

“Showing Christ’s Love”

By Mrs. Sojourner



Jesus tells us in John 13: ³⁴“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” John 13:34-35 (NIV)

Love is one of those multi-faceted things that covers all actions and can be applied to and affect every aspect of our lives—if we allow it. This is not surprising when we remember that God is love. ^(1 John 4:16) Likewise, every part of our lives that we surrender to Jesus’ lordship is surrendered to God’s love. This is why we are commanded to walk in love and why one can see that the closer someone walks with the Lord, the more they walk in love toward all, even those who hurt them. Paul instructs us:

⁹Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves... ¹²Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. ¹³Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. ¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who

mourn. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another. Romans 12:9-10,12-16a (NIV) (emphasis added)

Notes:
[a]

We must walk together in love with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Will we disagree on some things? Yes. But this does not mean that we cannot walk together, in love, and show the world that we are Christ’s Body, and by walking in love, show the world how Believers in Christ are different from other people.

God’s love working in and through us gives us the ability and desire to walk together, as Believers, on many planes. Today’s world is full of lonely people who desperately want someone—to walk beside them. The best way to let that lonely world know our ability and willingness to do so is to show them.

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...with The Sojourner

“Meditation On The Word” (Teaching Sketch)

Philippians 4:2-9



The Word of God is a powerful thing in the lives of those who will meditate on it. The engaging in contemplation and reflection where the Word of God is concerned is the only method by which our mind can be renewed.^[a] Our minds are assaulted daily by ungodly topics which, if dwelt upon, would draw us away from God’s ways and into the ways and thinking of man which often lead to death,^[b] even though these reasonings may seem right to the unrenewed mind. We are to meditate on God’s word both day and night.^[c]

Thought is such an important matter that the word for thought is one of the most frequently used words in the Bible. Depending on the translation being used, the word thought^(marchashebbeth) is employed in the neighborhood of 136^{+/-} times in as many verses, 105^{+/-} being in the Old Testament and 31^{+/-} in the New Testament. Thought must certainly be important!



Selah^[d]

When we pause to contemplate or to think on a particular scripture we are following the admonition of “Selah” found especially in Psalms, but other places in the Old Testament as well. It is found in strategic locations to allow us to learn that particular topic is something we would do well to think on for a moment or two.

Just Thinking

Have you ever asked someone, “What are you thinking about?” The reply may have been, “Oh, nothing.” What they may have actually meant in their reply could have been “nothing of consequence”, “nothing that concerns you”, or even “nothing I want you to know yet.” It is, however, safe to say their mind was not blank or devoid of all thought.

Just thinking on a matter is not contemplation of the matter. There are random thoughts which wander through any mind. It is the

Notes:

^[a] Rom. 12:2

^[b] Proverbs 14:12

^[c] Psalms 1:2

^[d] Pause and think of that

^[e] 2 Cor. 10:5

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Scripture:

Philippians 4:2-9 (NIV)

²I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to agree with each other in the Lord.

³Yes, and I ask you, loyal yokefellow,^[a] help these women who have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Notes:

[a]

Or loyal Syzygus

⁸Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

⁹Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

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thought which stops to set up camp in our minds can become in or out of synchronization with God’s purposes. The scriptures tell us to, “take every thought captive.”^[e] This means we have control over our thoughts! Thinking can take many forms, such as imaginations, feelings, doubts, reasoning, opinions, speculations, plots, regards, esteemed, intention, supposi-

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“Meditation On The Word” (Teaching Sketch)

Philippians 4:2-9

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tions, praying, considering, and comparing, to name a few.

Meditation

Now you could ask, “Can we get back to meditation as described in scripture?” Certainly we can, and let’s do so by looking at the specific word used for biblical meditation. The word is “siycheu.” This word carries the meaning of reflection, prayer, devotion, complaint, and musing.

We need to reflect on God’s word to understand his meaning. We need to pray both God’s word back to him and pray for understanding of God’s word. We need to devote our thoughts and ways to God’s word. We need to take our complaints to God rather than spread our complaints to others or develop a bitter root. Musing or deep thought on God’s word is a great way to press into God.

Think On These

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

Just so you’ll know:

Our service is informal. We look to the Holy Spirit of God to guide us corporately and individually.

Our service usually follows this general pattern:

- **Informal fellowship & sharing** of what we have seen the Lord do in, through, and around us since we last met.
 - Testimonies are a part of the conversation.
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Praise, Worship, & Offerings:** (*Offerings to be placed in basket during Praise & Worship*)
Words of Prophecy or Knowledge if they have been given during “Praise & Worship.” (*other times as the Spirit moves*)
- **The Pastoral Message**
- **Prayer Requests**
 - Ministry to those present & intercession.
- **The Blessing**

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