

Straight and Loving Service
Spirit Life, Part 9
Slide Notations

Left off wearing the past like a badge of His love instead of a weight of our failure!

There's nothing new under the sun; no new sins to fall into (**Ec1.9**)... all of us have fallen(**R3.10**)... and if there is restoration it's only by the virtue of the Cross not our virtue!
(R5.1,9)

When it comes to using our pasts there are three key issues... Spurt, don't blurt! "It's not what you've done that gets you rejected; it's having no future that turns people away!" You're not damaged goods if you've made it! *Your past is His-story!* "That's who I was and yet He loved me!" Redemption not catharsis! *It's not about you, but "them!"* Our past is a tool to be employed intentionally to affect and save lives!

On Tour with John...

"Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!" **J1.36** And two of those who heard John the Baptist speak, followed Jesus! **v40** "We have found the Messiah" **v41** "Rabbi, you are the Son of God, the King of Israel." **v49**

Good start! Anyone would want to follow Him from this point!

"And He made a scourge of small cords and He drove them all out of the temple... and His disciples remembered that it was written of Messiah, 'The zeal of Your house has eaten Me up!' And the Jews asked, 'what will you show us that gives you the right to do these things?'" **J2.13-18**

The Zealous Corrector of broken integrity!

"Except a man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God! The Son of man is lifted up so that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. He that believes on the Son has everlasting life and he that believes not the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

3.3-36

The Sole Fountain of Salvation!

"When Jesus knew He was drawing more attention from the Pharisees than John, He left for Galilee w/a directive to pass thru Samaria. But the Jews have no dealings w/the Samaritans. There He found a woman who said, When Christ is come He will tell us all things! Jesus said, I am He." **4.1-27**

Jesus is The Bridge to belief-able people!

"When the Jews found that it was Jesus who healed the impotent man on the Sabbath they persecuted Him. Jesus answer was simple, 'My Father is at work and so am I!' Then they wanted to kill Him because He made Himself equal w/God by saying God was His Father!" **5.1-47**

Jesus The Divider of Religious People!

"I am the Bread of Life, he that comes to Me will never hunger or thirst! Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink His blood you have no life in you! And when they heard this they said, 'This is a hard saying. Who can bear it?' From that time many went back and walked w/Him no more!" **6.35-71**

Jesus The Exposer of men's hearts!

Ch7 The Fountain for the thirsty!

Ch8 The Light of the World!

Ch9 The Opener and Closer of Eyes!

Ch10 *The Door of the sheepfold and the Good Shepherd to sheep who hear!*

Ch11 *The Resurrection and the Life!*

Ch12 *The Anointed, Glorified Sacrifice/sin!*

John 13 “Do you understand what I am about? You call Me Master and you’re right. If I have been your servant then you should serve each other. I have given you an example to follow and you will never be elevated above it! If you get what I am saying, and do it, you will be blessed! “...I am only going to be with you a few more hours. Where I am going you cannot come... so, listen, I have one last thing to say... A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, as I have loved you. By this will all men know that you are My disciples if you have love one for another!”

His final comments have been completely contextualized for them but they cannot hear it for the surprise of His imminent departure and their instantaneous grief...

Though epic in nature, Jesus defers to their pain and fear... and follows up with the promise of the Holy Spirit, who will comfort them and then remind them of what He said...

He draws back to His final words with the analogy of the Vine and branches... another promise of Spirit Life, then heads out to Gethsemane for His final moments...

His final words... There is no following... and there is no proof of following... without living out My example of loving service! “It’s not who I am (as Master) but what I do (as Servant) that I want you to copy.” **Mt20.26-28** True Masters of the Christ-life, share His mind & serve lovingly for a lifetime! **Ph2.5-8** Serving w/o love; performance w/o profit! **1C13.3 Ph2.14-21** Love w/o serving; promise w/o substance! **2P3.13ff, Jude 1.12, 2T3.5**

Textual Asides... **V18-32** Judas, Betrayer, not excluded... Seeded w/that’s of betrayal **v2** Washed by the “Servant” **v5** Eating w/treachery in his heart **v18** Takes food from Jesus hand/seals fate **v26** Judas; distracted world’s goods, self-profit, entertaining evil: absent/finals! **Judas; part of Jesus/mission!**

His final words... A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, as I have loved you. Elevated statement of OT law... “Love your neighbor as yourself” **Lv19.18 (cp Mt5.21-22, 27-28, 33-34, 38-39, 43-44)** Elevator/or: “As I have loved you” I have given you a model to follow... Quali-quantifier of our love? Service! (If we love Him we keep His commandments! **J14.15 1J5.3**)

His final words... By this will all men know that you are My disciples if you have love one for another! One of the main authentications of Spirit Life is the characteristic of right-service to “one another!” (saved/some-saved/unsaved). Sometimes covering/sometimes confrontive. Sometimes bridging/sometimes gapped. Sometimes open/sometimes closed. Always looking for restoration/wholeness! “right notes @ right time=smiling faces!”

The Test! Interchanging “Love” and Serve/ice” Husbands, love your wives even as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for it! **E5.25** Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That you may be the children of your Father. **Mt5.44,45** Honor all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king. **1P2.17** Let love be w/o hypocrisy. Hate what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another... **R12.9,10** Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. **Mt22.37** Don’t love the world’s ways or the world’s goods. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

1J2.15 No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. **Lk16.13**

The right kind of love for the right kind of things, rightly, richly, expressed... is one of the marks of... Spirit Life!