

Slide 1



as I have...

John 15:12

186 I've Found a Friend

301 Nearer, Still Nearer

Slide 2



"Setting"

as I have...

Contextual Setting:

The Disciples...all twelve... have spent over... 3 years with Christ... through thick and thin

In John 14... we find them... bickering among themselves... who shall be first... man in Christ Kingdom

Their minds... are on self... upon preeminence... human worth and betterment

The foot washing... the supper... the swearing... "we will all die with you!" ... are over

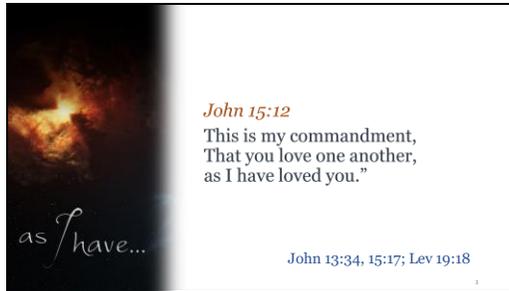
The final hymn sung... Judas is off to... accomplish his dastardly deed

Jesus... with the remaining 11... walks quietly though... and then out of... the streets of Jerusalem... to the doorway of doom

In the moonlit night... He spies a stately vine... an begins his final parable... in John 15

There... we read these words:

Slide 3



Some have concluded... that Jesus was presenting... “New” commands... in replacement of the... 10 from Sinai

What is this commandment?

This statement by Jesus... is simply a reiteration... or closer application... of love your neighbor as yourself

Which of course... is found in Leviticus... the OT... so it’s not “new”

“This is my commandment”... New to you... a new concept... needing new application

What exactly is a commandment?

This is my commandment

He would repeat it... again 5 verses later... but He had already said it... a few hours earlier... recorded in 13:34

And who has the right to give them?

Only those in authority... having jurisdiction over... those they might command

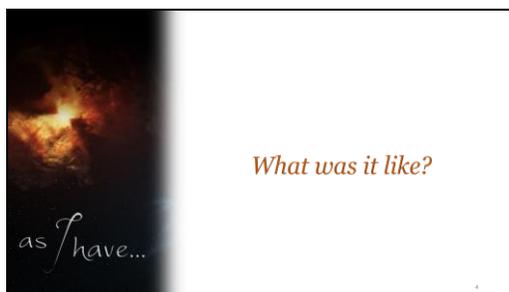
Jesus identifies it as His... too His disciples... most of whom... had willingly... placed themselves... under His jurisdiction

Have you placed yourself... under Jesus’ jurisdiction?

Then Jesus say... Love one another!

And then He... gives it a qualifier... as I have loved you

Slide 4



What must it... have been like... to spend so much time... in the presence of God... in the flesh? .

To witness not only... His personal interaction... with the disciples... but to see how...

Have you ever wondered... what it must have been like... for the disciple... walking... talking... sleeping... eating... With Jesus ... day in and day out... 24 hours a day... for 3 ½ years ... watching... listening... learning... (sometimes)

He interacted with... people of every... gender... race... social class and... economic standing.

I find it... difficult to fathom... but one key word... stands out... Especially in... John accounting of... what it was like

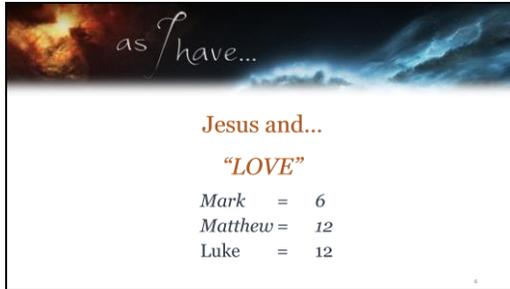
Slide 5



“ LOVE” ... as a word... is used hundreds... of times in scripture...

No single author... uses the word... in it various forms... more than John:

Slide 6

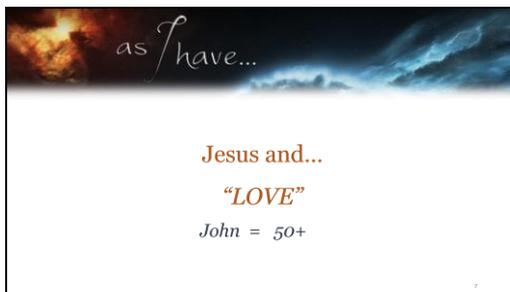


For example... Mark quotes Jesus... as using the word Love... only 6 times

While Matthew... and Luke... double their quotes... with 12 each

However John:

Slide 7



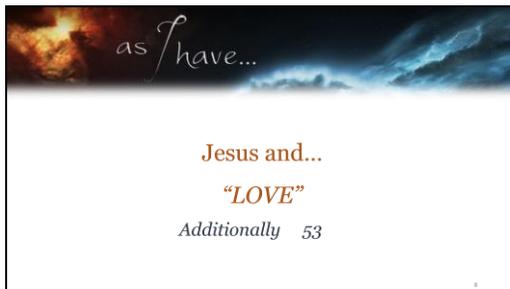
On the other hand... quotes Jesus as using... the term Love... over 50 times...

Nearly 60%... of these (30 or so)... are found in his gospel... in chapters 13-17

Where are recorded... the closing scenes... of Jesus earthly ministry... and His last precious hours... with the disciples.

In addition to this:

Slide 8



John himself... uses the word Love... an additional 53 times... throughout the gospel... and his epistles...

Surly this is... more than coincidence... certainly to John... Jesus was:

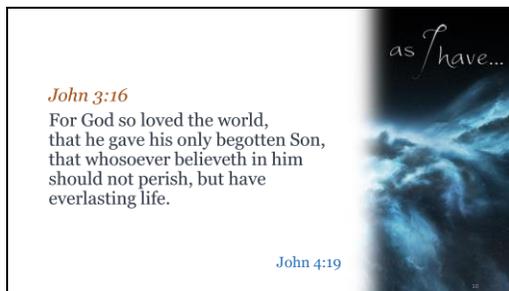
Slide 9



John's depiction... of Jesus is that... of LOVE in the flesh

You know... the most famous text... in scripture:

Slide 10

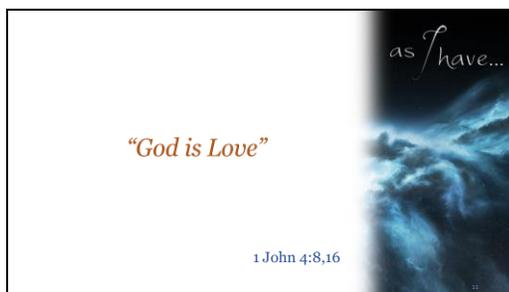


God loved... before we loved... in fact

We love... because He so loved...

Because He loved... is why we believe... isn't it?

Slide 11



Twice... in his first epistle... John uses the descriptive phrase... "God is Love"

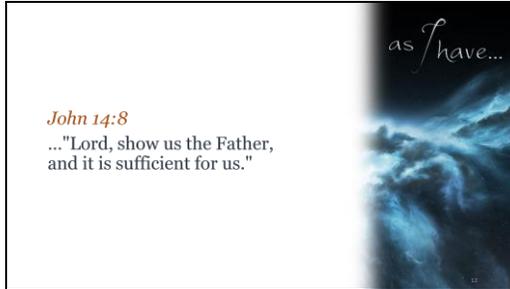
In the "Conflict of the Ages" series... the very first line reads... "God is Love" and

5 books... and over 3500 pages later... the closing words... are these "God is Love"

LOVE... is the summation... of who God is... and what He gives.... And

What He desires... for all of His children... Remember when Philip asked...

Slide 12



What was Jesus' response?

Slide 13



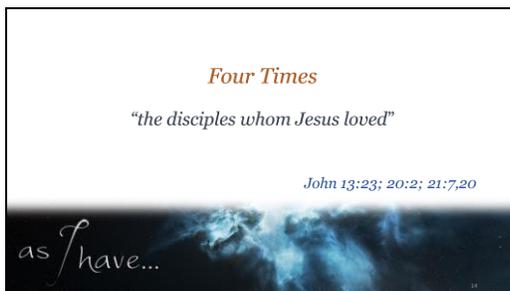
John 10:30 I and my Father are one.

If God is Love... then Jesus was...and is...
the very personification of Love

He who has seen Me... he who has
experienced... My compassion and
forgiveness... My Healing touch... My
love has experienced the Father...

Four times... in his gospel account...
instead of naming himself... John simply
refers... to himself as:

Slide 14



"the disciples whom Jesus loved" (Jn
13:23; 20:2; 21:7,20)

In the 21st chapter... after Jesus asks...
Simon Peter... 3 times... do you Love me

Peter looks at John... and asks..."What
shall this man do?"

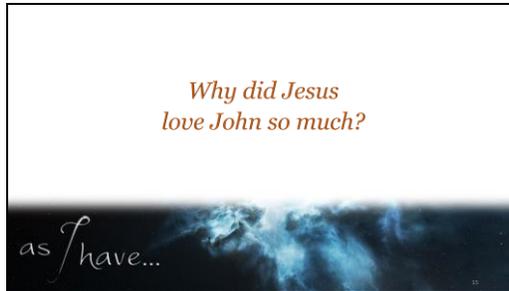
Jesus basically says... NUNYA... No of
your business Peter... What is it to you?

Well one definition... is love one
another

You... follow me... What does this
mean?

Now we ask:

Slide 15



But... Perhaps it was... because John... Loved Him (Jesus) so much...

To John... God and Love... were synonymous

Why did Jesus... love John so much...

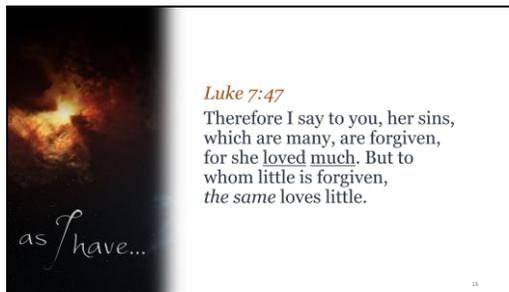
Did he love him... more than He did Peter?

Perhaps qualifiedly... No

Perhaps this is... because John... was more keenly aware... of God's loving forgiveness... toward himself and others...

Remember Jesus' comparison... of Simon (the Pharisee's) lack... of expressive gratitude... verses Mary's

Slide 16



John's ... encounter with Jesus... profoundly changed his life.... converted him from... a son of Thunder...

John was... the only one... to follow Jesus... into the trial...

The only one... of the twelve... apparently at the cross...

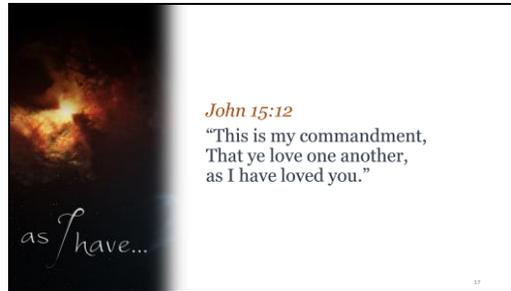
The first... of the 12... at the tomb... the last disciple alive

Like Mary... John sensed... the Love of God... through Jesus... and As she had... he responded... to that Love...

That's why... his favorite summary... of salvation is... "God is Love"

So perhaps... that's why Jesus said...

Slide 17



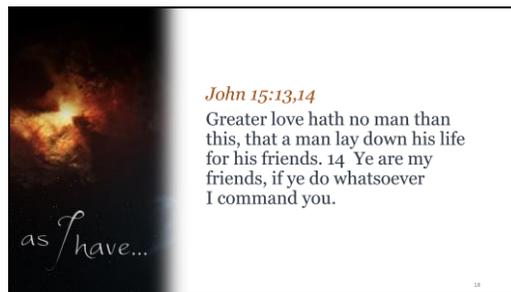
Love one another... Jesus said... not as a suggestion... as a command... *Love one another...* and

Then he qualified it... He quantified it... as I have loved you!

Just as I have... loved you... so love you... love one another...

How much? ...in the next verse... Jesus adds:

Slide 18



This is my commandment... That ye love one another... with the same graciousness... compassion... forgiveness... mercy... and longsuffering

What must it... have been like... to spend time... with Jesus?

To spend time... with someone who...was so selfless... so others oriented... so patient... kind... caring

The personification of... the love of heaven... self-sacrificing love

“As I have” ... is a pretty tall order

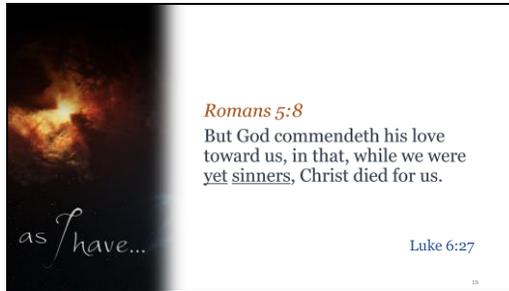
Such Love... is not an emotion... such love... is not selfish... such Love... is the principle... that governs heaven

As humans... we tend to love those... who are lovable... to love those... who love us in return...

Yet God’s version... of Love is... to love the undeserving...

Paul... extols this very thing... as an evidence of... God’s great Love:

Slide 19



While we were enemies... of love

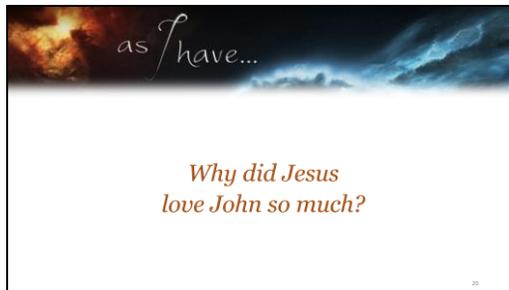
While we were... Lovers of self... rather than... lovers of God... or others... for that matter

Jesus said... Lu 6:27 But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you,

God evidenced... His great love... for us on Calvary

So we ask again:

Slide 20



"Why did Jesus love John?" ...perhaps because... there is a principle involved...

We know... The more we love... the more we are loved... in return

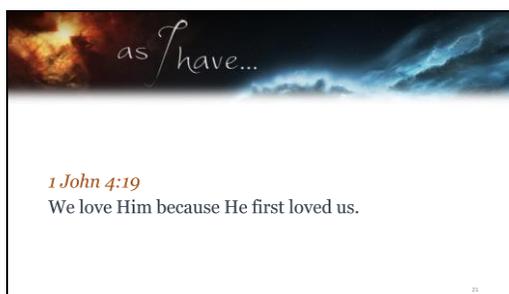
John loved Jesus... so much because... of the high value... of love with which... Jesus loved him

Thus He manifested... an appreciation... even before... Christ died

John I think... was more attuned... to Jesus' love... for him

So it became... the theme... of who God and... His personification Jesus... are in heart... God is Love...and that is why... John said:

Slide 21



God took the first step... While we were yet sinners

God took the first step... Adam where are you?

God took the first step... Neither do I condemn thee... go and sin no more

Slide 22



God's love is principled... pure... unselfish... unchanging... it loves the unlovable... and

God is not... withholding of His love... but we are withholding... to it reception...

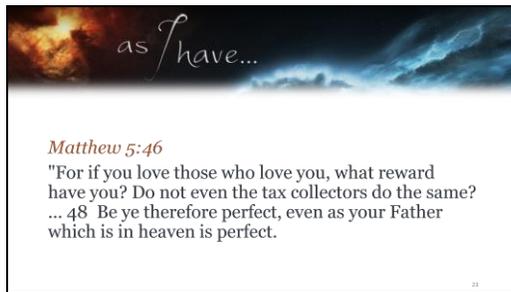
Peter... do you love me... do you... with all your heart?

It was an eye opener for Peter...when he discovered he loved self more than he loved God

But even while Peter loved self... Jesus loved him... and waited patiently... for his conversion... to love

Jesus commanded us... to love each other... in this way. "as I have"

Slide 23



Such Love... is not natural... to us... for the most part... It is perfect... pure... untainted... unselfish... YES... because Jesus... not only commands it... but offers the washing... the cleansing... the purifying... the new heart...

Thus enabling us... to keep His command... "as I have":

For love begets... love
So we must be connected

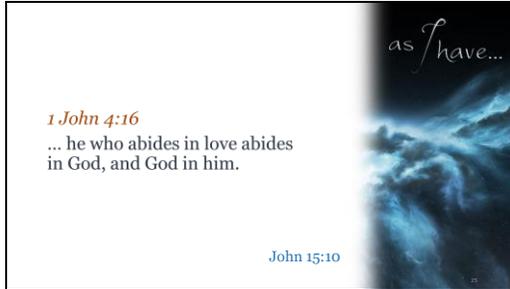
Slide 24



Is such love possible?... can it be mustered up... from within... the human heart?

Yes and No... No because... the human heart... is selfish... but

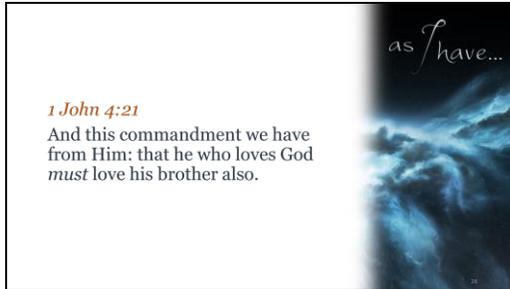
Slide 25



Remember Jesus... in John 15 said... as He abided in the Father's love... we are to abide in Him

The fruit of this... abiding is:

Slide 26



Here is the link... between the two... great commandments

In fact... I think... we can't do the later... without the former

We can't love... on another... until we first... love Jesus

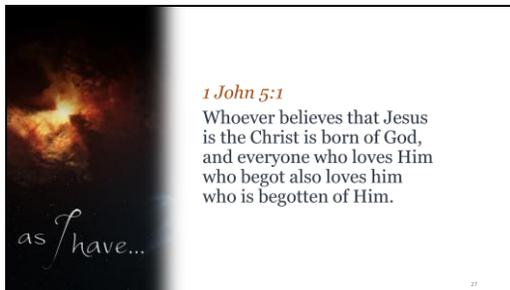
Agape me... then you can... love John... and the rest

What about him... Peter asked... never you mind... Love me

John says:

John already... down the road... ahead of you... Peter

Slide 27



Did you get that?

Who ever believes... Is born of God... and

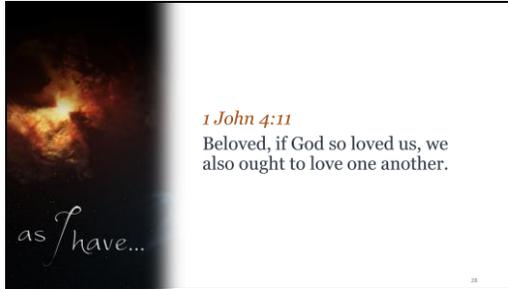
Whoever Loves God... Loves the others... who Love Him

vs. 2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments.

So John... the disciple Jesus loved... bids us:

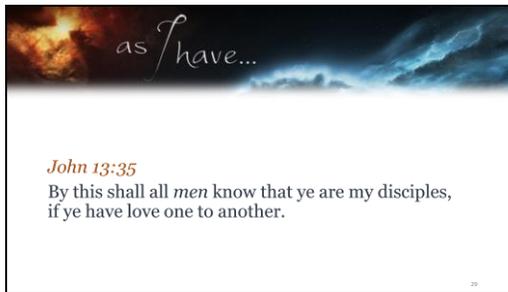
By this we know... the litmus test... the confirmation... of true conversion

Slide 28



Just as Jesus said:

Slide 29



It is the litmus test... of the heart...

Perhaps it is easy... to say we love God...

Slide 30



This is such a strong point... with John he... says emphatically:

1 Jo 4:8 He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

And emphasizing... the litmus test further... he says:

1Jo 3:14 We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death.

Not inherent... implanted...

Ouch... confession... I'm doing terrible with this

Not in obligation... but in responsiveness... to the great love of God for us...

But I know the cure... LOVE...

Not my... faulty Human love... but His selfless Love... living in and through me

Not an emotion... a principle...

This is the testimony... the very evidence before... all the world... that God is Love"

Slide 31



Remember Jesus... is with the 11... on their way... to the Garden... then off to Calvary

The greatest illustration... of Jesus' love... was about to take place.

Their concept of love... toward Jesus... and each other... was about to be... split wide open

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

As I Have.... this can be... will be... indeed must be... the reality of life...with Jesus

Slide 32



301 Nearer, Still Nearer

DA.641.003

Love to man is the earthward manifestation of the love of God. It was to implant this love, to make us children of one family, that the King of glory became one with us. And when His parting words are fulfilled, "Love one another, as I have loved you" (John 15:12); when we love the world as He has loved it, then for us His mission is accomplished. We are fitted for heaven; for we have heaven in our hearts.

1T.150.004

Said Jesus: "Love one another, as I have loved you." How much? His love cannot be told. He left the glory that He had with the Father before the world was. "He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed." He patiently bore every indignity and scorn. Behold His agony in the garden, when He prayed that the cup might pass from Him! Behold His sufferings on Calvary! All this for guilty, lost man. And Jesus says: "Love one another, as I have loved you." How much? Well enough to give your life for a brother. But has it come to this, that self must be gratified, and the word of God neglected? The world is their God. They serve it, they love it, and the love of God has departed. If ye love the world, the love of the Father is not in you.

1T.166.002

I have seen the great sacrifice which Jesus made to redeem man. He did not consider His own life too dear to sacrifice. Said Jesus: "Love one another, as I have loved you." Do you feel, when a brother errs, that you could give your life to save him? If you feel thus, you can approach him and affect his heart; you are just the one to visit that brother. But it is a lamentable fact that many who profess to be brethren, are not willing to sacrifice any of their opinions or their judgment to save a brother. There is but little love for one another. A selfish spirit is manifested.

CT.097.001

We should ever look upon the youth as the purchase of the blood of Christ. As such they have demands upon our love, our patience, our sympathy. If we would follow Jesus we cannot restrict our interest and affection to ourselves and our own families; we cannot give our time and attention to temporal matters and forget the eternal interests of those around us. . . . "Love one another, as I have loved you" (John 15:12), is the command of Jesus. Look at His self-denial; behold the manner of love He has bestowed upon us; and then seek to imitate the Pattern.-- Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, pp. 21-35; read in College Hall, December, 1881.