLUSIONS about what God's allowing to go in our life right now.

Or we get ANGRY at God. Or we get FEARFUL of what He's doing and then He can't handle it because things are falling apart. Or we get INSECURE.

“Boy God, You botched that one up. I better help You.”

And so we become distrustful. Or we trip over the blocks of ADVERSITY. Or we fall into the pit of BEREAVEMENT and we become BITTER because of what God's allowed to go on in our life.

And we can't see a coherent consistency in all that and so we stumble. And instead of being the witness that He talked about in the previous verse, under the control of the Holy Spirit, we're grieving and quenching the Spirit and we aren't a witness—we stumble and we fall.

We're like the salt that's lost its savor. Like the light that has a bushel on it, and so our light ain't shining. And our salt isn't salty.

And so what He's saying here is, “I told you all these things about the world hating you and about the coming of the Holy Spirit so you wouldn't stumble and get angry at Me for the fact that I was going away. I'm making provision for you. And what they're going to do to you after I'm gone, I don't want you to stumble over that either. I want you just to keep on going and know that your steps are ordered by Me.”

Now verse 2 fits right into that. It's just a natural flow.

v. 2 They will make you outcasts from the synagogue; in fact an hour is coming that everyone who kills you to think that he is offering a sacred service to God.

“They will make you outcasts from the synagogue; in fact an hour is coming that everyone who kills you to think that he is offering a sacred service to God.”

He's saying, “Look, it's going to get rough. They're going to throw you out of the synagogue. And people are actually going to think they're doing sacred service for God when they kill you Christians.”

Now did that come true? Remember when Saul of Tarsus went after them and saw their lives taken? In Acts 8, “he was in hearty agreement with the putting to death of Stephen. And the persecution goes against the church, it says, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria except the apostles. And some devout men buried Stephen and they made loud laments over him. But Saul began ravaging the church, entering into house after house and dragging men and women. He would put them into prison. Therefore, those who had been scattered went about preaching the word.”

Acts 9:1, 2

Saul was still breathing threats of murder against the disciples and of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked for

letters from him to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the way, both men and women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

There's an old German proverb that says:

Not everyone who carries a knife is a cook.
(source unknown)

And that is true. And not everyone who wears the robe is a preacher either, and a part of the authentic body of Christ.

Now what is our attitude supposed to be when things get rough like that? When people don't like us? When we've slipped on the popularity pole? When people hate us?

Can we take that personally? Should we get down and depressed or should we be triumphant in the midst of it?

Well, the answer is in the scripture:

1 Peter 1:6 and 7

In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you've been distressed by various trials. That's the proof of your faith, being much more precious than gold, which is perishable...

1 Peter 4:12

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange things were happening to you.

1 Peter 5:10

After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace who's called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.

So our attitude is to be one of triumph. Knowing God's still in control, even though we're going through trauma. Just continue to trust Him. He's really at work. We just don't know all the things that He's doing.

v. 3 And these things they will do because they did not come to know the Father or me.

“And these things they will do because they did not come to know the Father or me.”

Why does the world hate us? Why do we face feelings from the religious establishment when this love is demonstrated?

What is the key phrase in that verse?

“they did not come to know the Father or me.”

The question is, do we know Jesus Christ personally?

That's the key to the whole thing! He divides humanity on those who know the Father and those who don't know the Father. There it is!

1 John 5:11, 12

This is the record, God hath given to us eternal life and this life is in His Son. He that has the Son hath life, and he that has not the Son of God, has not life.

He might be standing at our heart's door knocking, wanting to come in. Are we willing to let Him come in? Let Him be our Savior?

In the Sermon on the Mount, as Christ gets ready to close, He says, "Many will say unto me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, haven't we done...' And I will say, 'Depart from me,'"—WHAT?—"I never knew you." (ref. Matthew 7:22)

There's our word again.

Paul says in Philippians 3:10: "That I might know Him by personal experience, the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings..."

He's knocking at our door and He wants to come in and have fellowship with us. Do we know Jesus Christ in a personal way?

v. 4 But these things I have spoken to you, in order that

whenever their hour comes, you might recall them to mind, that I told you. And these things to you from the beginning I did not tell, because I was with you.

“But these things I have spoken to you, in order that whenever their hour comes, you might recall them to mind, that I told you. And these things to you from the beginning I did not tell, because I was with you.”

What does He mean by that? He means that while He was here, the leader always got the brunt of it. They shot at Him, they spewed out their venom in all of their questions and their hatred toward Him. And they’re getting ready to nail Him on the cross. Then who are they going to get? His followers are next.

So He says, “I didn’t say this to you ahead of time because I’ve been bearing the brunt of it. But now that I’m leaving, you guys are going to get it. I’ve told you this ahead of time so when it comes, in light of the persecution, you’re going to need to depend upon the Holy Spirit to give you strength and power to go through it. But I told you it was coming so at least you can be ready.”

v. 5 But now I am going away to Him who sent me; and not one of you is asking me, ‘Where are you going?’

“But now I am going away to Him who sent me; and not one of you is asking me, “Where are you going?””

“Here are eleven grown men who hold within their hands the sheer possibility of solving all My problems about My death and where I’m going and what heaven’s like, if one of had opened their mouths and said, ‘Where are You going?’”

The Lord would have entered into a great dialogue to tell us some more about heaven and how exciting it is and what’s going on there, so that when we check out we know where we’re checking in. We know half of the reason we’re scared to die is not because we’re worried about where we’re going, it’s just that we don’t know very much about it. And we’d like to read a few maps and have a few brochures from the Chamber of Commerce up there to kind of fill us in! We’d just like to know! We’re human.

And these turkeys were right on the brunt of this thing and they didn’t ask it! Some people think he did.

Remember back in chapter 13? Peter said, “Where are You going?” But he didn’t say, “Where are You going so You can tell me where it is?” But it’s “Where are You going? so I can go,” type of thing.

“Why can’t I go?” It was not, “Where are You going so I can know.”

The Lord is saying, “I’m going to the One who sent Me; and none of you are saying, ‘Where are you going?’ so you can know what it’s like.”

They wouldn't ask! The reason they didn't ask is in verse 6. And that's convicting.

v. 6 But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart.

“But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart.”

There's nothing that steals our voice more than eyes full of tears. And we quit asking questions when there's sorrow in our heart.

Now these guys have been asking questions back in 14, but now the Lord's saying, “I'm leaving,” and they aren't asking any more questions. Sorrow has filled their hearts. They're just upset.

Sometimes it is so tragic, because we get so overwhelmed with sorrow that we can't get any more insight.

Jesus told us back in chapter 15, “These things I've spoken unto you that My joy might remain in you, and your joy might be full.” (ref. John 15:11)

Instead of joy, they're full of sorrow. Why? The reason they're so filled with sorrow is due to their limited perspective. They can't see beyond the present circumstances and so they're drawing wrong conclusions.

They're just thinking, "He's leaving and He isn't coming back and it's going to be a long time before we're going to get there so we've got a right to cry. And we're just miffed and we're not going to ask any more questions and seek His face. Sorrow fills our hearts."

Because of our limited perspective and we can't see beyond the present circumstances, we often have tears in our eyes and sorrow in our hearts. And the Lord wants to meet our needs. He, by the power of His Spirit with His Word, wants to comfort us, wants to sustain us, wants to lift us up, wants to meet our needs.

So He says, "The reason you didn't ask is because sorrow is in your heart."

v. 7 But I am telling you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.

"But I am telling you the truth. It is to your advantage"—sorrow's filling their heart, they're just all negative.

"I'm telling you guys, I'm for you and I'm telling you the truth, honest." We can almost hear Him.

"It's to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to

you.”

Now why can't the Helper come before the Lord goes away?

Christ has to die, doesn't He? He still has a rendezvous with a cross here in just a few hours. When He dies, He purchases redemption. When He dies, He goes back to glory.

He has accomplished the task when He is the living Christ, seated at the right hand of the Father. Then the Spirit can come and apply all the results of that redemptive act in salvation to the individual.

And that's why we have those days till the day of Pentecost when the Spirit of God does come and begins to dwell in the hearts of all of those who believe.

We're going to take verses 8-11 together.

v. 8 And having come, that One will convict the world concerning sin and concerning righteousness and concerning judgment;

“And having come, that One will convict the world concerning sin and concerning righteousness and concerning judgment;”

The Holy Spirit is going to do **THREE THINGS** to the world, isn't He? He's going to “convict” them of:

1. “sin,”

2. “righteousness,” and

3. “judgment.”

Now those are the three things. That’s easy to outline. Now verses nine, ten and eleven are going to take those three points and show us what it means.

v. 9 concerning sin, because they are not believing in me;

“concerning sin, because they are not believing in me;”

v. 10 and concerning righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you are no longer seeing me;

“and concerning righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you are no longer seeing me;”

v. 11 and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.

“and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.”

The Holy Spirit convicts us of sin. He shows us a righteousness which is not ours and the requirements to get into heaven. And He shows us the judgment, the consequences of rejecting Him. That’s how He convicted the world.

God says the greatest sinner in all the world is the one who doesn't believe. And if we're not believing in Jesus, as far as God is concerned, we're the greatest sinner in the whole world. And maybe the Spirit of God is convicting someone of that sin, "because you're not believing in Me." It's the sin of unbelief that is the greatest sin in the eyes of God—that we would not believe in Jesus Christ who died on the cross for our sins.

Now what does it mean He convicts us of righteousness because He goes to the Father?

Well, a lot of people say it's not so much the SIN QUESTION, as the SON QUESTION. What are we doing with His Son—the Lord Jesus?

The fact that Jesus Christ was raised from the grave is the testimony that the Father was satisfied with the righteous act of Christ in dying on the cross. Then He took Him into heaven and seated Him at His right hand, in a place of authority. That is the Father saying, all through His life, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I'm well pleased."

And when He's seated at the right hand of the Father, the Father is saying, "I'm satisfied with the work of the Son and I will declare the sinner righteous on the basis of the work of Christ upon the cross."

So He's saying, "Convict the world of righteousness, which they must have, because now I'm leaving this arena and I'm

going to the Father and the Father is accepting the work that I've done. And I present to you a perfect righteousness, because I go to the Father.”

And of “judgment”:

John 3:19

This is the condemnation, light has come into the world and men love darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil.

Judgment, because the prince of this world has been judged.

Basically, what the Lord's saying is, “Since the head-hancho got it, you're going to get it too.”

Satan is the god of this world. He was judged on Calvary. And by his judgment, that guarantees that every sinner who refuses to receive Christ will likewise get a judgment. And that is the function of the Holy Spirit to declare the fact that God is going to be just and He's going to convict of:

1. “sin,”
2. “righteousness,” and
3. “judgment.”

Jim Elliot was a missionary to the Auca Indians. In 1956,

along with four other guys, he died in that contact. But while he was a junior at Wheaton College, he started writing a daily diary. And this was written during his junior year in college at Wheaton and it's an incredible insight. He's writing on Exodus 32 and it fits into our study. This is what he says:

I can think of three instances where the fingers are instruments used by God and I think they correspond to the three-fold ministry of the Holy Spirit. "He shall convict the world of sin, righteousness and judgment." Here in Exodus 32, the finger of God writes the law, that sin might be made to be sin. In John 8, Jesus writes with His finger and men are convicted of righteousness. In Belshazzar's feast in Daniel 5, the finger of a man's hand convicts the king of impending judgment.

(source unknown)

v. 12 I am having yet many things to be saying to you, but you are not able to be bearing them now.

"I am having yet many things to be saying to you, but you are not able to be bearing them now."

What He means is, "There a lot of things I'd like to tell you, but sorrow has so filled your heart you can't bear what I'm going to say."

When we're distracted by sorrow it's hard to listen to someone, isn't it? Often we are distracted with thoughts about things we have to do and we don't pay attention. And the Lord realizes

that.

He says, “I’ve got a lot of things I’d like to say to you, but I’ve said all I can say and this is going to be the end of it.”

One poet put it this way:

Mindful of our human frailty,
In the God in whom we trust.
He whose years are everlasting
He remembers, we are dust.
(source unknown)

He knows our limitations.

Just like the writer of the book of Hebrews says, “You become dull of hearing and you can’t hear. I’d like to tell you a lot more, but I can’t tell you anymore.” (see Hebrews 5:11, 12)

Here the Lord says their capacities had reached the level where they could no longer receive anymore.

v. 13 But whenever that One comes, the Spirit of truth, He will lead you into all the truth; for He will not speak from himself as a source, but He is hearing, He will speak; and the things that are coming He will make known to you.

“But whenever that One comes, the Spirit of truth, He will lead you into all the truth;”

There's a FUNCTION.

“for He will not speak from himself as a source, but whatever He is hearing, He will speak; and the things that are coming He will make known to you.”

There are SEVEN STEPS that are here in these verses:

1. The Holy Spirit is “the Spirit of truth,”
2. “He will guide you into all the truth,”
3. “He will not speak of himself,”
4. “He’ll hear, that will He speak,”
5. “He will...show you things to come,”
6. “He will glorify Jesus,” and
7. He shall receive mine and “show it unto you.”

That’s basically the function of the Holy Spirit’s ministry in seven steps.

Verse 15 makes it clearer.

v. 14 That one shall glorify me; because He shall take of mine, and make it known to you.

“That one shall glorify me; because He shall take of mine, and He will make it known to you.”

It is only the function of the Holy Spirit to glorify Jesus and never Himself.

Now there are some Bible teachers that teach when we become a Christian we get “Jesus truth.” And when we’ve grown a little bit, then we get “Holy Spirit truth.” And it’s the emphasis on the Spirit away from Jesus. The babies talk about Jesus. The mature saints talk about the Holy Spirit.

Now there is not that distinction in the Bible. The Holy Spirit will never call attention to Himself. And when the Holy Spirit is present, He will always build up and edify the body of Christ in the function of spiritual gifts.

It is the function of the Holy Spirit to glorify Jesus, and to set Him forth and to magnify His name, and to guide us into truth.

If we were to summarize the ministry of the Holy Spirit, we would say He is to reveal the written word and the Living Word.

The written word of God, “Open my eyes that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law, that the Spirit of God might enlighten your eyes,” (Ephesians 1:18) “and you might know. And then that when, you know, He’ll reveal to you the Son of

God.”

Somebody said:

The study of the Word of God without the Spirit of God, leads to rationalism. But the study of the Spirit of God without the word of God leads to fanaticism.

(source unknown)

Incredibly that is the case.

It is the sole aim of the Son to glorify the Father, and it is the sole aim of the Spirit to glorify the Son.

v. 15 All things as many as the Father is having are mine. On this account I said, that He is taking of mine, and shall make it known to you.

“All things as many as the Father is having are mine. On this account I said, that He is taking of mine, and He shall make it known to you.”

Ray Stedman in his book said this about the function of the Holy Spirit:

(The Secrets of the Spirit by Ray Stedman)

At the cross, an enormous sacrifice, the power of God was released to man. Yet it was still too much. As you drive across the Mojave Desert, between Arizona and Los Angeles, you see

the great transmission towers which bring the power of Hoover Dam into the Los Angeles basin. Every one of them bears a warning sign, “Danger, High Voltage.”

Energy is streaming through those wires at hundreds of thousands of volts. But how can you use a hundred thousand volts? It’s too much. So a system of transformers has been installed which breaks it down until it comes out at levels we can use: 110 volts, 220 volts, whatever it takes.

By this means, all the power generated at Hoover Dam is now available for people to use in Southern California. Something like that is what is in view here. I like to read Jesus’ statement this way. It’s better for you that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Transformer will not come to you. But if I go, I will send Him to you and when He, the Transformer comes, He will make available to you all the limitless forces which lie in me. He will take what is mine and give it to you in quantities that you can handle, just right for your situation. For back of Him lies all the limitless power of God.

(source unknown)

Isn’t that good? That’s the function of the Holy Spirit. To glorify Jesus and to provide the power for victory in our life on every level.

Here are the lessons we got out of our study.

Lesson #1: Love, even in the final hours, is still meeting needs.

Lesson #2: Suffering is predicted for those who will live godly lies.

It's going to hurt. Just know it's coming.

Lesson #3: The Spirit of God convicts of sin, righteousness, and judgment.

Lesson #4: Judgment is certain because Satan has already been judged.

Lesson #5: The Spirit of God will lead into truth and glorify Jesus Christ.

Here are some important questions:

Is the Spirit of God convicting you of sin right now?

Do you know Jesus?

Is He revealing to you a righteousness which is not your own, which will only make you acceptable when you receive Christ?

Is He scaring you a little with the judgment that's going to come with certainty if you refuse to receive Christ?

Now if the Spirit is putting a heavy hand on you right now, respond to Him. Don't resist Him.

And then to those who are Christians, have you been taught?

Is the Spirit of God teaching you something? Is there something here that He had to say to you?

If not, you're quenching Him by some kind of resistance in your life. Or you're grieving Him by some sin and you need to settle up with Him, get that thing straightened out.

Peter Gillquist in his book *Love is Now* says:

The question is not, "What can I have and when can I get it?" It is rather, "What have I got and how do I live it?" All the fullness of God lives within you if you know Christ.

Holy Ghost with light divine,
Shine upon this heart of mine,
Holy Ghost with power divine,
Cleanse this guilty heart of mine.
(source unknown)

When we keep resisting, the Lord is going to just keep working on us until He gets our attention. And it'll get a little bit worse and a little bit worse. There's always a great cost to resistance.

And the more we resist, whether we're not a Christian or not, that's one way of resisting. But even if we're a Christian we're also going to have some heavies on us. The Lord is going to be working.

Barnhouse takes an illustration from the book of Hosea, and

with this we close:

There is a beautiful picture in one of the Old Testament prophets that shows how God is for us, even in the hard things which He has to bring upon us. After speaking of the sin of Israel that took that nation away from Him, God says, “Therefore, will I be unto Ephraim as a moth...” (Hosea 5:12).

Some little insect comes into the life and nests among the things we value. Suddenly we realize that corruption is there. God means this for a sign that will cause us to turn to Him immediately.

If we accept the work of the moth and return to God, He will restore to us all that He has taken away. But just suppose men do not turn to God when he sends His insect-troubles? Two verses later, He gives another word which is more terrible: “I will send them to Ephraim a lion...” (5:14).

This is the progress of God’s love. He will not let us lose ourselves without exhausting all of the resources of His love. The both may have eaten valuable possessions, but we can turn the rug around, and we can put the couch against a wall where the ravages can’t be seen. We can move a lamp so that the light will not shine upon the destruction.

Then He is forced to send the lion. With no warning at all great trouble springs upon us like a beast of prey. Fear grips us. Our blood runs cold. Happy are we, if we realize that this is the Lord of love, who calls us to turn from the path where lions lurk and to run to the path of His will where no enemy can assail us.

Thousands of people, however, have had the moth and the lion and have not been moved by them. God is forced to hide

His face from them. They are left, perhaps in unconcern, perhaps in restless and uneasy worry, but in it all, God is being good to them, showing Himself for them by holding the door of salvation open, and calling them to Himself.
(source unknown)

Is the moth eating? Is the lion running? We need to ask ourselves where we are and then surrender. Just turn it over to Him and we'll find that love will start meeting our needs.

Lord, we've sensed You've been right here with us. Lord, that You've been talking to us, because this is Your message and You're the one saying it. The thing that overwhelms us is that You're still thinking about Your men, and You haven't said much about Calvary other than just the fact that You're leaving. That's just so incredible. You wanted to talk to them about heaven and sorrow so filled their hearts, they didn't get a chance to ask You about that either. They really didn't want any answers because they were so hurt and upset that You were leaving. We would pray that You'd help us to lift our hearts to You and let You fill it with Your love and with Your joy, with the expectation and anticipation that in Your time You make all things beautiful. We just need to trust You and watch You work and see You melt and mold us and make us more like the Lord Jesus so we can be a witness for You. We pray all these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Ultimate LOVE STORY

John 13-17

“The Final Hours Before the Cross”

Study Number Six – Love Meeting Needs – John 15:26-16:15

NOTES

v. 26 “When the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who is proceeding from the Father, that One will bear witness concerning me.

v. 27 And you also are bearing witness, because you are with me from the beginning.

16:v. 1 These things I have spoken to you, in order that you may not be made to stumble.

v. 2 They will make you outcasts from the synagogue; in fact an hour is coming that everyone who kills you to think that he is offering a sacred service to God.

v. 3 And these things they will do because they did not come to know the Father or me.

v. 4 But these things I have spoken to you, in order that whenever their hour comes, you might recall them to mind, that I told you. And these things to you from the beginning I did not tell, because I was with you.

v. 5 But now I am going away to Him who sent me; and not one of you is asking me, ‘Where are you going?’

v. 6 But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart.

v. 7 But I am telling you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.

v. 8 And having come, that One will convict the world concerning sin and concerning righteousness and concerning judgment;

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v. 9 concerning sin, because they are not believing in me;
v. 10 and concerning righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you are no longer seeing me;
v. 11 and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.
v. 12 I am having yet many things to be saying to you, but you are not able to be bearing them now.
v. 13 But whenever that One comes, the Spirit of truth, He will lead you into all the truth; for He will not speak from himself as a source, but He is hearing, He will speak; and the things that are coming He will make known to you.
v. 14 That one shall glorify me; because He shall take of mine, and make it known to you.
v. 15 All things as many as the Father is having are mine. On this account I said, that He is taking of mine, and shall make it known to you.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read John 15:26-16:15 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. What is one of the functions of the Holy Spirit, according to verse 26?

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3. What purpose does Jesus have in speaking these things, according to verse 1?

4. Why all the persecution of Christ's followers, according to verse 3?

5. What is the advantage stated in verse 7 for Christ's departure?

6. Describe the job description of the Spirit, according to verse 8.

7. What will the Spirit of God do for them, according to verse 13?

8. How shall the Spirit of God glorify the Son of God, according to verse 14?

9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: Love, even in the final hours, is still meeting needs.

LESSON #2: Persecution is predicted for those who will live godly lives.

LESSON #3: The Spirit of God will convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment.

LESSON #4: Judgment is certain because Satan has already been judged.

LESSON #5: The Spirit of God will lead into truth and glorify Jesus Christ.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

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