



I. INTRODUCTION: CHOOSING TO LOVE

A. Communication, key to perfecting _____ (I Jn. 4:16)...and marriages

1. God says “listen to Me”...ears to hear (Jn. 8:31-32) = WORD OF GOD
2. God says “talk with Me”...pray without ceasing (I Thes. 5:17) = PRAYER
 - a. Our _____ God proves His love for us clearly
 - i. By desiring to save the souls of sinners (Ro. 5:8)
 - ii. By providing salvation via the _____, sacrificing His only beloved Son
 - b. Jesus loved God’s Word, and quoted it constantly (Mt. 12:34)
 - c. Jesus often withdrew from ministry simply to _____ with God
 - i. And Jesus is STILL praying today for us due to His constant love
 - ii. Cf. Heb. 7:25
 - (i) How often do you pray for your children? Strategy of _____?
 - (ii) Greatest proof of love...passion to see them anchored in God’s _____
3. Samuel was a listener with a hungry _____ to know God (I Peter 2:2)
 - a. I Sam. 3:1...in days of no vision...no one was listening to God (Amos 8:11)
 - b. God’s always calling to see if anyone’s _____ (3:4)
 - c. Servants in love with God have a passion to hear His voice (3:9)
 - d. AND God loves to use listeners powerfully for His _____ (3:11, 19), as they build relationships that last meaningfully

B. Communication and levels of intimacy...Exodus 33:11

1. Why are some Christians experiencing a closer relationship to God _____?
2. Because of choices of the heart (Josh. 24:15)...we choose levels of love (Jn. 14:21)
 - a. God spoke to Moses face to face...as His beloved _____...see more later...
 - b. But the nation as a whole had limits to their fellowship with God
 - i. Ps. 78:41-42
 - ii. Exodus 19:11-12...they could approach the mountain (repentance), but they could not ascend (fellowship)...cf. 24:17...God was a _____ of judgment to the masses who were apathetic and apostate



- iii. Lost people cannot fellowship with God
 - (i) THINK...re: “seeker services”...Willowcreek e.g.
 - (ii) WHY DESIGN WORSHIP SERVICES FOR THE LOST???
- c. Cf. 24:9-11
 - i. Aaron and the elders had a higher _____ of intimacy than the masses
 - ii. They saw God and ate and drank with Moses (mediator) in their presence
 - iii. BUT...this interaction effected NO _____ transformation
 - (i) Merely a religious experience
 - (ii) Shortly they would be making and worshipping a golden _____
 - (iii) Thusly, their intimacy would be far less than Moses’ and Joshua’s
- d. Cf. 24:13-14
 - i. Moses and Joshua climb higher on the mountain
 - ii. BUT the _____ stay behind
 - iii. APPLICATION...the steeper climb demands greater diligence of disciplines
 - iv. NOTE how quickly the numbers dwindled
 - (i) From the millions of the mass
 - (ii) To TWO men fully in _____ with God...deep intimacy
 - 1. REMEMBER Joshua was Moses disciple
 - 2. Luke 6:40
 - 3. Joshua loved being in the _____ of God (intimacy)
 - a. Ex. 33:11
 - b. Joshua fully understood _____ principles of intimacy
 - c. Joshua 1:8-9
- e. Moses alone ascends into God’s _____ presence
 - i. Type of Christ
 - ii. Mediator, advocate and deliverer (32:10, 32)...loved God and the _____!!
 - iii. Ex. 24:15-17



- iv. 40 days and nights...DEEP INTIMACY as God's beloved _____ (33:11)
 - v. Moses worshipped while the masses feared (v17)
 - vi. Cf. Numb. 12:8
 - vii. Moses knew God's ways intimately (33:13); craved God's glorious Word (v18)
 - viii. He _____ and reflected God's glorious Word (34:29, 35)
 - (i) I Peter 2:2
 - (ii) II Cor. 3:13-18...Moses external glory faded, internal glory does not (5:17)
 - (iii) To be more like Jesus, we must absorb God's glory thru meditation upon the _____ (Josh. 1:8-9; 2 Cor. 4:6)
 - 1. We must have a deeper grasp that our _____ God is our beloved Friend
 - 2. The Jews saw Jesus' face BUT totally missed his GLORY and LOVE
 - 3. God doesn't want merely external imitation, but internal transformation
 - 4. "Beholding" can also be translated "absorbed"
 - 5. We eventually mirror those we admire and _____ (I Cor. 11:1)
 - 6. "Are changed" is passive verb, meaning metamorphosis literally
 - 7. Cf. digestion process (pg. 130 Oswald Sanders)
- C. Jesus and His disciples (Jn. 17:26)...God is love (I Jn. 4:16)...no respecter of persons, thus no favorites...we _____ levels of intimacy!
- 1. Jesus had 500 faithful followers (I Cor. 15:6)...level 5 of intimacy
 - 2. Level 4...the seventy sent out 2 by 2
 - 3. Level 3...the faithful 12 (minus Judas, the counterfeit)
 - 4. Level 2...Peter, James, and John...the inner _____ (Moses-Joshua)
 - a. Special privileges of intimacy (Phil. 3:10)
 - i. "that I may know Him"...Mt. Transfiguration (Mt. 17:1)



- ii. “power of His resurrection”...Jairus’ daughter (Lk. 8:51)
 - iii. “fellowship of His sufferings”...Gethsemane (Mt. 26:37)
5. Level 1...John, the _____ disciple (Jn. 13:23-25)
- a. Peter recognized John’s special relationship with Jesus (v24); 21:20
 - b. Cf. 21:7
 - c. Wrote more than any other author regarding the _____ of God
 - i. He knew the heartbeat of the _____ (3:16)
 - ii. He knew _____ the gracious love of God (I Jn. 4:16)
 - iii. Thus he penned the gospel and the 3 epistles and Revelation (the final “chapter” on how God’s loving covenantal guarantees bless the sinful Jews in the _____)
6. Intimacy is a matter of the _____ (Mk. 3:35)
- a. A driving passion to _____ (Jn. 14:21; Ps. 40:8)...to hear “well done”
 - b. A clear mission (Mt. 28:19-20; 2 Tim. 2:2)
 - c. A divine _____ for ministry (Prov. 29:18; 2 Tim. 4:7)
 - d. YET...struggles still exist...
 - i. Col. 1:29
 - ii. Peter _____ Christ
 - iii. James and John wanted pre-eminent positions
 - iv. Therefore, intimacy does not demand perfection but _____ shown thru repentance when sin occurs, proof of God’s unconditional love and calling to intimacy
 - e. THE BOTTOM LINE SUMMARY...
 - i. The key is _____ driving desire to _____ God...a hunger for holiness (Heb. 12:14)
 - ii. Ps. 42
 - iii. Job 23:12
 - iv. Jer. 15:16
 - v. Mt. 5:6, 8