

Jesus Loves Me

Introduction: If you were asked to summarize your faith in one sentence, how would you answer? In the early 1960s, a well-known and well-respected theologian was asked to summarize his theology in one sentence. He thought for a moment and responded 'In the words of a song I learned at my mother's knee: 'Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so.' This is a simple song we teach our children, but it has a profound message that speaks to the essence of our faith. I want to spend a few moments considering this song for a few moments.

I. Jesus:

- A. This song begins with Jesus which is always the right place to begin. Our entire faith stands or falls on the person of Jesus.
- B. All things come through Jesus: 1 Corinthians 8:5-6, John 1:1-3
- C. Jesus is the very image of God Himself: Hebrews 1:3
- D. Thus Jesus possesses the fullness of deity: Colossians 2:9
- E. Jesus has been exalted and has been given preeminence over all creation: Colossians 1:15-18

II. Loves Me:

- A. We have noted before that love is part of God's essence: 1 John 4:8
- B. As we study the Bible, it should be clear to us that God is a relational being: Acts 17:26-28
- C. The message of the New Testament is the universal love of God: John 3:16, Romans 5:8
- D. Yet, this message is even more personal. God loves even me: Luke 15

III. The Bible Tells Me So:

- A. The Bible is the means through which we come to know the fact that God loves us. Peter knew that Jesus was the Christ because it was revealed to Him: Matthew 16:13-17
- B. We cannot understand the mind of God unless God reveals it to us: 1 Corinthians 2:9-12
- C. Paul writes that all scriptures have been breathed by God: 2 Timothy 3:16, 2 Peter 1:21
- D. Not only have we been given the mind of God, it is able to be understood: Ephesians 3:3-5, 5:17
- E. The only way that we know God, that we know that He loves us is the Bible tells us so.

IV. Little Ones to Him Belong:

- A. Jesus used little children to teach us about the nature of the kingdom: Mark 10:13-16
- B. On another occasion, Jesus used children to teach the disciples: Matthew 18:2-5
 - 1. There are many attributes that children possess that are important qualities.
 - 2. Children are pure and innocent.
 - 3. Children are humble, willing to be corrected and taught.
 - 4. Children are dependent upon others.
- C. Jesus teaches us that we need to approach Him as little children. We need to humble ourselves and depend on Him if we hope to be received by Him.

V. They are Weak but He Is Strong:

- A. Paul wrote that he took pleasure in infirmity for he was made strong through weakness: 2 Corinthians 12:10
 - 1. True strength comes not from a dependence upon one's own abilities or strength. Rather it comes from complete dependence upon God.
 - 2. This is the reason our approach to God begins with poverty of spirit: Matthew 5:3
- B. We gain victory through surrendering ourselves to God, to allow Him to work through us. This is how we gain victory over sin: Ephesians 6:10
- C. One song I was reminded of this week helps me to appreciate these thoughts. 'Emptied that Thou shouldst fill me, A clean vessel in Thy hand; With no pow'r but as Thou givest, Graciously with each command.'
- D. Just as the little children do not rely on their own strength but depend upon their parents, we too ought to empty ourselves to lean wholly upon God and the strength that He provides.

VI. Jesus Take This Heart of Mine:

- A. This final verse calls upon Jesus to take our hearts and make them His.
- B. God wants us to have hearts that are fully devoted to Him: Matthew 22:37, 5:8
- C. We approach God with hearts that are broken, stained with sin, full of self. Through Jesus we find cleansing so our hearts can be pure: Hebrews 9:14
- D. This is a response to what God has done for us. Jesus take this heart of mine, make it pure and wholly thine, thou hast bled and died for me, I will henceforth live for thee.
- E. When we learn of the love of Jesus and all that has accomplished in our lives, the only fitting response is to devote ourselves wholly to Him.

Conclusion: A fitting way to summarize our faith is to simply say 'Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so.' This captures the essence of our faith and the hope that it brings in our lives. Jesus loves us and was willing to die for us. What are you willing to do for Him in return? Let us love Jesus and give our hearts entirely to Him so we can please Him in all that we do.