#### Powerful Love

**John 14:21-24**

##### Sermon Outline

1. **Connect (vs. 21):**
   * + 1. Has my commandments – Believers who continuously cling to God’s Word because they view it as authoritative.
2. Another word that is repeated is "command(s)". It is repeated in vs. 10 (twice), vs.12,14,17.
3. And keeps them – These are believers who maintain a deep commitment to trust God’s Word throughout difficult circumstances with a watchful attitude and no intention of letting it go (Dan. 1:8). See the ‘Hall of Faith’ in Hebrews 11. Abraham waited 25 years for a child because he believed God for His Word (Rom. 4:18).
4. A believer can know about God’s Word but when their feelings or they disagree with what God is saying become stronger than their desire to obey God’s Word, they can become more reliant on feelings and their understanding of the issue at hand. When they do this, they demonstrate that they love themselves more than Christ.
5. What motivates a person to keep the Word is a love for Christ. It is not religion or needing a blessing, it is simply a sincere love for Christ. When Peter did not keep the Lord’s Word the question was whether Peter loved Christ or not (John 21:15-17).
6. Is the one who loves – The believer who refuses to let go of God’s Word demonstrates a deep affection and willingness to sacrifice themselves to the direction of the Holy Spirit. This love drives faithful obedience to God (14:15; 15:10).
7. That is exactly what it does, and that is the beauty of it: first, by preceding our love, it creates in us the eager desire to keep Christ's precepts; then, by following our love, it rewards us for keeping them! Nothing could ever be more glorious than such an arrangement!
8. He who loves me – The believer who consistently obeys God truly loves God. They deny themselves, they set themselves apart from anything that distracts them from obeying God and discipline their lives to do what God’s Word instructs them to do.
9. Loved by the Father – The one who is the instrument of our spiritual birth will do everything He said He would promise to do for them (15:7-9; Deut. 8:1-10).
10. This love invites the answering love of the Father, whose love for the Son is such that he must love all who love him. It also brings manifestation of the Son to the believer. [[1]](#footnote-1)
11. Will disclose myself to Him – Christ will reveal Himself in ways that is not generally known.
12. Will disclose myself to Him – Christ will expose how extraordinary He is to a believer that loves Him.
13. **Be Empowered (vs. 22-23):** 
    * 1. Speaking – To actually speak; to communicate a message.
14. The disciples had expected the Messiah to come publicly and deliver Israel from Rome and the corrupt priesthood of the temple. Jesus said that the disciples would see Him, but the world would not (v. 19). Judas (not Iscariot) wanted to know how that could be.[[2]](#footnote-2)

1. Lord – Judas recognized Christ as the One who has all authority and power and is committed to establish a relationship with us.
2. You are going; Done – What could not be seen will be exposed whether it existed before that exposure or not. Judas expected Christ to powerfully display Himself at the right time.
3. Disclose yourself to us – Judas did not understand why Christ would only continually manifest Himself intimately to those who He knew would serve Him—His disciples—but not to the world.
4. World – Christ chose not to reveal Himself to those who were rebellious, who followed the world’s system and way of life.
5. Jesus answered and said – Jesus made a point to once and for all respond to Judas with an answer that remains the same forever.
6. If anyone loves Me – To love Christ is to be willing to sacrificially do whatever He instructs us to do. This love is also demonstrated by one’s actions when they have a compassionate heart toward others.
   * 1. *Love—Commandments*: the person who really loves Jesus will want to obey Jesus by doing what He asks. Therefore, love and obedience are tied together so tightly that a person cannot love and not obey. A person’s love is proven and clearly seen in his obedience. (See 1 John 2:9–11; 3:10–17; 4:7–21.)[[3]](#footnote-3)
7. He will keep – The person who is committed to sacrificially obey the Lord demonstrates that they genuinely have no intention of letting go of fulfilling what Christ instructed them to do.
   * 1. Notice it not just having the commandments, it is also keeping them. To know the commandments of God is not enough. This was the case with the Pharisees, Sadducees, Rabbi’s, High Priest etc. The person who keeps them demonstrates their love to God and this leads to love from God (John 14:15; 15:10) and from Christ.
8. My Word – The purpose of this person’s commitment to watchfully persevere in God’s Word is because they accept that what Christ said is truly His Word which came directly from God (vs. 24); His personal address to those whom He loves.
9. My Word – All the words of Christ are considered to be one Word.
10. My Father – It is Christ’s Word (“My Word”) that comes from His Father (John 3:16). This love is very personal, representing an intimate interaction with the people whom He loves. “My Father” is the direct object from which the love of Christ is extended.

1. My Father – Love extends from God because, as John 3:16 explains, it is God who is the beginner of everything. God is the author of all spiritual things and therefore is the One who initiates and stimulates love in the life of a believer.
   1. God acts as our Father. He rewards us (Matt. 6:1); disciplines us (John 15:2); listens to our prayers (Matt. 6:6); knows and meets our needs (Luke 12:30); gives us good gifts (Matt. 7:11); is merciful to us (Luke 6:36); and dearly loves us (John 16:27). Old Testament saints knew that God was “like a Father” to Israel. Jesus brings the awesome God of the Old Testament into fresh, intimate perspective. He is “our Father.”
2. We will come to Him – Because of the above we resolve to understand all that the Lord has in store for us.

1. We will come to Him – Christ’s Word leading us to experience God’s love would draw us to understand the nature of the Lord more intimately (John 15:8-10, 12-17; 2 Pet. 1:3-4; 1 Cor. 2:10).

1. Make our abode with Him – When we arrive in heaven, what God has prepared for us (John 14:1-4) will come forth as our permanent dwelling place. This takes place because of our commitment to persevere in Christ’s Word while experiencing God’s love. His loving preparation of a permanent dwelling place is a true reality of God’s everlasting love. We did not earn this; we just demonstrated our love for Him by sacrificially obeying the Lord and demonstrating complete trust and surrendering to Him.
2. This is the only place in the New Testament where the Father and the Son are both said to indwell believers. Elsewhere, it is Christ (Gal. 2:20; Eph. 3:17) or the Spirit (Rom. 8:9, 11; 1 Cor. 3:16). In Old Testament times, God dwelt among his people, first in the tabernacle (Ex. 25:8; 29:45; Lev. 26:11–12), then in the temple (Acts 7:46–47). In the New Testament era, believers themselves are the temple of the living God (1 Cor. 6:19; 2 Cor. 6:16; cf. 1 Pet. 2:5).[[4]](#footnote-4)
3. The abiding presence of the Trinity is the *love* and *presence* of God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit—all three dwelling within the life of the believer. The abiding presence of the Trinity is not “in” the man who does not love and obey Jesus.[[5]](#footnote-5)
4. **It is a Message from God (vs. 24):**
5. He who does not love – The person who does not continuously demonstrate a sacrificial commitment to willingly obey the Lord, under the direction of the Holy Spirit, does not have an affectionate, compassionate desire to obey the Lord.
6. Does not keep My Words – The person who is continually committed to not sacrificially obey the Lord demonstrates they have no intention of fulfilling what Christ instructed them to do. This exposes that the person does not have a watchful attitude over the commands of the Lord and is therefore not committed to persevere in the Word of God.
7. The words which you hear – The inner thoughts and feelings intelligently communicated by Christ, so that we clearly understand the mind of the Lord come directly from God.
8. Sent me – Christ’s mission and purpose on earth is to once and for all carry out whatever His Father instructed Him to do (14:11-14). So, His Words and His purpose are designed by God.
   1. That the disciples may not be discouraged or waver on account of the obstinacy of the world, he again procures credit to his doctrine, by testifying that it is from God, and that it was not contrived by men on the earth. And, indeed, the strength of our faith consists in our knowing that God is our leader, and that we are founded on nothing else than his eternal truth.[[6]](#footnote-6)

1. Pfeiffer, C. F., & Harrison, E. F. (Eds.). (1962). [*The Wycliffe Bible Commentary: New Testament*](https://ref.ly/logosres/wbc-nt?ref=Bible.Jn14.19&off=842&ctx=ho+compose+it.%0a+21.+~Jesus+returned+to+th) (Jn 14:19). Chicago: Moody Press. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Radmacher, E. D., Allen, R. B., & House, H. W. (1999). [*Nelson’s new illustrated Bible commentary*](https://ref.ly/logosres/nnibc?ref=Bible.Jn14.22&off=6&ctx=ledge+of+Him.%0a14%3a22+~The+disciples+had+ex) (p. 1347). Nashville: T. Nelson Publishers. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Leadership Ministries Worldwide. (2004). [*The Gospel according to John*](https://ref.ly/logosres/posbkjv64jn?ref=Bible.Jn14.23-24&off=1385&ctx=r+Study+%23+4%0a(14%3a23)+~Love%E2%80%94Commandments%3a+t) (p. 302). Chattanooga, TN: Leadership Ministries Worldwide. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Arnold, C. E. (2002). [*Zondervan Illustrated Bible Backgrounds Commentary: John, Acts.*](https://ref.ly/logosres/zibbcnt02?ref=Bible.Jn14.23&off=432&ctx=e+with+him+(14%3a23).+~This+is+the+only+pla) (Vol. 2, pp. 140–141). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Leadership Ministries Worldwide. (2004). [*The Gospel according to John*](https://ref.ly/logosres/posbkjv64jn?ref=Bible.Jn14.23-24&off=473&ctx=+keep+His+words.%0ab.+~The+abiding+presence) (p. 302). Chattanooga, TN: Leadership Ministries Worldwide. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Calvin, J., & Pringle, W. (2010). [*Commentary on the Gospel according to John*](https://ref.ly/logosres/calcom64jn?ref=Bible.Jn14.24&off=717&ctx=ord+which+you+hear.+~That+the+disciples+m) (Vol. 2, p. 99). Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)