

Selah: Stop, Look, Listen – August 6, 2020

The lord be with you.

Do you remember falling in love? Of course you do, I mean, who can forget falling in love. Everyone around you knew you would know that you've fallen in and love, they could see it on your face, it with in your eyes. There's new spring in your step. You can't stop thinking about the person, you want nothing more than to be with that person. My time flies when you're with her, with him. Being in love means that you have seen yourself through the eyes of your lover, and that is very different from seeing yourself through anyone else's eyes.

Today, I attempt to talk about something that is so amazing, it is so incredibly wonderful that I would not dare to go here, except that Jesus leads us here. And that is for you to see yourself as God sees you. To see yourself through the eyes of someone who loves you infinitely. Someone who is always on your side. Someone who seeks your highest good, someone who longs to be with you forever. I'm looking at Jesus prayer in John 17, as these are Jesus last words before the agony of Gessimini, before the cross. And Jesus is taking these last moments to pray for you, to pray for me, to pray for all who believe in Him. I pick up as Jesus prays there in John 17, verses 24 through 26. Father, I desire that those also whom you have given me may be with me where I am, to see my glory which you have given me because you love me before the foundation of the world. Righteous Father, the world does not know you. But I know you and these know that you have sent me. Now, it's the last verse that I wanna focus on is Jesus prays, I made your name known to them.

Now, by my name, Jesus means God's character, His essence, His nature. I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them. That's the end of Jesus prayer, in which Jesus is praying that the love that the Father has for His Son, Jesus may be in you and me. Please notice what Jesus is praying, he is praying that we might know how much the Father loves us, that he loves us as he loves his son, Jesus. So that the love with which you have loved me may be in them.

I am helped here by John Calvin's commentary on this verse, in which he writes, the love with which God loves is none other than that which he loved his son from the beginning, that we might be made part takers of the same love and might enjoy it at forever. You see, Jesus came not so much to bring us information about God, as He came to bring us intimacy with God, that we might know the Father, and that we might know the Father's love for us and to be one by that love, and to trust in that love. And in the New Testament talks about believers being adopted... That's the word, adopted. Adopted into God's family. Loved by the Father as he loves his son. So that what Jesus is, by His eternal nature. We are by grace, adopted sons and daughters to God.

I remember some years ago being introduced to a family and there was a dad and mom and two cute little boys and... And one of the little guys said to me, he says, You know what, one of us is adopted, but I don't remember which one. That's the glory of God's adoption of you and me, that we are adopted into God's family means that the Father loves us as he loves Jesus. I really like how the Amplified Bible translates Jesus prayer in this verse, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them overwhelming their heart. And I may be in them, You see, to fall in love with God starts as we begin to see ourselves to the father's eyes, loved by the Father as he loves Jesus.

Water From Rock

I have to tell you that for a lot of years, what being a Christian meant for me was, well, it meant being good at playing by the rules, going to church, reading my Bible, trying to be good to others. You see, I had not yet let myself be loved by God, I had not yet seen myself through the Father's eyes. The Little Book of 1 John says it so well, that we love God because because He first loved us, we love God because we saw ourself through his eyes, and we're charmed by. We are wooed by, we are won over by the Father's love for us. No wonder the Apostle Paul phrase in Ephesians 3:19, that we might come to know a love that surpasses knowledge. We might come to know something that might not be known, and that is how much God truly above us.

You will never fully comprehend. You will never fully take in how much the Father loves you. The Bible tells us that God loved you before you were born. So you didn't do anything to make God start loving you, and you can't do anything to make him stop. Following Jesus, being a Christian, it's not a religion, it's not a philosophical system, it's not some code to live by, but it's a being in love, it's letting ourselves, be loved by God, seeing ourselves to the eyes of the Father and coming to trust in that love.

We've talked about some big stuff today, so I'm gonna close with a suggestion, and that is that you now ask the Holy Spirit who lives within you, ask him to help you know more and more about how much the Father loves you. Every day, every night, ask the Holy Spirit to teach you about the Father's love for you. And he will. So just let yourself be loved by the Father, let yourself fall in love.

I'm Tim Smith, a fellow traveler on the pilgrim way.

Thanks for listening, until next time.

Water From Rock

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