

Exegetical Notes, John 14:15-25

“If You Love Me!”

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John 14:15-25

Verse 15

“If you love me, keep my commands.”

- Jesus says that if we do indeed love him, we will follow his teachings.

Verses 16-17

“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

- Jesus promised that he will ask God and God will send the Holy Spirit to (1) advocate for us and (2) to be with us forever. The term, “advocate,” is a legal term. The idea is that the Holy Spirit will act as our defense attorney. It means that the Holy Spirit will be our help when we are in trouble. The Holy Spirit will not just visit us as he does in the Old Testament. He will abide with us, stay beside us, forever.
- The world, those who are not in Jesus, do not understand the concept of the Holy Spirit’s presence. But those who believe in Jesus do.

Verses 18-20

I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.¹⁹ Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.²⁰ On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.

- The disciples were still emotionally overcome by the news that Jesus was not going to be physically present with them. (See John 13:33) Here, he reassures them that this leaving will only be temporary.
- Jesus will come to take them home.
- Then, they will realize/know that the Father and the Son are one and that, through the Holy Spirit, they are one with the Father and the Son.

Verse 21

Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.

- Again, Jesus reiterates the importance of living by his teachings. Our obedience to the teaching of the Bible, Jesus commandments, demonstrates our love for him and for the Father.

Verses 22-25

Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, “But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?”

²³ Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. ²⁴ Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.

²⁵ “All this I have spoken while still with you.

- To Judas, and to many moderns, the idea that Jesus’ exclusiveness is confusing. Why does Jesus reveal himself to some and not to all?
- Jesus makes it clear that this is a matter of personal choice. If we choose to love Jesus, we will choose to obey Jesus. Those who choose not to obey are choosing not to love. If you want love him you must obey him.

(These exegetical notes are the foundational study for the sermon entitled *If You Love Me*. They have been prepared by the Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen, Senior Pastor at Cornerstone Fellowship, Coatesville Pennsylvania. All rights are reserved by *Cornerstone Fellowship* & The Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen. They are used here by permission.)