

God's Love For Today

“God loves each of us as if there were only one of us.”~St. Augustine

The first thing we need to know is that God loves us. Everything else in the Christian faith flows from this. God loves us unconditionally. Nothing we can do will make him love us more. Nothing we can do will make him love us less. In good times and bad, God loves us and will never abandon us.

The world, however, loves with conditions. Here's a letter to that point.

“Dearest Jimmy,

No words could ever express the great unhappiness I've felt since breaking our engagement. Please say you'll take me back. No one could ever take your place in my heart, so please forgive me. I love you, I love you, I love you! Yours forever, Marie.

P.S., And congratulations on winning the state lottery.”

We must learn about God's love, and learn how to love that way. God's love, when it is not stopped by us, flows through us to other people. When we get out of the way, there is a perfect channel from heaven to others. As we grow in faith, we begin to learn that God's love is not to us, it is through us.

We must spend our time on earth learning to love God more, as we bask in his great love for us. Then, when God's love has filled us and becomes our primary force, we will find that we are able to do a better job at this thing called love. “When I have learnt to love God better than my earthly dearest,” an ancient writer pens, “ I shall love my earthly dearest better than I do now.”

Perhaps one of the greatest things about love is that it changes the focus. From us to others. From selfishness to selflessness. From me to you. We don't have to be better than others, or to possess things to love as God's people.

“Christian love,” writes George Matheson, “is the only kind of love in which there is no rivalry, no jealousy. There is jealousy among the lovers of art; there is jealousy among the lovers of song; there is jealousy among the lovers of beauty. The glory of natural love is its monopoly, its power to say, ‘It is mine.’ But the glory of Christian love is its refusal of monopoly.”

As we grow, we think of others more. Our actions are motivated and informed by love. The kind of sacrificial love, like Jesus describes when he says that there is no greater love than that which lays down its life for others.

Mother Teresa spent her life among the poor and sick. In looking to heaven, she said. "I am not sure exactly what heaven will be like, but I know that when we die and it comes time for God to judge us, he will not ask, 'How many good things have you done in your life?' rather he will ask, 'How much love did you put into what you did?'"

How much love are we putting into each day? How much love affects prayer, worship, relationships, church?

Do people see God's love when they see us? If not, if we have been sidetracked by pride, insecurity, the need to see things happen our way, we have a ways to go. We will find that love gives us purpose, vision, strength, and all the things that we needed before but until we met God in Christ we never knew it.

Finally, we must be in church and love in action. We must be so full of love that others can see it for miles.

"Show me a church where there is love, and I will show you a church that is a power in the community. In Chicago a few years ago a little boy attended a Sunday school I know of. When his parents moved to another part of the city the little fellow still attended the same Sunday school, although it meant a long, tiresome walk each way. A friend asked him why he went so far, and told him that there were plenty of others just as good nearer his home.

"They may be as good for others, but not for me," was his reply.

"Why not?" she asked.

"Because they love a fellow over there," he replied."

Whether we are one or many, God is with us. His uncommon, unlimited, transforming love is right here with us. As we commune with God one on one, or gather in small groups, or as the church in worship or service, see and experience God's love for yourself. It will be the greatest thing that ever happened to you!

"The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing."

~Zephaniah 3:17

