

The title for today's message is: **Living with Christ Every Day**

Jesus said: ***“If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him!”***

Grace and peace to you from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

This morning, were here in a building, often called “The House of God”, another words making this building an extension of God's presence.

No! God doesn't live here in the altar, or the narthex nor the sanctuary. Yet, we feel more connected to Him here, than in any other building.

Just as with the great Temple in Jerusalem, we look to this building as an abiding place for God.

But, God and His church are not confined to a simple building. In John chapter 14, verse 23, Jesus is asked a question by one of His disciples.

Judas, that's right, the same disciple who betrays Him. He asked why Jesus chose to reveal Himself to them, but not to the rest of the world.

Now this question is not one of any earthly nature alone, but filled with awe at the presence of the Lord.

He was asking why God revealed Himself to but a few. He spoke to them time, and time again, and explained things that others only hoped to know.

Yes, the twelve were chosen. Now, at first glance, Jesus seems to ignore this question altogether, instead He talks about where God lives

Now its important to understand what was going on here in order to appreciate why God handled the question this way.

Look, this part of John's gospel is looking at the last days of Jesus' ministry. And the disciples have been by His side, for three years now.

They saw Him giving sight to the blind, fed 5,000 with only 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish, and even raise the dead, among other miracles.

But even with that, the disciples were still looking for an earthly king, and expected to have some place of honor in His kingdom.

They had even discussed who was greater among themselves, quarreling about what we now see as a trivial, earthly conversation.

Here, these amazing men saw Jesus' ministry unfold before them, and were actively involved in the spreading the good news, yet they didn't get it.

So, Jesus tries to explain to them and prepare them for the coming events, and the trials they would all soon face.

Jesus said: ***"If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.***

Here, Jesus was preparing His disciples for His death, which would come soon, and He knew they were not yet ready for that.

Look, there were many in the world who hated Jesus, and would rather see Him dead more than anything else.

Yet, there were others, including His disciples, who truly loved Him with the kind of love that says "I want to make you happy to please you and to have you be proud of me."

Here, throughout His ministry, Jesus had been explaining to His disciples just what they were supposed to do.

And He gave many of these messages in the form of parables, which He only explained in private to His disciples.

He taught them, as well as you and me, that were to love one another through our thoughts, word's and our deeds.

They, and we, are to help the poor, assist those in need, love our neighbor as ourselves, and even love our enemies.

In a way He was saying; Show your love, by following my commands. Remain clean and sinless.

Remember, we should make every attempt to avoid the temptations in our lives, and always follow the direction given to us by our Lord.

This means, a change in our lives as we turn our focus away from the sinful desires of this world, and toward the goals of meeting our spiritual needs.

Repent and sin no longer when temptation grips us, and above all, avoid conscious sin because. As Jesus said:

“and we (meaning He and the Father) ***will come to him and make our home with him”*** That's right, God will make a home with us.

Question, is this a physical home? Or is this home, heaven? Its simple, God can't be contained within a building.

Nor, can He be constrained to a city, a state, or a country. No! God is in each, and everyone of us, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Look, every time we feel moved to praise God, or to discuss a blessing in our lives, we say Amen, that's the Holy Spirit moving in our lives.

God has made a home with us by living with us in our daily lives. Not only would God live with the disciples through the Holy Spirit.

They would be blessed beyond their dreams. Through the abandonment of their earthly, and sinful desires. Yes, they would find a new peace.

Is this the peace of two armies who have laid down their arms? Not exactly. This is however, the peace one can feel when nothing else matters.

When all is taken care of, and we're just there for the ride, and when all worry is gone. Think of the Apostle Paul when he was in prison in Rome.

Soon, he would become a martyr. But, his concern is not for himself, but instead, he writes a letter to Timothy, advising him to protect the Gospel.

Paul is at peace now, and knows what is about to become him. But that didn't matter, because he was living with Christ.

He was not concerned with the work of worldly men, but of the spiritual substance of scripture and its' teaching.

Look, Jesus Loves each, and everyone of us. And we are to love him as He loves us. But, to show that love, we must obey His commands first.

This is what Jesus was explaining to His disciples and you, me and all believers in the world.

Jesus would be leaving His disciples soon, but He wasn't going to leave them alone. No! the Holy Spirit would be there to lend them a hand.

So, why did Jesus choose to reveal Himself only to His disciples, and not to all the world?

Because, although Jesus had many followers, there were as many if not more who hated Him.

Many loved the world, and sin more than God, and Jesus came for those who were willing to accept Him, not for those who chose to reject Him.

He loved them all, but many chose to reject Him. So, how do we apply this message today? Have you ever heard the expression, “Living with Christ?”

This expression is not something that means you have a physical house-guest. It doesn't mean that Christ is occupying your spare bedroom.

It's a defining moment, where one follows the will of the Lord. It's the putting away of our own desires, our own selfish ways, and adopting what God wants us to do.

It's the acceptance of His will over, and above anything our sinful desires would tempt us to do.

It's the idea that, one certainly can follow the will of Jesus. And it's definitely what Jesus was saying to His disciples in our text here today.

He was saying that, by abandoning the desires of the flesh, and following the desires of our Lord.

God would live in us through the Holy Spirit, and always be there for us when needed.

This happened dramatically to the disciples at Pentecost, that is with the arrival of the Holy Spirit as a burning flame.

Although we may not experience the Holy Spirit in the same dramatic fashion, we too, can experience the peace that passes all understanding.

But, we must follow the direction our Lord gave us to truly experience, and appreciate the gift of the Holy Spirit.

By turning our problems over to Him, and following the direction He has set for us, we too can live with Christ.

Look, only by letting Jesus have the driver seat so to speak can we hope to lead a new life, and experience paradise at the end of our journey.

We all have problems which we cope with daily. We struggle with adversity, and do what we can to meet the challenges we face.

By following Jesus, and turning our problems over to Him, we can be comforted in knowing that He will take care of our needs.

In Paul's letter to the Church at Corinth, in 2 Corinthians chapter 13, he wrote: ***Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!***

The challenges of tomorrow will still be there. But, God will be right there to assist us if we only ask. We are not alone in this world.

We just don't always realize, who is sitting next to us. Yet, by focusing on the will of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ.

We can be assured that it is He, who is ready to lead, and assist when the time comes. May the Lord show us His will as we choose to follow Him.

Amen.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the Love of God the Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen.