

believe that this is possible, but there is nothing that can be said by the unbeliever.

As was said about the blind man, whether this man be a sinner or not, one thing I know, where as I was blind, now I see. Where did this marvelous change take place. People who proposed to know everything knew a little about this. And yet his eyes were opened. If you look for facts or verification the best way is to look at this man's experience.

Some would say, but this is not a fair account of the way in which men and women in general feel as Christians. But I would suggest that if Christians do not know this by inner experience, if they are not certain that Christ is their Savior, then one or two things are possible. First, their experience is superficial and is scarcely worth having. Second, having the facts they have failed to appreciate the significance.

It becomes every Christian man and woman to be able to say, because I have Christ with me and derive my life from him, I know that he is in the Father and I in him and

WHAT BRINGS AND WHAT REPELS CHRIST

John 14:20-24

We closed our study last week with the thought that because I love ye shall love also. He is unveiling encouragement to his downcast followers. His presence with them had meant everything, but now they are being instructed to see him through the eye of the Spirit and they will know the meaning of Christ's indwelling in their lives. He has previously exhorted his disciples to believe that he was in the Father and the Father in him, and that when he is gone they will understand that he is still with them. In this section for our consideration he urges the requirements of practical obedience as a sign and test of love and also as the condition on receiving some wonderful things. These are to be reached only by honest obedience and simple conformity to his commandments.

I. Knowledge Comes With the Christ Who Comes V.20

In that day when I am glorified, when the Spirit is poured out, you shall know more clearly than you do now. These glorious mysteries will be fully known in heaven.

At that day when I shall receive you to myself you shall

know perfectly that which now you see through a glass darkly.

They were more fully known after the pouring out of the Spirit upon the apostles. At that day light should shine and their eyes should see more clearly. Like the blind man's at the touch of Christ's hand.

They are known by all that receive the spirit of truth to their abundant satisfaction. So he is speaking of the whole period between his withdrawal from the disciples and his final coming in judgement. In it the men who love him are to have his presence, his vision, his life. "Ye shall know that I am in my Father and ye in me and I in you." This is a great Christian principle which seems first to be almost impossible, that they should become conscious of his dwelling within. These new influences of his indwelling cleansing will bring new hope and reverse the desires of a man's heart. At every turn of the New Testament we are made aware of the divinity of Jesus. The only way to be sure of it is to have him dwelling within us and working within us.

The other elements of this knowledge which Christ promises that, "ye are in me and I in you". The Christian man will carry a consciousness of Christ's presence. He knows with a consciousness that Jesus Christ is in him for he feels his touch and he knows that he is Christ's.

We need to learn what the Christian man's experience ought to be and to do for him. It touches his conscience. It should make all the fundamentals of the Gospel true. He should be able to see, he is the witness in himself. And though there will remain much that is uncertain, much in Christian doctrine that he is incapable of verifying, yet the central portion of the Gospel will be real. How do you know anything about love? You may read poems and tragedies to the end of time and you will not understand it until you come under the spell of it for yourself. And then all things that men say about it appears to be mere words, because you yourself have experienced it.

The only way to be sure about Jesus Christ is to take him for your very own. And then he comes into your being and dwells there. This knowledge is not available for all people. There are millions of people who do not

prior to all men's love to Christ is Christ's love to men.
 Our love to him is an echo. We love him because he first loved us. So you see that it is not the same to God whether a man continues as sinner or as saint. But we need to bring God's love into action.

It does not seem possible that we can fathom all of this but we know that the path to such knowledge is plain. We walk in the way of obedience and Christ will meet us. And if we are faithful he will then be set into motion to love us back again. We will have Christ's love which he promises to continue with us to the end of the world. We will have Christ's comfort, I will manifest myself to him.

So if any man wills to do his will he shall know of the doctrine. So what we should do is cast resolves upon him and try to love him and keep his commandments because we do love him day by day.

III. Judas' Question - verse 22

The question is one that would have come from any person who was a bit confused or did not quite understand

he in me. You do not have a good grasp of him if you cannot pay tribute to such knowledge. They know that Christ is in the Father, is one with the Father by experience. 1 John 3:24. That they are in Christ, for the relation is mutual and equal on both sides.

II. Obedience Is a Sign Or Test of Love, verse 21

In a former verse Jesus said, "If ye love ye will keep my commandments". Here is a slight difference in the point of view. The former verse began with the root and traces it upward and outward to its fruits. Love blossoms into obedience.

Verse 21 reverses the process and takes the thing by the other end and begins with the fruit, traces them downward and inward to the root. "He that hath and keepeth my commandments, he it is that loveth me." Of course the ¹⁵⁴²¹ two verses were substantially the same thing, but in one because love is to be first as the cause of obedience and in the other obedience is put first as the certain fruit and sure sign of love. ~~Jesus~~

Jesus declares here the position of his commandments

to be a sign of love for him. "He that hath", a word that we generally pass over without noticing. There are two ways of having his commandments. One is having them in the Bible and the other is having them in the heart. You see, the commandments may be present before my eye and as a law I ought to obey. Or the commandments may be present within my will as a power that shapes my will. I think it is this kind that Jesus regards as being real and valid. So the commandment is possessed by knowledge and by will and from desire we are obedient.

Perhaps some of us have laid away in secret places yellow scraps of paper with the words of a dear one, but Jesus does not say, he that has my commandments laid up in scrapbooks, but in the deepest recesses of the heart. This becomes a particular sign, a sure sign and test of love.

We do not need to dwell upon this too much because there are two motives for keeping the commandments. One is because they are commanded. The other is because we love him. The one is as slavery, the other as liberty.

So you see how easy it is for people to feel themselves doubt their love to Jesus Christ. It is emphatic and he goes to the root of the matter and shows to us that like the little bit of water that drives the mill may be more useful than the mighty Niagara.

This puts dignity to discipleship and we become Christians more in name and more in profession, but we actually keep his commandments. You see, it is not those who have the greatest wit or those who talk and brag the biggest about what they do in the Kingdom, but those that keep his commandments. This is the surest evidence of love on man's part.

Of course, there are some returns for this. They shall have the Father's love. "He that loveth me shall be loved of my Father." We cannot love God unless he has loved us. He loves and he lets us know that he loves us and he expects the same in return. Proverbs 8:17. There are at least two things here he tells us. The rich rewards and the sparkling crown in return for our love. How wonderful it is when he says, if a man loves me there is the promise of the benediction of the Father's love. He is not beginning at the very beginning of everything for

Is it possible for men to know God? When we think about science in dealing with material things we must leave it and turn to inward experience because science knows nothing of this experience. Christ shows himself to the obedient love. Christ comes to every heart that loves him and all the world would be different. He will make his abode in the heart that opens a way.

V. What Keep Christ Away? verse 24

We have discovered that love is the root and obedience is the fruit. Where a sincere love to Christ is in the heart there will be obedience. Where love is, duty follows. Of course in an easy natural way. Where there is no love to Christ there will be no obedience. Whatever they may pretend, those who do not love him and do not believe his truths will not obey his laws.

An unloving disobedience closes the eyes to the vision and the heart to the entrance of our Lord. Jesus here sets forth two principles. "He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings." That is very simple. No love, no obedience. Because at the heart of all the commandments is love. And there will be no power to lead men to true

for he felt that he possessed the qualifications of love and he was somewhat in doubt about Jesus making a public showing of himself. Jesus seems now to not plan to go ahead with what they thought he was going to do in the way of setting up an earthly kingdom and he thought that something had happened that Jesus had changed his mind and he wanted to know if Jesus had abandoned his plan. When he rode into Jerusalem with the shouting crowd they felt sure that he was going to show himself to the world and that he would come in his Messianic glory.

This question must have chilled Jesus, must have been disappointing and yet with patience he unfolds the conditions of his revelation and the fullness of his blessings.

We need to take a look at who it was that asked this question. Judas, not Iscariot. Judas or Judah was a famous name, the most famous tribe in Israel was that of Judah. Two of Christ's disciples were of that name and one of them was the traitor. The other was the brother of James. Luke 6:16. One of them was kin to Christ. Matthew 13:55. We see that there was a very good man by this name and also

a very bad man. The writer was careful to distinguish between them, when he speaks of Judas he adds, not Iscariot.

Let us note the question, "Lord how is it?" This reveals the weakness of his understanding. He was looking for a temporal kingdom to be set up. Will you not show yourself openly as we expected? On the other hand, it may be taken as a question of deep affection. He humbly wanted to know how is it, what is there in us that deserves such great favor. II Samuel 7:18.

IV. What Is It That Brings Christ and What Does

He Bring With Him? verse 23.

"If a man love me my Father will love him and he will come and make his abode with him." If a man, this means anybody? Not you only, but anybody. Anybody who will keep my word. He is now explaining to the entire group, not only to Judas but to anybody in the world. In other words, you disciples (do not have a monopoly). Anybody may have it. And he goes on to say, there is no world to which I will show myself. Anybody may have this vision who will meet the conditions. Jesus is pointing out here that the very lifeblood of love is the word and there is

no comparable joy to the heart that is so yielded.

He will keep my word. That is more than a commandment, is it not? (Christ's word includes all his sayings.) We are not to pick and to choose among them. They include all of his thought and every word of Christ is a revelation of God. We must be obedient unto all of his commands. In all of his utterances we discover comfort and knowledge. Every word of Jesus brings to us rewards. Christ will show himself to the loving heart. Every act of submission, "to him that hath shall be given" and as we climb the mountains we get a wider view.

How do we get to know people or to learn about them.

We know people when we love them. The sympathetic parent knows that love is not blind but that it gives understanding. This may not be a perfect illustration, but our love and obedience will enable us to come to a clear knowledge of Jesus. So we might realize that honest loving obedience is worth all of the study and the speculation of the unloving heart. Then we realize how to answer the question. How are we to see Christ. If a man love Christ, the love of the Father will be in him.

obedience to Christ except the power of love. It is only when Christ's love shines in that we are moved to praise him and that we give our hands in service. It reminds me of the huge doors of the Parthenon in Nashville where we have supposedly a replica of the one in Greece. There are huge doors weighing tons, which, if they were flat on the ground would be impossible to move. But the keeper demonstrated that they were so balanced that by the simple touch of the finger a child can move one of them. And so in reference to the commandments of Christ, by the touch of love we move to keep them, but without love it is impossible to keep them.

The second principle, disobedience to Christ, is disobedience to God. "The word which ye hear is not mine but the Father which sent me". So when we can fathom this we discover that everything Jesus said, God said. There are no errors and he is closely linked with truth. Then if it is true that the absence of love to Christ is disobedience to Christ, it is also true that disobedience to Christ is disobedience to God. Therefore, it follows plainly that whatsoever keeps Christ away will keep the gifts of God away. The thing that repels Christ is a heart without love.

St. Mary - Feb - 10, 59 P.M. -

First, we ought to know that it is possible for men to stand close to Christ and yet not be able to see him. It is possible for a man to be in total darkness at noonday as at midnight. As of old, one man saw the chariots of fire and the forces of fire, and the other man failed to see.

There is the second thought that Christ's showing of himself to men is in any sense arbitrary, because you are the one that will determine what you shall see. If you seal up your heart against him you blind yourself against his beauty. The door of your heart opens from within and Christ steps aside. A third thing that you need to realize is that you need to do nothing to blind yourself. Simply neglect. If a man loved not, that is all. The absence of love is ruin.

The fourth thing is that Jesus manifested himself that we might become loving and obedient. You can build a barrier but you can not build a barrier over which Jesus will not send his revelations. No sin of neglect is so high but that Jesus has pardon and grace sufficient.

You perhaps now are asking the question, how can I get the love and obedience of which we sing praises about. One answer. We know that we love him when we know that he loves us, and we know that he loves us when we see him dying on his cross. So that is the ladder out of the pit.

Dr. J.D. Williams - City Birmingham corner Ave 7 + 27th St - saw young man on curb crying - sought to help - all of message of sonnet. Who are you - Father of Christ - down to hard voice of a girl singing a song "His Love for Me! His Love for Me! High as the heavens, deeper than the sea, His love, His love for me!"

Procha and Whores Love? - ugly looks Love - But he can't love a sinner like me - I have been mean, stolen, gone under his assumed names - To room - picked up Bible - its a Bible - do you believe it - don't know much about - Turned to John 3:16 add to road - Then read it again & put your name in Place of "world" - al see read & then stopped - I better put my real name there - one my mother gave me - And so down James Robertson - How am I going to know he loves me? we must tell him so - get on knees - ask for forgiveness - confessed love - I am a new man - I feel like new man - Emphasis what makes a man new? The love of God. 1 Cor 5:18