

Living Loving Relationships

John 14:23-29

Psalm 67



This week, remember that being in relationship with Christ is a matter of the heart, and knowing where your home is. Be intentional about opening your heart and spreading this love with those around you.

“If you play by the rules, then everyone can have a good time.”

“If you stay up to late, then you will be worthless tomorrow.”

“If you swim out to far, then you might get into trouble.”

“If you do your homework, then you will be allowed to go out and play.”

It seems as if life is filled with this “if/then kind of tension.

It is a kind of “cause and effect” game that calls us to pay attention so we don’t miss out.

Life is filled with “If/Then” scenarios.

“If you play with matches, then you might get burnt.”

“If you don’t clean up your room, then you can’t have any friends over.”

This If/Then thing is generally used as a sort of remedial tool. A remedy or cure devise that is held over us.

I remember as a parent using it to get my children to come in line with what I thought would be good for them. Most of the time it was good advice.

In today’s Gospel lesson, Jesus is getting ready to say farewell to his followers.

The disciples have been chosen and called, they have left everything behind to follow Jesus.

Now Jesus is preparing them for his arrest, the trial, the beating, the mockery, and his long journey to the cross.

Time is short for Jesus. He doesn’t want to be frivolous with his conversation. What he has to say is vitally important for the future.

Jesus shares a message with those who dare to follow him that love and obedience go hand in hand.

Jesus tells them...If anyone loves me they will keep my word, and my Father will love them and they will know peace.

The story is told of a famous Christian baseball player who lost his pitching arm to cancer. His name was David Dravecky. David was asked to share his story at a church one Sunday evening.

He had really been struggling with what had happened to him and didn’t feel at all worthy to stand up in front of a room full of believers to share his testimony.

Much to his surprise, not one person walked out that night. In fact one man came forward for prayer afterwards.

That young man was a 35 year old welder whose life was a mess. He wanted to change his life but wasn’t sure where to start.

He had been having an affair with another woman but was in the process of trying to put his marriage back together.

There was something in David's Message that spoke to this young man. He wanted Christ to come into his heart and transform his life.

Faith stirred in him as he returned home that evening to his wife. In the weeks that followed everyone around him noticed the change. No one noticed more than his wife.

Five week later, that man went to get a tool from the toolbox on the back of his truck when another truck backed into him and he was killed instantly.

A few months later, David Dravecky was speaking on a nationally broadcast radio program.

During the call-in segment of the broadcast that man's wife called in.

She told David that those five weeks were the best days of their marriage.

An amazing peace washed over David that night.

Motivated by his love for Jesus who first loved him, David had been obedient the night he spoke at the church.

The message was clear: "If those who love me keep my word then they will be loved by my father and there will be peace."

It seems to me that the heart of what Jesus is saying in this text is that being in a right relationship with God is a matter of utmost priority for us.

So how about you? Where is your heart's focus? What are you worshipping? What are you giving your foremost allegiance too?

Is there room for the Creator of all that you have and all that you hope for in life? Is God calling you to tend to certain things in your life that are keeping you from God's very best for you?

Do you have the peace that Jesus offers? Does your relationship with God, and your awareness of what God wants to do through you, bring you peace in your life today?

Or is there confusion in your life because you are seeking to find peace somewhere else? Jesus said to his disciples, "Those who love me will keep my

word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.” (Verse 23)

When we love and obey the one who loved us and died for us, amazing things begin to happen.

“My Father will love them and we will come and make our home with them.” Those words, “make our home” mean more than just a brief visit. They mean more than just stopping buy to say hello.

The words, “make our home” mean moving in, taking up residence. Like marriage. This is total commitment by God. This is knowing and being known by the family of God. This is knowing and being known by God.

Jesus says, “We will come to them and make our home with them.”

Today you and I have some question to consider before we go another step. What kind of home do we have? No I am not talking about bricks and mortar stuff. I am talking about our spiritual condition.

Do you love the one who first loved you? Are you keeping his word? Is what God has to say to you through his Word feeding your life every day? Do you know that God sacrificed His son Jesus for your sake? That’s not something we should consider lightly. It is a reality that will surely effect every area of a person’s life.

Jesus said, “Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.”

This is all about Jesus in my heart. It is all about Jesus in my life. If we get this then we get life.