

Introduction: Is love more than a feeling?

Case Study #1: Pop culture

Case Study #2: “We lost the championship!”

Case Study #3: When it gets very personal and very painful

Case Study #4: Jesus’ parable of two sons

Matthew 21:28-32

Question: What is the relationship between love and obedience?

Answer: John 14

The emotional context:

It is Jesus' final night with His disciples prior to His arrest and crucifixion. He has washed their feet, Judas has left to betray Him, and they are overwhelmed with fear and anxiety. Jesus is leaving, their leader will deny Him, the authorities want to arrest them, and their hope of an immediate Kingdom has evaporated. The future looks foreboding.

The critical conversation:

Peter: "Where are you going?"

- Jesus' answer - John 14:1-4

Thomas: "How can we know the way?"

- Jesus' answer - John 14:5-7

Philip: "Show us the Father!"

- Jesus' answer - John 14:8-11
- Jesus' assignment - John 14:12-15
- Jesus' provision - John 14:16-21

Judas (not Iscariot): "How will the world not see You?"

- Jesus' answer - John 14:22-26

Jesus: "Don't be troubled or afraid."

- Jesus' reason - John 14:27-31

Because God loves me...

1. Jesus is preparing a place for me with the Father. John 14:1-4
2. He sent Jesus to make a way for me to be with the Father. John 14:5-7
3. He sent Jesus to reveal to me what God is really like. John 14:8-11
4. He will use me greatly and hear me always. John 14:12-15
5. He sent the Holy Spirit to live inside of me to manifest the presence, personality, and power of Jesus 24/7. John 14:16-26
6. He gives me peace, even in a world of turmoil by defeating death, sin, and Satan. John 14:27-31

Because I love God...

1. I will not _____ because my future is secured. John 14:1-4
2. I will _____ in Jesus as the only way to eternal life. John 14:5-7
3. I make _____ the #1 priority of my life. John 14:8-11
4. I _____ my time, talent, treasure, and platform to make Jesus' love known, in mind and deed. John 14:12-15
5. I will _____ my heart and mind, and will _____ the Holy Spirit's direction through His Word, His people, and His prompting. John 14:16-26
6. I will refuse to _____ about the future, but live victoriously in the present. John 14:27-31

Summary: “Love _____!”

John 14:21

Discussion Questions:

1. What comfort do you find in realizing the early disciples struggled with fear and anxiety even while in Jesus’ physical presence?
2. What is Jesus doing right now?

How often do you think about heaven when world events and personal challenges come?

3. In what ways (list them) did Jesus love His disciples through their multiple crises?
4. What is the relationship between love and obedience in our relationship with God?
Discuss John 14:15-21
5. How have you seen past steps of obedience build intimacy and joy in your relationship with God?
6. What specific step of obedience is next for you?

Who might help you take that step and work with you on your journey?