

Loving Jesus Jesus' Way

John 21:15-23

We have been studying over the summer the doctrine of God's love. The question that we face is "Do you really want to know God's love?"

If we do, with Bible in hand, we go on an adventure that is unlike anything we would ever have imagined.

Jesus' ways are not our ways. They are strange and peculiar. Deeply experiencing His love is to go on a journey into unfamiliar and uncomfortable territory. Journeying into the depth of God's love is truly an adventure in faith.

Our brokenness and struggles and failures are a crucial part of our journey to know, to grow, and to show Christ's love for us.

1. Our brokenness is necessary for learning how to love Jesus. (John 21:15-17)

"When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' He said to him, 'Feed my lambs.'" John 21:15

- **Our failures and brokenness help us to clarify the reality of our love for Christ.**

"If you are going to do any single solitary thing as a follower and servant of Jesus, this is what it's built on. Somewhere, deep down inside, there is a love for Jesus, and though (goodness knows) you've let him down enough times, he wants to find that love, to give you a chance to express it, to heal the hurts and failures of the past, and give you new work to do." N.T. Wright

- **Our failures and brokenness help us to qualify our love for Christ.**

"**Simon, son of John...**" Jesus takes John back to where he found him. We are weak sinners and saints serving weak sinners and saints.

- **Our brokenness helps us to dignify our love for Christ. "Feed my sheep."**

We are loving the very sheep Christ loves and for whom He died.

2. A willingness to be broken is necessary for loving Jesus. (John 21:18-19)

"Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you

and carry you where you do not want to go.’ (This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, ‘Follow me.’” John 21:18-19

Loving Jesus is shown by our willingness to surrender both our autonomy and dignity in order to discover and to display the glory of His love.

"My wheelchair would be the vehicle that would carry the hope of Jesus to families like mine."

Joni Eareckson Tada

3. A gratitude for my particular brokenness is necessary to loving Jesus. (John 21:20-23)

“Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them, the one who also had leaned back against him during the supper and had said, ‘Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?’ When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, ‘Lord, what about this man?’ Jesus said to him, ‘If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow me!’” (John 21:20-22)

Learning to love Jesus is learning to celebrate what Christ is doing in other people’s lives and trusting him with what He is doing in yours.

“God makes no mistakes in casting. Oh, it feels like that from time to time, no doubt. There are many times when faithful Christians look with puzzlement, and (alas) envy, at one another, and wish that they could swap places. But part of Christian obedience ... is knowing that we are called to follow Jesus wherever he leads us, not wherever he leads the person next to us.”

- NT Wright

“Jesus went without comfort so that you might have it. He postponed joy so that you might share in it. He willingly chose isolation so that you might never be alone in your hurt and sorrow. He had no real fellowship so that fellowship might be yours, this moment. This alone is enough cause for great gratitude!”

— Joni Eareckson Tada