

(Continued from Part 2)

It lacks but one thing. I want to tell one more story. I asked you a minute ago, "What was the Lord's attitude on this earth?" He was taking an inventory of what? What had taken His bride away, and He was an angry young man. Brothers, He was mad. You just better know, He was just plain angry, but He knew who His true followers were. John had a close real following. The Pharisees had those who followed them. And as time went on, the Lord Jesus had a following that got to know Him better and better. Did they enjoy being with Him? Yes. You really believe that? I believe that. Did He enjoy being with them? How much? I tell you, He was beside Himself. When He got alone with them and didn't have this other race, that lower life form looking on, criticizing, when He got alone with them, I'll tell you who He was. He was the kind of person that if a girl met Him, she would immediately admire Him. Have you ever been single, sister? Those of you who are married. Do you remember what it was like when you one day just got a real good look at the guy you're now married to, and you thought, "Gee, what an unusual fellow." Do you remember that? And you were very magnetized. Just really impressed with this unusual person. An admiration. What kind of a person was He?

Well, there's no way to describe Jesus Christ. But brothers and sisters, I want you to know, when He got with those who were really His, and they knew Him well, and He knew them well, it was just sheer joy. They were having a wonderful time. Sisters who are married, have you ever had a wonderful time with your husband? That's some time. They had a wonderful time with Him. Was He having a wonderful time? Who was having the most fun? Who was having the most joy? I don't think it was fun. Who was the most joyful? That was Eternity's love, finally having a place just to eke out a little bit. 30 years of manhood, of His "manness"; the love, the perfect love of His soul, and the eternal power behind the eternal love of the Spirit was finally getting a chance to show itself.

And what was the world's report? I tell you, it came from the religious world. What was the world's report? He was a glutton, He was drunk on wine, and was always out fellowshiping with *those* people. He was with them all the time. They were fellowshiping together, and every time you looked at Him, there was joy on His face, so much more than anyone else could be. It couldn't be real. It would have to be something produced by wine. That was love shining through the cracks.

Brothers and sisters, I want you to forget every impression you have ever had before of who you are, please, for your sake, tonight and the next time we meet. I wish this were the first time I'd ever spoken to you. I wish it were. Will you let it be? That was one thing. He saw what had to go. He saw all the negative things, but He saw one more thing. He was in love with them. Who did He love? Tell me who He loved. He loved Martha. It says He loved her. He loved Mary. Did He love Mary? Yes. He loved Lazarus. Did He love Lazarus? Yes. Do you really believe He loved them? Yes. There was an eternal love of the Spirit there, and you can have some comprehension of it because you were made in His image. But you can't comprehend it because He was God and He had all the power behind Him.

Toward the end of His life, one of His disciples began to perceive the love of God. John. Oh, He did a daring thing. Brothers, His eyes were beginning to open. He was getting a dove's eye. He was beginning to understand who this one was, and He was beginning to understand who you are. Do you know that on the night of the Lord's supper, they were all lying around the table? Who was lying next to the Lord? Who chose the position? Don't kid yourself. Every brother there sat down, hoping the Lord would come and sit with him. The Lord went over and sat down next to John. Why do you think He did that? Because He's a needy God, that's why, because He was for all eternity, Love, with no place to go. Because for 30 years He had human love with no place to go, and because He knew that one of those disciples had finally got a little sense. There was one there who had learned to love Him. The Lord sat down beside John. Why did the Lord love John? Say it again, Theo. And why did John love the Lord?

What was the difference? Tell me the difference between John and the other eleven. Yes, they had all been forgiven much, and yes, that's proper. Praise the Lord. Because one of them had begun to understand. One of them had begun to perceive. Now you tell me, why did John love the Lord? Why? Because the Lord loved John. Why did the Lord love John? Because John loved the Lord. Did the Lord love Peter? Yes. Why didn't He sit down beside Peter? Because Peter had not seen the love that beat in the heart of this One. Even after the resurrection, the Lord had to tutor him. Do you have a passion? I really like you. Why was Peter having such a hard time? Do you know why, Larry? Why was Peter having a hard time? Why, don't you know? Because of the enormity of his soul.

He's trying to coax the love out of Peter. He wanted Peter's love, and He wasn't kidding about it. He meant it. He wanted to get it out of Peter. *Peter, love me.* And Peter was hung up on his sin. What was the Lord interested in? That he had denied Him? Not one bit. Well, have you ever denied the Lord? I don't think anybody in this room ever did what Peter did. I think nearly everybody who knows the Scripture would say the greatest sin committed in the New Testament by a follower of Jesus Christ was committed by Simon Peter. And here is love. Here's the Lover.

Does what I have just said mean anything to you? At any moment in your life, have you ever been worse off than Simon Peter? Please, look at the Lord, looking at Peter. Peter is looking at himself, and he's seeing one who denied Him. What is the Lord looking at? He is looking at His wife, wants her to love Him, and is literally standing next to her, asking her to love Him.

After the Lord's supper, the Lord Jesus sat down beside John because John knew how to love the Lord. What did John do? He laid His head...I wonder how the Lord must have turned over...and John just laid His head down. He was lying just within an inch or two of His head. Lay on the chest of God. And the presence of the Lord was just all over him. The Lord felt John's love, and they were just there, communing love with one another. For the rest of eternity, it's going to be "John whom Jesus loved". That's what he got called all the time. John the beloved disciple. Why was he known as the one whom Jesus loved? Why? Because he loved Him. Does that say anything to you? Does it say anything to you right now?

He rose from the table and went out, after He had broken the bread. There was one last thing. The Lord had His enemy. He knew what would keep Him from a perfect wife. There was one last thing lacking. What was it? Does anybody know? He had already marked off death as one who had to go. There was one other thing. It's not the negatives. It's not negative. What was it? He was one. That's what you are. He was One. Did He have a wife? He had seen those whom the Father had chosen. Were they really His yet? Not really. In eternity, yes, but in time, no. And what was Jesus? He was still...all alone. Brothers, it came to His highest point of feeling. It was like every feeling He had had in all eternity now welled up within Him. It was like all the emotion He had known through the 30 years on earth welled up within Him. There is one thing that was lacking. He was still singular.

Was there another of His species anywhere in the universe? He looked at Himself. There is one thing that is lacking. What is it? Unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it must forever abide alone. What would He have to do? He would have to die, and He would have to be divided, so that He would not be one, but two. Had God ever been divided? God had always been one. The decision was made in the garden of Gethsemane. The Lord was willing to risk everything. Where were your people? Lord, if we never see anything again, as long as we live, open our eyes right now, and Lord, keep them open for the rest of our lives.

In the Garden, the Lord Jesus had to face His own humanity once more, and this time, He faced an experience that no one had ever faced before. He faced the experience of the cross. Now, this was a new species. This was the God-man who would have to be limited by the experience of the cross, and He had never known the cross before, and He had to bear it. My brothers, there is one thing I want you to get clear. He had looked at Lucifer and had marked him. He had felt the emotion of the temptation. He had seen sin, and He had seen what sins had done. He had watched it ravage every creature. He could see men as dead men walking. He could see the skeleton, the dull eyes. He could see the emaciated soul, the wrecked, corrupted flesh. He could see us as no one else had, and He knew these things had to go if He was going to have a perfect counterpart. He had seen Israel in her fallenness, in her harlotry. He was determined. Listen. He was the lover of lovers, and He deserved a good wife.

Now all of this was in Him. There was also the eternal passion of love and the love He knew as a man, and He had no place to go because He had no species like Him. He was just like Adam; He was utterly alone in this universe. Adam finally got a counterpart; He had never had a counterpart. He looked around, and all that was around was wreckage. Wreckage. Wreckage. And yet, He wanted a wife like no other. He wanted a place to pour out love like no one else had ever had love to give, and He wanted that love back. But frankly, I tell you, I don't believe He was even interested in getting the love back then. He just wanted a place for it to go.

I've been married for 18 years, and quite frankly, I love my wife. You better believe I love her. The first thought I ever have is not about receiving love from my wife. I tell you, it has rarely entered my mind. It has been that I have one in whom I can deposit my love. All day long, I pour

out my love for her upon her. That was the only thought He had, but He also had to know the cross. He comes to the last moment, and He sees every enemy that stands between Him and having something that at this moment does not exist. It exists only in the passion of His heart and the passion of His Spirit. But He knows what must be done. I think He knew it before time ever began. I think He saw everything we had seen the last three nights.

And now the Lord wants to make sure it's total. Will you please start believing? Believe anything you hear. Just believe. Just believe. He decided to make it complete. Rather than dealing just with the enemy and with the world system and with sin and so on, He would take it all and end it all. He would take the entire human race and end it. And to make sure that nothing was left, He would take the whole universe and end it. There would be nothing left but Him. Is He sinful? Is He fallen? What is He? He is God, and He is perfect man. He has won the title of perfect man. He's Adam again, sinless, unfallen, and He is perfect God. There'll be nothing left but Him, and it will all be gone.

They go back to the garden again; only there's no garden because it's even gone. And He says, "Alright, Father, let us finish it all now and forever." Please get behind God. Get in God, and come up to God's eyes. They took him to Golgotha, and they laid Him on a cross, and He went there for one reason. What was it? Because He had fallen in love with you. I'm going to repeat that. Why did He go there? *Because He had fallen in love with you.* He wanted to love you and love you and love you with a passion you never dreamed of. He wanted to kiss you with the kisses of His mouth. He wanted to hold you. He wanted to adore you. He wanted to love you, and He meant to have nothing to stop Him. Brothers, He was driven. He was a driven God. And He was a driven man.

They laid Him on the cross. He was killable. And they took the nails...now, brothers and sisters, please...they laid the Son of Man on the cross, and the Son of God took every enemy that existed in this universe that might ever once, even once, take His bride's eye, or in any way more her, or take from her beauty. I want you to know that through that hand and that hand and those feet there hung on that cross: Lucifer. He hung there. He was nailed to the cross. Every marble corridor in every granite palace, and all the beauty and the gold and the silver of its treasures, and its power and its pulp and its authority and its glory, the world was nailed hand and foot...to the cross.

I am not telling a dramatic story. By the power of God, He swept eternity. He swept time past, and He swept time future. From the beginning of time in its womb, to the end of time in its grave, He gathered up sin and its sinfulness, and its hideous, nauseous creature, and He drove it to the cross. He took its hand, and He took its feet and nailed it, and He took your flesh, and He took my flesh. He took flesh, and He nailed him—this corruption, this monster, and He took all creation, and He nailed it to the cross. And He called forth one more thing, and He said, "Death, come, and kill them all." And then they nailed the Lord Jesus to the cross, and they all blended as one. They became one and the same. I want to know if you believe that. Is there anything ugly left? Absolutely not. God called forth death and said, "Kill them all." And death answered, "I only have to kill your Son, and they will all die." And God said, "Yes".

Listen, did Adam ever die? No, he didn't. What did he do, brother? He "type" died. Adam is only a type, and everything about him is a type. Throughout the New Testament, over and over again, can you find any record whatsoever of a Christian dying? They all just go to sleep. There's only One who ever died. Everything else is a type of death. There's only One who completely ended, totally and absolutely. Can you comprehend that? When He went, He took everything with Him. How much did He take? Brothers and sisters, He took the atoms out of the space, and He took space. He took the composite of the totality of the universe. He took the whole fallen creation, heaven and earth. He didn't miss anything, and it was all somehow in Him, incarnated into Him. And He hung there.

Take the eyes of God and watch the Lord Jesus begin to die. Now, don't you look at anything else but God's eyes. Look through God's eyes and watch the Lord begin to die, and through the eyes of God, sin disappears and ends no more. And God looks more intently, and sins all go with Him. He looks again, and God sees the flesh go. God sees the demons of this world vanish. God sees Lucifer on the cross. Then go the principalities and the powers with him, and God sees the whole creation. There's one thing left. No, there are two things left. What is left? Christ and death. God says...the eternal spirit, it's not even God...the eternal spirit...I'm using allegory, I think you understand this. God says to death, "Now, death, you too." I want you to know, hand and foot, he was nailed down, and He could not escape.

How much did He love? He loved you so much that He made a choice, that if one of us had to die, one of you had to die; if it had to be you or the Lord, it would be the Lord and not you. You've always heard He died in your place, but forget that. He said, "I love her so much, she will never die." He made sure His wife would never die. She wasn't born until death was dead. He didn't even allow her into creation until after death was dead.

There's only one Christian who ever died. None of the others will ever die. His bride will never die. He will have to tell her what death is like; she will never know. He chose that if one must die, He chose that it be He and not she. She would never know. She would not be born, she would not exist, she would not have consciousness in this universe, until death and sin and Satan and the world and all systems. And in the last moment, two faded. Who were they? The Lord Jesus and Death went into the grave grappling together, and both died with the same gasp.

Brothers and sisters, in the eyes of God, they were gone. How long? How long? Forever. Who sees that? God sees that. Is God right? Answer me. Is He right? Is God right? Is sin gone? Yes or no? Your sin? All of it? Forever? Do you believe that? Is God right? I'm going to use a shock method. No, He's wrong, and everybody in this room knows He's wrong. The flesh is still here. Sin is still here. Is that true? No! You know it's true because you act that way, you talk that way, you live that way, you're related to Him that way. Listen: it's God who believes it.

Now, the first creature who ever died, died. Everybody else had "type" died. Adam "type" died to give forth Eve. Jesus Christ is the first whoever died. Of our species...Praise the Lord...of our species, the only one who ever will die. The rest of that species will never die. You're immortal,

and you're sinless, and you were born *after the fall was erased*. The Lord Jesus died, and the centurion had to open His side. Adam “typed” a bride out of his side. Brothers, His side was opened, and what came out? Blood and water. What's the blood? Yes, redemption, but something else. Does God have blood? Humanity, and life is in that blood. The water? There's no water in the side. The water is His divinity. He didn't dare begin until Jesus was dead.

Brothers, I want you to know there wouldn't be one speck of dirt left in the universe where His bride would walk. She would never know anything but perfection and purity. God reached in from the side of the Lord and began building something. What? God was going to have something: a counterpart. If you think Eve was beautiful, was she beautiful? She couldn't hold a candle to God's wife. God took out of Jesus blood and water, and began to build the most beautiful thing ever seen. He would literally make her *the new creation*. He began to build a perfect woman who was beyond sin. She would never know what it meant.

Pure beyond purity, holy beyond holiness, oh, beautiful beyond beauty. And put deep within her being would be a love and a passion that would equal the love and compassion of the Spirit of God, and the love and THE PASSION OF THE humanity of a perfect Christ.

Oh, Lord, I dare not ever again look through any eyes but Yours. Bring your church to rest. She has been completed out of Christ, and she is perfect in Your eyes. Who are we to argue with Thee? Oh Lord, blind us to all but the beauty of You. We gladly turn to the lover of this universe. There is nothing to distract us from Thee. Lord, love me with a passion the likes of which I never dreamed I could experience.