

Exalting the Lord Jesus through receiving His love, grace, truth and power.

Lesson # 7—Our Lord’s Personal Desire: Companionship/Fellowship with His People

Introduction

- A. When you love a person you want to be with them. God loves us and wants to be with us.
- B. The “problem” is His holiness and our sin—but He has overcome it by His redeeming work. The real “problem” is with us: We do not desire Him enough to spend time with Him or we disobey Him and thereby force Him out of our lives to some degree.
- C. Think of it. Every good thing comes to us as we love Him and live in His presence.

I. The Old Testament Promise: He Wants Us and He wants to be with Us.

- A. The promise in the Garden of Eden.

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day.... Genesis 3:8

- B. The promise in the Tabernacle. See also Ex 25:22; 29:42-46; 1 Kings 9:3; 2 Chron 7:1

Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them...Then Moses... finished the work...Then the cloud covered the Tent of Meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. Exodus 25:8; 40:34

- C. The promise in the life of Enoch. See also Genesis 6:9; 17:1; 48:15; Malachi 2:6

Enoch walked with God... Genesis 5:21-24

- D. The promise in the life of Moses.

***I am sending you to Pharaoh...Who am I...And God said, "I will be with you." Ex 3:10-12
Go up to the land...But I will not go with you...Teach me your ways... "My Presence will go with you"...If your presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here.***
Exodus 33:13-15

- E. The promise in the ministry of the prophets.

***Out of all nations you will be my treasured possession... Exodus 19:5
The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms... Deut 33:27
I have loved you... Mal 1:2; I have loved you with an everlasting love... Jeremiah 31:3
Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth for your love is more delightful than wine.
Song of Solomon 1:2
How can I give you up, Ephraim? How can I hand you over, Israel? Hosea 11:8***

II. The Old Testament Complaint: His People are not Loving and Fellowshiping with Him.

This people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise...

Yet you have not called upon me... you have not wearied yourselves for me ...

You have not brought me sheep for burnt offerings, nor honored me with your sacrifices...

You have not bought any fragrant calamus for me, or lavished on me ... your sacrifices.

But you have burdened me with your sins and wearied me with your offenses.

I even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers you sins no more. Isaiah 43:21-25

I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me; I was found by those who did not seek me.

To a nation that did not call on my name, I said, 'Here am I, here am I.' All day long I have

held out my hands to an obstinate people, who walk in ways not good, pursuing their own

imagination--a people who continually provoke me to my very face, offering sacrifices in

gardens and burning incense on altars of brick ...I will destine you for the sword, and you

will all bend down for the slaughter; for I called but you did not answer, I spoke but you did

not listen. You did evil in my sight and chose what displeases me. Isaiah 65:1-3, 12

III. The New Testament Complaint: Jesus wept over people who refused to accept Him.

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! Luke 13:34

I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other!

So, because you are lukewarm--neither hot nor cold--I am about to spit you out of my mouth.

You say 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see. Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent. Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me. Revelation 3:15-20

IV. Personal Application: Are we giving the Lord Jesus our “left over” love, time and money?

A. We must choose by faith, love and hope to seek Him—even if we don't feel like it.

In honesty we must ask Him to work in us so we can understand our need, repent, and learn to love Him with all our heart, soul and mind. It's all grace but we must not grieve the Holy Spirit by our practice of grace and freedom.

B. It is helpful to make some decisions as to priorities so there can be personal and “heart” worship, prayer, Bible study, meditation, time to receive His love and to love Him.

C. The above Scripture clearly teach that there can be no substitute for personal interaction with God. He wants us—personally—in a relationship of love. He has made His decision and we must make ours.

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