***Life that manifests the fragrance of God…(Jn.15:12)***

**REVIEW: ENCOUNTERING GOD’S LOVE AND JOY EMPOWERS US (JN. 15:9-12)**

——ENCOUNTERING GOD’S LOVE AND JOY EMPOWERS US TO WALK IN SACRIFICIAL LOVE FOR OTHERS (JN. 15:12).

NOTICE THE PROGRESSION:

WE ARE TO ABIDE IN GOD’S LOVE (15:9) WITH A SPIRIT OF OBEDIENCE (15:10), WHICH IN TIME RESULTS IN EXPERIENCING HIS JOY (15:11), WHICH EMPOWERS US TO LOVE OTHERS IN SACRIFICIAL WAYS (15:12).

**WE LACK THE ABILITY TO LOVE CONSISTENTLY WITHOUT RECEIVING A MEASURE OF JOY.**

9“As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in [focus on, engage with] My love… 10If you keep My commandments…11These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you…12This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.” (Jn. 15:9-12)

“As the Father loved Me”—that is truth number one—“that is the way that I love you, with the same intensity”—that is truth number two. And what I call the most important commandment in the New Testament is the next phrase, “Abide in My love.”

Stay engaged with Him on these two truths of how God loves God, which is the same way that God loves you.

Stay engaged on those two truths. Live in them. If you do, it is like, if you connect with those two truths and stay focused on them, then many, many other truths will come into place.

The trajectory will be such that—using an analogy—many other dominoes will go down.

If you see the way that God loves God—and there is a vast amount on that truth—and that that is the same way God loves you, and if you stay in that conversation with the Lord—we have spent many sessions on this—then you will set yourself up for many dynamic things to happen in your inner man.

This commandment, “Abide in My love,” I consider it to be the most important commandment in the Bible.

Stay locked into conversation with Jesus on those two truths in verse 9, the first two phrases.

Then, in verse 10, if you do that with a spirit of obedience, then, verse 11, Jesus said, “My joy will operate in you.” If you have joy operating in you, verse 12, you will have the empowerment, the ability, to love people.

Not just love people and this is where He lifts the bar way out there. However, He is not putting a heavy demand on us, but He is giving us how far He is willing to go with the human spirit.

He says, “I will actually empower you to love people in the way that I love them.

I will lead you to that kind of triumph if you want to go that far with Me.”

You do not want to start in verse 12 with just the command to love.

You want to see the progression.

If we abide in God’s love, verse 9, with the spirit of obedience, verse 10, it will result in joy progressively growing in us, verse 11, which empowers us to love people in sacrificial ways.

Now, not all love is sacrificial, but consistent deep love has an element of sacrifice in it. And much love is sacrificial. It is not easy on the flesh.

The key to sustained posture to love is the Joy that remains….