

Value of Love message Dec 13 2020

Today we continue the James Dobson stories in our message (Focus on the family syndicated Christian organization)

Today this one is called "Are you missing baby Jesus"

The Missing baby Jesus story (on the Microsoft one drive video)

Introduction

Love has a way of transforming our lives, our homes, our future, our families and our world for God if we let it overwhelm and fill us. It is easier to hate than to love. It is easier to hate and do less in love, than to do more in showing love. The human default is to do less in loving and to be selfishly minded and giving into hate. Hate is the absence of love. The Love of the Lord Jesus is perfect and incredible.

Definition

To love is to accept people for who God made them. Love is meant to impute value into the human soul. Love brought the human race into this world. Love brought individuality and variety into this world. Love made it possible for the human race to interact with the Lord Jesus and to develop a relationship with Him that could protect, impute value, give purpose, friendship, kindness, love, acceptance, joy, peace and everything else God has and wants to give to make our lives perfect in Him. Outside of Him there is great need and loss.

In today's world, as it is, there are many people missing baby Jesus and all that He stands for. Just like the boys did in the story, we have a responsibility as Christians to be the hands and feet of our lord to the world giving them the love Jesus has shed in our hearts. At this present time, the world is offering us Christians an incredible opportunity to show the love of Christ in tangible ways.

The present situation

Today we have hate running rampant. People hate each other's views on many things. In many places you can't have a difference of view and if you do then you are hated or blasted on social media. You might lose your job. Your house may be threatened. We also have swirling different views on what is really going on with COVID 19. We see fear growing everywhere.

Fear of the spread of the virus, fear of the origin of it, fear of the length of the pandemic, fear of the vaccine. FEAR, FEAR, FEAR.

1 John 4:18 [Full Chapter]

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.

What is the description of this Love we have received?

It is a love that has no conditions, no limits, no biases, no bad motives. It is wanting to be experienced. It is real and not flaky. It requires action to be seen. It requires people to point to the maker of it namely Jesus Christ the Saviour of the world. Everyone who experiences it is challenged to give it up to others. It is not a pond but a fountain of life to all.

1 Corinthians 13:1-8 New International Version (NIV)

If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ² If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

⁸ Love never fails.

John 3:16 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Jeremiah 31:3 New International Version (NIV)

³ The LORD appeared to us in the past, saying:
"I have loved you with an everlasting love;
I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.

Love is the presence of God in real life

1 John 4:7

[*God's Love and Ours*] Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from **God**. Everyone who loves has been born of **God** and **knows God**.

James 1:17

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

If you have experienced love in your life, God was touching your life.

What is the result of God's love being in our lives

- Meaning to life
- Joy in our heart
- Fulfillment to all we do
- Full blessing from Jesus
- A contagious spreading of it to others
- A future in heaven after death

God's love goes even further

- It penetrates hardness
- It destroys fear
- It puts meaning into what we do for the Lord
- It is what God uses in measuring if what we do has value (1Cor 13)

1 John 4:8

Whoever does not **love** does not know **God**, because **God is love**.

To be loving is to be sacrificial in some way to others.

Back to the story

This family could have said no but they didn't. They could have just pushed the need onto someone else who they thought could do it, but they didn't. They could have let the weather get in the way of doing something for the single mother's home, but they didn't. They could have ignored the need, but they didn't.

We have the same choices every day. Will we do something or expect someone else to do it. Will we express the greatness of God to others or just pawn it off on someone else?

Even in the story you can feel the joy that this family received by helping out. That is real and not perceived or fake. That is meaning and blessing. God goes even further, and His blessing overtakes us in so many ways when we follow through on His desires and commands.

At this COVID 19 TIME, the needs are everywhere. The heartache is everywhere. The opportunities are everywhere. Jesus says go show me to the lost and tell of me everywhere. The push to tell, the shepherds felt when they were told by the angels, is the same He gives to us today.

God's love is unending, passionate, unstoppable, always giving, and must be given away.

It is very normal that once Jesus' love has been experienced that it will be given out to others. It is too good to keep to ourselves. It does too much good not to be allowed to be given to all.

LOVE BROUGHT JESUS TO THIS WORLD AND LOVE SENT HIM TO THE CROSS

Both destinations were public, for all, monumental, world shaking, and meant to carry the meaning of love to a climax where everyone would have no difficulty seeing how loving God is and that He wants us all to experience Him.

World's response to God's love

It will be one of either rejection or acceptance. The kind of response does not indicate its value but how valuable the people of the world think His love is. Our telling and showing of it will indicate to them the value they should think of it. It would be a shame if the world never found out how wonderful and easier it is to accept the love Jesus offers.

Christians response to God's love

Our response will be of indifference or of passionate moving forward. The kind of response we give it will not indicate its value but will indicate how much we value what God has given us and will show what kind of a relationship we have with our Lord. It would be a shame if believers never

got to experience the joy that comes from expressing and revealing the Love Jesus has for the lost.

Jesus said to us

John 14:15

[*Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit*] “If you love me, **keep my commands**.”

John 14:21

Whoever has **my commands** and **keeps** them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by **my** Father, and I too will love them and show **myself** to them.”

John 15:10

If you **keep my commands**, you will remain in **my** love, just as I have kept **my** Father’s **commands** and remain in his love.

Jesus love is so incredible that if we really experience God and let it sink in as to how good we have it in our relationship with Jesus as our Saviour, we will be passionate about what Jesus is passionate about, namely spreading the goodness of His love and saving power. Jesus did 2 things; He taught about the message He came to give to bring life to us all and He did many things to show love and compassion to the people so they would know who He was.

Conclusion

God’s love is more valuable than anything we could ever have. It is awesome, for everyone and is everlasting without bias or limit. How valuable do we think His love is? Are we missing baby Jesus in our homes this Christmas? Are the neighbours we have, missing baby Jesus this year? We are missing baby Jesus if we are not passionate about spreading the love of Jesus to everyone thru words and actions. Let’s dedicate ourselves today that this Christmas time will be a time where we will seek after needs and do everything in our power to fill them. That is when Christmas will mean the most. Amen.