



## “THE DISCIPLINES OF VIBRANTLY DEEP INTIMACY”

### I. INTRODUCTION: CHOICES OF THE HEART...LEVELS OF INTIMACY

- A. Choosing to love (Jn. 13:34-35)
- B. Choosing to grow in love (I Jn. 4:16)
- C. Choosing to \_\_\_\_\_ in love (Phil. 2:12-16)
- D. Choosing to love as Christ loves (Eph. 5:25) - husbands
- E. Choosing to \_\_\_\_\_ in love (Eph. 5:22) – wives

### II. INSTRUCTION: DISCIPLINES FOR DEEPER INTIMACY

- A. Remember Jesus perfected His love through disciplines of obedience (Heb. 5:8-9)
  - 1. Through perseverance through sufferings (Gethsemane)
  - 2. He clearly proved His love for us (Heb. 12:1-2) and for God at the \_\_\_\_\_
  - 3. Let's examine some specific disciplines God uses to purify and perfect our love...
- B. The discipline of disturbance (Heb. 12:5-6)
  - 1. The Potter must shape His \_\_\_\_\_ (Isa. 64:8)
  - 2. To be vessels fit for His holy use (Heb. 12:10)
  - 3. The divine disturbance of discipline in a word picture... (Dt. 32:11-12)
  - 4. God knows our vulnerability to contempt through familiarity (Dt. 8:2-14)
  - 5. God knows wicked people have \_\_\_\_\_ memories
    - a. Disciples in the boat with baskets of food
    - b. Hosanna \_\_\_\_\_
    - c. Moses' murmurers (Phil. 2:14) wanted to go back to Egypt
- C. The discipline of darkness (Isa. 45:3, 7)
  - 1. John the Baptist in prison (Lk. 7:22-23)



2. Elijah (I Kg. 19:4)
  3. God is present in \_\_\_\_\_ days
    - a. But we must draw near (Jas. 4:8)
    - b. Exodus 20:21
  4. Christ on the cross (Mt. 27:46)
    - a. Cf. Isa. 50:10-11
    - b. Intimacy with God WILL involve tremendous \_\_\_\_\_ and trials of life (Jn. 16:33)
      - i. Daniel in lion's den
      - ii. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fiery furnace (Dan. 3)
- D. The discipline of disappointments
1. Joseph (Genesis 37-50)
  2. Foreshadowing of Christ's treatment by His Jewish brethren (\_\_\_\_\_)
  3. Jealousy conspires to destroy him, and uses lies (coat covered with \_\_\_\_\_)
  4. Turned over to Pharaoh in Egypt, picture of Satan and this world's opposition; foreshadowing how the Jews conspire with Rome and eventually the antichrist to oppose God's will
  5. Application ...God often gives the \_\_\_\_\_ before He teaches the lessons!
    - a. That God always has something BETTER for His children (Gen. 50:20)
    - b. Cf. Hebrews...
      - i. Better things (12:24)...all spiritual blessings ours (Eph. 1)
      - ii. Better \_\_\_\_\_ (7:19; Col. 1:27)
      - iii. Better promises and covenant (8:6)...engrafted into our lives (8:10)
      - iv. Better testament (7:22)...of grace not law
      - v. Better \_\_\_\_\_ (heaven) – 11:16
      - vi. Better resurrection (11:35)...to eternal life
      - vii. Better sacrifices (9:23)...eternal blood of Christ, once for all...
- E. The discipline of unfairness (Ezek. 18:25)...why God?!
1. Absalom's conspiracy of rebellion against his father David (2 Sam. 15-17)