

## 8. I Love You, Jesus

The Pastor had just finished distributing the Lord's Supper. He spoke the words of dismissal, "Depart in peace", when Fred, one of the communicants, with eyes focused on the cross whispered, "Thank You, Jesus! Thank You, Jesus! I love You, Jesus!" The Pastor shared that beautiful experience with his wife. They talked about it for some time, especially the phrase, "I love You, Jesus." We say to each other, "I love you." We say to our children, "We love you." Our children tell us that they love us. But what about, "I love You, Jesus?" Could He be waiting to hear us say that? Would He be pleased to hear those words from our hearts?

Our hymns are full of love. We sing of tender love, fervent, ineffable love. We sing of boundless, perfect, redeeming, wondrous love. We sing of amazing, holy, gracious love. We sing of creating, pardoning, patient, everlasting love. Furthermore, we sing that the Lord would teach us love; that He would crown our lives with love and keep us in His love. In our songs we ask that we would bring forth fruits of love; that we would be moved by His love; that we may give Him love.

Love is not a mere emotion, an idle feeling or sentiment. Rather, love is an active, working principle, a motive power. Love is an action word. Ask a little child, how much do you love me? The child will immediately go into action. The bigger the hug, the harder the squeeze, the more the child is trying to express its love.

So it was and is with the Lord our God. Note the words of action in the following: *John 3:16*, "God so loved the world that He **GAVE** His one and only Son." Jesus did not love us and then stay in heaven. Because He loved us He **CAME** to planet earth and **GAVE** Himself a ransom for us all. He **MADE** the supreme sacrifice. He **PAID** our debts.

- "He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed." *Isaiah 53:5*
- "Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down His life for His friends." *John 15:13*
- "Above all things, have fervent love among yourselves." *1 Peter 4:8*
- "By this shall all know that you are My disciples if you love one another." *John 8:35*

No question about it, love is the badge of our faith.

**"Thank You, Jesus! Thank You, Jesus! I love You, Jesus!"**

# I Love You, Jesus

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## We Begin

L: We begin in the name of the God, who is Love.

## We Search Scriptures - I Corinthians 13

Leader (L) and two groups (1 & 2)

- L: If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.
- 1: If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.
- 2: If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.
- L: Love is patient, love is kind.
- 1: It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.
- 2: It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.
- L: Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.
- 1: It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.
- 2: Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away.
- L: For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears.
- 1: When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me.
- 2: Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.
- All: And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

## We Meditate

Follow this outline as the meditation is presented

- "Depart in peace."
- Hymns full of love
- Love means action
  - √ Isaiah 53:5
  - √ John 15:13
  - √ I Peter 4:8
  - √ John 8:35

## We Respond

- L: You promised to Send a Savior, dear Father.  
R: Love means action!  
L: You lived and died for me, dear Jesus.  
R: Love means action!  
L: You give me power to believe and trust, dear Spirit.  
R: Love means action!

## We Pray

Thank You, Jesus!  
Thank You, Jesus!  
I love You, Jesus! Amen.

