

“DO YOU TRULY LOVE ME? DO YOU LOVE ME?”

By Mary Mayko

**John 21:16 b “Do you truly love Me?” v.17b “Simon son of John, do you love Me?”
John 13:34 “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so
must you love one another.”**

Young children play many different games testing each other to see “If you really love me”! I recall as a young girl sitting in a field of daisies with my sister and neighborhood playmates. One at a time, we would pluck a daisy blossom from its stem and began to say: **“He loves me, he loves me not!”** We were delighted when the last petal we plucked on the flower was the one **that “proved he loved me!”** Now, I doubt we had a particular boy in mind as we pulled those petals! It was really just more important that **someone** loved us! Love and laughter rang across the fields when the girls came to play that game!

Have you ever carved initials on a tree or written them on the walls at school? We would see a heart drawn, and inside the heart, S. P. + J. M.” or perhaps “Susie loves Jim”! If it were only the initials, we tried to **solve the mystery of “who loved who!”** How wonderful and exciting this all was! Wet cement was another favorite place to draw **love promises** to be there for all to see forever!

How important it is for all of us to know we are loved by someone! God has put a “love pocket” in everyone, and if it is never filled with a **“someone truly loves me”** person, there is a sense of loss that can be overwhelming! When children do not have this confirmation with family and friends they seek to fill that void with the wrong things or persons! **God has declared His Love for us!** Those who accept it find it easier to take a stand for right living!

Christ set a standard for us to follow. If we truly love Him, we will obey Him gladly! He said we are to love one another. It is amazing how often little acts of kindness rewards us with a smile and thankful heart that someone cared enough about us to show it! Jesus told Simon Peter to “feed My sheep” or treat God’s people as Jesus had treated him. It seems that God’s love has to flow through His people to others, so they can see we truly love Him and others.

Just as Simon Peter had a special way the LORD used him to minister to others, He also wants to use us to touch the lives of people we know. What would happen if we truly loved Him and trusted Him enough to let that happen in our lives? **“He loves me, he loves me not!” Which petal will be the last one you pluck from your flower of life?**

**In His Service,
Mary Mayko 2009**

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“MATTERS OF THE HEART!”
[Beautiful or Broken!]

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Proverbs 27:19 NIV

“As water reflects a man’s face, so a man’s heart reflects the man.”

Proverbs 15:28-31 NIV

“The heart of the righteous weighs its answers, but the mouth of the wicked gushes evil. The LORD is far from the wicked but he hears the prayers of the righteous. A cheerful look brings joy to the heart, and good news gives health to the bones. He who listens to a life-giving rebuke will be at home among the wise.”

Proverbs 4:23 NIV “Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.”

AAAH! When someone falls in love, the heart is full of wonderful thoughts of your beloved! The words that tumble out are beautiful and sweet and seem to reveal the contents of a person’s heart who is “in love!” Some say “love is blind” “I don’t care what others think, it is only what I think that really matters to me!” That kind of statement reflects a very self-centered person! The Bible tells us very clearly that we are to have a godly concern for others! When all we do or think or speak becomes all about “us”, we have a big ego problem!

Some people say “sweet” words, but inwardly there could be a controlling factor in the matters of their heart! Some are intrigued by the “warm” feeling they get around someone and may mistake that for true love! Careful of a “one sided” relationship where everything has to be “their way or no way!” True love will seek to please the other and find they both work together to reach a common goal in the future. **[Prov.15: 28-31]**

When a person finds a true life long mate or friend, they are both a blessing to each and others that observe their caring spirit! Jesus taught that we are to love one another. I believe that means in part that we truly desire the best for all concerned! How many difficulties could be easily resolved if we could really listen to reason and talk things over in a quiet and caring manner!

Does it really matter what we think about? Of course! **Proverbs 27:19** is a warning that the motives of our heart will be clear to others sooner or later! The words you speak and your actions will reveal what really matters to you! Don’t harbor hateful thoughts about others, for that will hinder your prayers!

Too many people are “sweet” to someone’s face, yet seek to do harm in some way. News reports tell us that many of the worse crimes are committed by family or a very familiar person in their life. How tragic that those we have trusted will sometimes betray us, leaving a trail of broken hearts behind! Jesus taught that we are to forgive one another quickly! That does not mean that we are condone any injustice or pretend the injury never happened. It is not okay to treat others badly!

When we forgive others, we are giving them over to the LORD to handle, and our mind is then free from replaying the injuries over and over again! We can have peace of mind only through Christ! Now, when a wrong has been done to you, it means the relationship will be changed with that person. A wise person will not “nag” the other one, but will certainly be cautious about them.

Psalm 4:23 NIV “Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.”

Matters of the heart! Yes, they are very important! If we examine our hearts for anything that can harm us and deal quickly with it, the wellspring of pure water within can bring spiritual healing! Let the LORD’S cleansing streams heal your hearts!

Isa.26:3 NIV “You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you.” When our thoughts are directed by the Holy Spirit, God’s peace will surround our heart and mind and give us peace, even in the midst of the storms of life!

How are the matters of your heart? God’s Blessings to you!

In His Service, Mary Mayko

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COMFORT~~ONE FACET OF LOVE!

Rev. J. Kehl Golding

“Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God.”

February is the month of love, hearts, and flowers! Love, when defined by the dictionary is an interesting word, and certainly far different than our society defines it! Webster defines it as a strong complete emotion, a feeling causing one to appreciate, to delight in, and crave the presence or possession of another, and to PLEASE or PROMOTE the welfare of the other, denoted affection or attachment.

Even at a glance, one can see the difference in the real term “love” and the “lust” our society defines as love! In fact, as you read this definition your mind immediately goes to the Genesis 1:26; “God said: Let us make man in our image, after our likeness:” and in verse 27 “So God created man in His own image, in the image of God, created He him, male and female, created He them.”

But, that was not enough, He had a purpose and we find it in chapter two. We find God walking in the cool of the day looking for Adam and Eve. In fact, He called out loud saying, “Where art thou?” [verses 8-11] God longed for fellowship with His creation. He is still looking for fellowship with His creation. He longs for us to turn to Him in prayer fellowship, just plain TALKING to Him! This is why we feel so blessed, so at peace when we do! Christians that do not turn every “little” thing over to Him, miss so much. We are His Child, nothing is too little, or too big to give to Him!

This love between a Believer and his LORD can be described as intimate. Consider John 14:21 “He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, it is he that loveth Me: And he that loveth Me, shall be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest [show or reveal] Myself to him.”

Once a little girl asked her mother where she could find God. Her mother told her that God lived in her heart, to which the child replied, “I know that, but I need a God with skin on!” That is exactly what occurred on that night in Bethlehem 2000 years ago, God became human. God took on “skin” and when those in the Christmas story looked at Jesus, they were looking at God “in the skin!” This is why our relationship with Him must be one of our seeking Him, studying His Word, and His response to folks emulating Him!

Consider our LORD’S words in John 14:15-21

“If ye love me, keep my commandments, and I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Comforter that He might abide with you forever: even the Spirit of Truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him: but ye know Him; for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you. Yet, a little while, and the world seeth Me no more; but ye see Me. Because I live, ye shall live also.

At that day, ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in Me, and I in you. He that hath My commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth Me: and he that loveth Me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest Myself to him.”

Again in John 16:13 “Howbeit, when He, the SPIRIT of TRUTH is come, He will guide you into all truth; for He shall not speak of Himself; but whatsoever He shall hear, that shall He speak: and He will show you things to come.”

Notice He promises us a Comforter~ one who dwells within. Because of His great love for us, He will not leave us comfortless. He will not only teach, lead and guide us, but help us in loving and comforting others.

In Isaiah 40:1, our text, we are commanded to comfort others. At one time in my life, I attended a large Full Gospel church. It was unique in that it was basically a few large families who were all intermarried in various ways. There was a good deal of fellowship, joy, and “chatter” whenever a service or event was scheduled. On Sunday morning, I entered the sanctuary, and immediately was aware of the solemn atmosphere. Even the little ones were very quiet. I wondered what was happening!

As the service time started, the song leader did not go to the pulpit, but rather the Pastor! He said; “As I prepared for this mornings’ message, all week, the LORD gave me only one verse; Isaiah 40:1 “Comfort ye my people.” I could not understand why. On top of that I could not get a sermon, the LORD continually said; “I’ll instruct you.”

“Now I know why! Last night Dick and Shirley [not their real names] and their five children~ a baby in her arms, up to their twelve year old son, were visiting Grandma, just a few miles down the road. They left early to get home and everyone ready for Sunday School and Church this morning. They were struck head on by a drunk driver. Daddy was killed instantly, the oldest boy had his leg severed, and the baby was thrown from the car and sustained permanent brain damage. Everyone was injured to one degree or another.”

Great comfort was needed that day, and abundantly given. Family needed to feel God “in the skin” as well as His Presence! All of us at one time or another, need comfort, we need to feel the love of God in the skin!

Believer, because you and I have the Holy Spirit within us, we alone can give and demonstrate God’s love. Never in our life time have we had the opportunities like the present! On every hand, people are asking, “What in the world is happening to our world?” We have the answer, the peace, the assurance. Jesus is in control, the only safe place is in Him!

Dear one, don’t hesitate to witness for Him or take a hand and pray for someone in distress. Don’t wonder, ‘What will they think?’ Just remember the peace of God they will feel when you have prayed for them. Think of the Light that will enter their darkened world.

“Comfort ye My people~ saith your God.” Remember, He is Coming as you walk with Him!

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