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Jesus loves you so much

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# Love others as love yourself

Thank you for the honor and your class in general. It really goes from glory to glory.

What do you say to a group of people who are here pretty much perpetually for 2 years. What can you possibly say that you haven’t said before? I feel like I don’t have anything new to say, but I want to leave you with a few words.

Jesus talked about love your neighbor as you love yourself. Jesus said love others as yourself. You need to love you! As long as you don’t love you, you can’t love others! A lot of people aren’t even taking care of their “as.”

# Jesus loves you so much!

This was the first message I gave in first year at school. Jesus loves you more than you can imagine. And that you are amazing! You remember because you said I have a wicked heart, a sinner saved by grace. We ripped your heart out and gave you a new heart.

I want to remind you that Jesus loves you so much!

# Head knowledge vs heart knowledge

Ephesians 3:17-19 (ESV) so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

You can teach on this passage, but still not know what it means! Comprehend with all the saints. That would know and comprehend what passes knowing! That is actually an illogical verse. Bill explains it this way: that you would know with your heart what you couldn’t know with your head. Your heart can go further than your head ever can!

I have met so many people that so desperately need to be loved! And they can quote all the verses about the love of God in the Bible! You really don’t know you’re loved! And they quote Scripture. My answer is: your head knows it, but your heart doesn’t!

# Trying to explain what your experience was!

Have you ever had a heart meeting you tried to explain with words? You’re explaining it with exuberance and the person listening doesn’t understand.

How many remember when people kissed each other before puberty? It was gross! Those who danced looked quite insane to those who couldn’t hear the music! People who first fell in love are trying to explain what they are experiencing.

You can do an outline on that verse, study it in Greek, read the commentaries. It will not explain what those 2 people are doing! You have to experience it so you can explain it!

# Worst conference ever

My worst conference ever was in Idaho. Roland Baker, me, David Hogan. There were 12 speakers! I wouldn’t ever do that again, I was there for 5 days. I remember Roland getting up and sharing about the sacrifice of being in Africa and the things they endured. Floods, starvation. When he got done you didn’t even know if you were a Christian.

The next day David Hogan shared. He is sharing about being with the Indians. Shot at, stabbed. When he got done we knew we were not a Christian. 2 days of the craziest sacrificial stories and then it was my turn!

I went to Romania once, stayed in a 5-star hotel, the AC didn’t work one day! I bought her a violin out there. I was more excited about buying her the violin than working with the poor. Then I shared about the Song of Solomon. The bride and the groom. And then you have the choir!

The whole story begins with him knocking on her door and her not opening! She’s like I am sorry I’ve already washed my feet and already asleep. So he walks away and she says stupid stupid stupid. So, she runs through the city and says: have you seen my man? She looks like this!

Song of Songs 4:12 (ESV) A garden locked is my sister, my bride, a spring locked, a fountain sealed.

This was before cellphones! He hears she is looking for me! She has a navel like this and has it all going on! And then all of a sudden, a choir comes in!

# Sacrifice and love

So, I am preaching out of this after the sacrificial stories. I said: all I missed in my marriage was the music! What about doing life with a choir following you? Watching a movie without sound is so much different! That’s the only thing my marriage has lacked! I said to the 500 people, you hear David and Roland and think they are doing something for the King. But sacrifice always looks like work to people who aren’t in love**! (17:00)**

I rode on my motorcycle through the rain all the time! I didn’t even care! When you're in love you just do stuff! Everyone else says they’re so sacrificial! But I am just in love! I was on Heidi’s board 7 years and they told her multiple times she would die! She was just in love! Some of you haven’t been in love and don’t know what I am talking about.

# Desperate for God

I was sitting down with Graham Cooke several years ago. He is a lot like Bill. Out of the blue, having nothing to do with what we’re talking about he says: I don’t want to be desperate for God. I answered him: okay, you don’t want to be desperate for God? No, because that means I have a dysfunctional relationship with Him!

I left before the last session and somebody preached on being desperate for God. I like to be passionate for God, but don’t want to have a dysfunctional relationship with Him.

# Experiencing real love

There is something about experiencing real love that can’t be explained. Trying to write someone’s experience without having your experience is funny. You know I was born out of wedlock. My grandfather disowned her. That went on for a time, they went and got married. For several months, my grandfather told my mother you’re not my daughter, 7 or 9 months later my father said: enough of this!

So, he went to my grandfather’s house and got through the back door. My grandfather opened the door and my father asked him for forgiveness. Thankfully he did that because 2 years later my father drowned and my grandfather was the only one who ever loved me. We were poor and I would spend a couple hours by myself with my grandfather.

We were trying to make it work. My grandfather wore coveralls, around 5 feet 7, he wasn’t fat, but stocky. He had a gum disease, so he only had 2 teeth. He kept his false teeth in his front coverall pocket. He didn't walk, but wallowed. My grandfather would go to the hardware stuff and he would buy me stuff and it hurt my mother. Don’t you ask for anything!

So, my grandfather pulled in and coasted into the driveway. We get to the hardware store, just look around and if there is anything you want to let me know. I was looking at the hammers for half an hour. Do you want a hammer? No! Did your mom tell you not to? Uhu. Do you want a hammer? Yes! So, he bought me a blue hammer!

I had 2 hours by myself and I hammered every nail in the house. After a few days, I realized I am like my puppy. When I am bored I just start tearing things. I built my own go kart by tearing the garage apart and built it. His mom comes home, where did you get the wood? The garage! Where did you get the wheels? from the lawn mower.

Grandpa is going to kill you! My mother was super angry and pulled me by the neck. My grandfather saw the garage and the light coming in, he said I will just put some plywood over it. My grandfather went with me and bought me wheels and axils!

# Pulling out the tree

I lived on my grandfather’s ranch and he bought me a Honda 9 trail bike! It had 8 gears and it was awesome! My grandfather worked at Hersey’s, if I got my list of chores done I could drive the motorcycle. I couldn't drive the tractor without my grandfather being there.

He made me a treehouse, and there was another tree that grew under my treehouse. One day I thought I am going to pull out the tree with my motorcycle. Got a chain and I backed off, flew over the handle bars instead of getting up and maybe cutting it with a saw I stood up and said you have messed with the wrong guy to the tree!

I drive back up and have 200 feet of chain, drive back up to the tree. Hook the chain up to the tree, I will do it to the top of the tree, climb up the tree with the chain. Takes me half an hour, still doesn't occur to me to cut it down! I tie the motorcycle up to the chain. There is a trial, hill, bridge and the treehouse. I pull my motorcycle backwards to the hill. I am going to get in top gear when I am at the tree. I pull my motorcycle up, I pass the tree. The tree comes down and all of a sudden, my motorcycle goes into the air. I can still remember the moment in slow-motion. I hit the dirt on my back somehow and the motorcycle shoots off!

I am on my back and the motorcycle goes 150 feet in the air and it throws it to the top of the hill. Absolutely true story. Now I am pissed. I climb up the hill and say to the tree you will not mess with a Vallotton!

I get the tractor, put it around and go as fast as I can and pull the lever and it bends the forks straight down like they were butter! I used a couple of Egyptian words, drove the tractor back and put it in the barn and pulled the hydraulic over back. I thought my grandfather is going to kill me!

He had that tractor his whole life. He said: how was your day? Okay, what’s wrong? He gets in there and I can still remember the look on his face! What happened? A couple of sound effects later :p He said: don’t worry about that, I wanted to teach you how to use the torches anyway.

# A bent door

About 6 months later all my city cousins from San Jose came here. They don’t even know their dirt! They all drank too much during Thanksgiving. Everyone is there, doing crazy stuff. My grandfather gives me the keys to the dodge and says; go have some fun on the dirt roads. They all go in the truck and we take off through the field. Everything shakes in the old trick. We cut through the mud and got stuck. I said hey to my 8 cousins. Get off the truck and push or you will walk all the way up the hill. Spread mud all over all 8 of them.

We get going again though the field, finally go up on the road and I forgot about the river and the road. We get to the road and it is gone! So, we are going backwards and all of a sudden, I hear wham! And a tree hits the door and rips it off the car! I bend it in half and hanging by the bottom hinge!

My cousin looks up and says grandpa is going to kill you! We get on top and we won’t tell anything, they say he wrecked the truck! My uncle had too much to drink. Here comes my grandfather, what seems to be the problem? The door is bent in half. Looks over at me and he winks. I got this!

Just take both doors off, just way too much work to open the doors all the time. My uncle is like you are it!

# Experiencing love from people

I think my grandfather before he knew the Lord taught me that God loves me! That he cares more about me than about a truck, garage or a tractor. There is something about experiencing love from people that transcends explanation. My grandson almost 2 years ago was driving the lawn tractor.

He tried to put it in the garage door and accidentally pushed the garage door again to go down. I am running push the button! All of a sudden, they hit the door. I scream Micha! Kathy looks up and says: remember your grandfather! Oh, it is no big deal! All I’ve wanted to show you is how to put that door back on!

I have to admit; I did pretty well, but I don’t know if I was feeling what my grandfather felt.

I want to pray that you would experience the love of God that goes above understanding.