

LOVE COUNT Disciplined Lovers Pt 2 02.08.2020 am

Great commandment: love God; love people like. This type of love lasts ... '... the only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love' Galatians 5:6

Great commission: Matthew 28:16-20; when Jesus spoke with this group – whoever was there, some doubted. Jesus had spent significant time with a handful of people and yet, some doubted. Jesus was not disheartened by the strongest hater nor perturbed by their doubt; He always desires to bring us further – He didn't throw His hands in the air; Jesus believed they, and we, can do immeasurably more according to His power that is at work in us, Ephesians 3:20. He called them to invade the world; teaching all nations, baptising disciples all nations (into that God-saturated and selfless place) – no small feat. Father knows the capacity of each one that have abandoned themselves to the Godhead, learned/applied what they have received. This seemingly random group were given the mandate to invade the world with the most amazing, radical, and confronting message, sent into a violent and ruthless world – knowing that if they did what He said, it would be possible.

Romans 8:28 'And we know (ultimately) in all things God works for the good of those who love Him and are called according to His purpose.'

Acts 1:4-8 These believers were ignited; set alight; now baptised in the Holy Spirit – immersed, overwhelmed, overcome, filled, saturated with the same dunamis power / miraculous power and ability; pickled – saturated with God. Beyond Jerusalem and Judea, they were to go to Samaria, to the ends of the earth. Some of those thoughts would have been repulsive to them, but Holy Spirit would bring power/authority to invade. They were to baptise disciples into the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit – this is 'infusion' – immersion/baptism – God infused into every part of us, this new creation; within relationship with Him – with faith to believe and empowered in love; not a theoretical love or a viral type of love – this love from God, pickled in my life, will never fail.

1 Corinthians 13:1-8a ... 'if I give all I possess to the poor, give my body to hardship ...' I'm bankrupt without love. This type of love is not second-hand emotion. Galatians 5:6 states that what matters (NIV 'the only thing that matters') is faith expressed through love; love matters, and we are: empowered to love.

Consider the Greatest commandment – second part – faith expressing itself through love. This is what counts.

Romans 13:8-10

1 John 4:15-21 esp. v16; penned by the Apostle of love who was greatly impacted by the love of Jesus Christ.

“¹⁵ If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. ¹⁶ And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. ¹⁷ This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. ²¹ And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.”

With the love of God, comes the love of man – all mankind; Jesus' command was to go into the world and show *that* love.

Types of love in the Greek language:

- Phileo (e.g. philanthropic – a friend of the people; brotherly)
- Eros (sexual expression, not a bible word)
- Storge (affection / natural type of kindness, kindred)
- Ludus (flirtatious, playful, uncommitted)

- Philantia (self-love; there must be an element of this, but the extreme is narcissistic – denying the needs of others)
- Mania (obsessive, addictive, committed to something (not someone))
- **Agape: unconditional / selfless / unconditional / divine / self-sacrificial – only from God. This is the love shed abroad in our hearts; this is the love poured into believers. This is deepest of loves, not viral but changes lives globally.**
 - For I am convinced ... Romans 8:38-39 = nothing can separate us from this agape love of God
 - God is love ... 1 John 4:8
 - This love, loves not only neighbours, but also enemies ... Matthew 5:43
 - This is the love lavished on His children ... 1 John 3:1

This love changes the world. The world knows believers by the demonstration of this love ... Early disciples were known and mocked for the care they demonstrated to people who did not care for them. John 13:34-35.

John 17:17-21 We are set apart for this and there is great power in it; disciplined lovers change the world.

Matthew 28:16-20 Jesus knew the power of this love: He had/has utmost confidence that through this love of God, the message of God, the mission of God was possible. He had taught the eleven intimately, but He looks at all people and sees great potential – to change the world. He taught the eleven intimately and we can still see instances of failure in Peter, yet Jesus made the revelation Peter had, the foundation upon which the Church could be built.

The eleven worshiped; some doubted although they had been with Jesus, a 3-year type of internship. Jesus had chosen them, taught them and commands them to invade the world and teach the same; He trusted them with that – He had trained them that in love and His truth, nothing was impossible.

Jesus had demonstrated extreme love and care for all people. See faith and love working together – there was never a lack of food - lack only in the number of people to eat; there was no lack of fish to be caught – the only limitation was the net; the oil only stopped when there were not more jars to contain it; fed thousands with a boy's lunch; delivered and healed; raised Lazarus from the dead; ministered love and deliverance to the demonic in Gadarenes; He loved the woman caught in adultery, the tax collector, the Samaritans, the Roman centurion – this love was for all mankind and Jesus not only taught it but demonstrated it, consistently; with strong correction at times (Matthew 23 – Pharisees but see His tears and longing to bring them under His wing); with silence at times; restoratively – Peter.

Matthew 14:22-32. Peter, always the champion in the making. How beautiful for Peter to hear Jesus' voice. Peter was rattled: 'Is it You?' – Peter wanted to hear Jesus; to know His Word; to be with Jesus. If Jesus is in the boat, it is the best place to be. If Jesus is in the storm, in the storm is the best place to be.

When Jesus spoke, he desired to obey, to follow; faith is simply taking the next step. Faith and his love for Jesus brought about the supernatural – getting out of the boat and walking on the water. Peter consolidated it was Jesus, His voice, His Word, and He decided to walk with Him. The willing and the obedient are those who eat the best of the land.

Jesus says 'Come' and we take a step and keep walking. He sank. We sink occasionally but in true relationship Jesus will 'immediately' grab my hand.

A little faith? Is better than no faith; little faith can be developed. Jesus knew Peter was capable. People still mock but Peter had a go. I would rather step out of the boat in faith even if I (appear to) fail a few times than stay in the boat and lecture on walking on water.

It will take all our heart, soul, mind, and strength to love; to lay down our lives for others. Know that He loves you. Know what counts is faith that expresses itself through love. Don't forget what He has infused you with. You are created to do immeasurably more; created to hold influence everywhere you go – with the love and power within in; immersed in His Presence; intimate relationship with Him and the outworking of it; consider the invasive power of Jesus that outworked in the invasion of the world with the Gospel and the love of God; that both continue through us. Have we heard it; then we walk it out. If we fall, He will pick us up. I'd rather step out of the boat and fall a few times than sit in the boat and lecture on walking on water.