



To Be Loved, To Be Loved;

WHAT AMERICA NEEDS NOW

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What America Needs Now

9 As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.

10 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

11 These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.

12 This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.

13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. John 15: 9-13

On February 1, 1958 the late Jackie Wilson, renowned Rhythm & Blues artist released a new Ballard entitled To Be Loved. The first verse of the lyrics says; “Someone to care, someone to share Lonely hours and the moments of despair To be loved, to be loved Oh, what a feeling to be loved.” As I contemplate the challenges that we have been facing here in America, it has become very clear to me that the diagnosis for what ails us is that we as a country, we as a people need **To Be Loved. What America Needs Now is To Be Loved.** America is in much pain. Unfortunately, that pain is not being address. Even though much of the pain is self-inflicted the problem

remains, **What America Needs Now is To Be Loved.** It is impossible to give what you don't have, but what is worse is to be offered what you need and not recognize that what you need is in fact being offered. I fear that America suffers from both dilemmas. Our current leadership is incapable of giving love. If that were possible, during the last four years, we would have seen it at least once, but that has not been the case. And too many Americans who support this current leadership suffer from what some would describe as "Familiar Pain." Since all they know is pain, they perceive that as being love, and they now have embraced that since they don't know any better. This is not a new condition. In fact, Christ even faced this same tragedy when He walked among us; listen to His heart wrenching refrain: *"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!"* How sad! How tragic! The longing of God's heart is for us to be loved, and yet when he sends love, the people reject it. **To Be Loved is What America Needs Now.**

In our scripture text for today, Christ speaks to the heart of the matter:

“9 As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.

10 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

11 These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. “

Listen America to what our Savior is saying, the love that God has for His son is the same love that His son has for us. “To be loved, to be loved Oh what a feeling to be love.” The magnificence of this kind of love being extended towards us brought Christ much joy and He wanted us to share in the abundance of that joy. Christ wants our hearts, America, to be filled with the wonderful joy of God’s love being manifested in us. The question before us today is do we feel that Joy? Are our hearts full of the extravagance of God’s love in us? The litany of evidence suggest no. Racial and social injustice, police brutality against people of color, a president who is doing everything in his power to destroy democracy, and a global pandemic that this president has also allowed to needlessly take the lives of thousands of our citizens throughout America. There is no joy in any of this. These

circumstances are by no means an accident or coincidental, no they are a direct consequence of failure on our part America. You see, to have the joy and to be able to fully be immersed in that joy requires a simple act on our part that we have not done Jesus says: *“if ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.”* We have not kept his commandment. What is His commandment? *“This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.”* America, regardless of your political persuasion, regardless of your ethnicity, regardless of your religion, we must love like Jesus! How does Jesus love? He says: *“Greater love hath no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends.”* From the leadership to the fellowship we all must love like Jesus. **To Be Loved To be Loved, Oh What a Feeling to Be Loved! That's What America Needs Now!** Do you want your joy to be full? Love like Jesus! Do you want to eradicate the litany of ills that plague our land? Love like Jesus! Do you want America to be great again? Love like Jesus! To love like Jesus is to love without regard for one's self. It is a sacrificial love that demonstrates the importance and the value of others. It is never about what's in it for me, but what is in the best interest of the whole. Now I realize that this kind of love is

incomprehensible to most politicians and people in power, but if America is going to get beyond the challenges she now faces, and begins to thrive again, she must open her heart **To Be Loved!** The Lord's query calls down through the ages: "*Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?*" Isaiah 6:8 Who will take this message of love to the hedges and highways? Who will share the abundant joy of God's love for mankind? America will you answer the call and say like Isaiah "Here am I, send me? Will you go America ? Will you, America, take this message and share it with your neighbor? Will you take this message and share it with your friends. Will you take this message and share it with those that may not love you. Will you tell your leaders **To Be Loved, To Be Loved Is What America Needs Now!**