



Lesson 45 “Love in the Light”

Romans 13:8-14

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Before you begin to look up these verses today, set a timer for 4 minutes and grab a blank sheet of paper. Write at the top “love” and then start the timer. Write down everything that pops into your head when you think of love. (EVERYTHING. Yes. Even far-fetched, ridiculous things, write ‘em all down.)

Read Matthew 22:34-40. What did Jesus say was the greatest commandment? What did He say was the 2nd? Look at the list you made a moment ago of things that you think of when you think of love. Circle any of the things that would describe the type of love Jesus is referring to here.

Read John 13:34-35. What is the new commandment that Jesus gives here? How will this demonstrate that we are His disciples? Circle any additional things from your list that would describe the type of love Jesus is referring to here.

Read Galatians 5:13-15. What does Paul tell us we were called to here? What should we use this as an opportunity for? How does this reconcile with what Paul taught in Romans 13:12-14?

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11. What parallel themes do you see here and in Romans 13:8-14? What should our daily walking look like, according to this passage?

Read Matthew 25:1-13. What was the only indication we have that 5 of the virgins were wise and 5 were foolish? What does that demonstrate in terms of their character? What were they all waiting for? What are *we* all waiting for? Did any of the virgins stay awake? When they woke up, what were the 5 wise virgins able to do that the 5 foolish virgins were not? When the bridegroom came, who came in with him? How are they described in verse 10? When did the other virgins come? What does that imply? What was the response from inside? Why should we keep watch?

Look back over your list of “love”. Did you have many things on there that would fit into the kind of love that Jesus calls us to? If not, you might consider re-learning what love is from God’s perspective. Perhaps do a word search of the Bible and see what “love” is associated with throughout the Bible.

All of the virgins fell asleep. All of them. Yet, 5 of them were prepared for what was required of them, and 5 were not. Thus, 5 were able to go in with the bridegroom and 5 were left out. They came “afterward”. Too late. As you spend time with God today, ask Him to help you to understand the type of love that He calls you to. Rewrite your list with the characteristics of love that we are called to as followers of Christ. Ask Him to help you to fulfill the law with this type of love. Ask Him to help you to be prepared, knowing that the time is drawing short and He will return. Ask Him to help you to see where you are still living to gratify your flesh, and ask Him to help you to turn from that and turn to Him, today, to bring glory to Him, not temporary gratification of your flesh.