

## Banner of Love – Part I: That's Not All Folks!

Sunday Morning, October 8, 2017

Today we're starting a series of messages entitled "Banner of Love". Our love relationship with Jesus is critical to our joy in Him!

I want to start today by looking at an unusual example of the love we first had when we received Christ as our Savior. Being saved from eternal punishment for our sins by our faith in Christ, is a great victory! Having said that, our love we first experienced in Jesus was generated by what we "received" through Christ our Savior! I'd like us to look at an example of love that was discovered through a great victory! Let's look at

**(I Samuel 17: 57 – 18:3)**

**17:57** Then, as David returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, Abner took him and brought him before Saul with the head of the Philistine in his hand.

**58** And Saul said to him, "Whose son are you, young man?" So David answered, "I am the son of your servant Jesse the Bethlehemite."

**18:1** Now when he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.

**2** Saul took him that day, and would not let him go home to his father's house anymore.

**3** Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul.

In this passage we learn that David slew that great Philistine, Goliath, this was a great victory, saving Israel from the enemy! Jonathan was so taken by what David had accomplished and the security it brought Israel that he was joined in his heart and in his soul to David and David was toward him! This was more than just a new friendship, it was the bonding of souls between two men of God!

This very important life event between Jonathan and David and the victory for Israel is a typology of our deliverance from total destruction for our sin, through the victory Christ gave us through the Cross!

Can you see the correlation of our joy of victory we have received when we first met Christ, bonding our souls together with Him. Our love for God is now based on the marvelous work He did on our behalf. Our love for Him was new and fresh. But this first love of victory in Christ is only the beginning of a great love relationship with God, a love relationship that God is ready to reveal to us when we're ready to receive it. This first love experience with Jesus our Savior is just the beginning of a great and unexpected love relationship with Him.

There is a transition that can take place in Christians' lives that can bring their love for Jesus beyond the Cross to the Throne He sits on today. It can bring us to acknowledge Him as our King with all authority and reigning power in our lives.

His Kingship in our lives is a door to a deeper love relationship with Him!

Every believer in Christ has the opportunity to pursue Him and discover the riches of God beyond their imagination! Let's look at another typology of taking a step closer to a deepening love relationship with God. Let's look at the Queen of Sheba when she visited Solomon in **(I Kings 10: 1 – 8)**.

- 1 Now when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon concerning the name of the Lord, she came to test him with hard questions.
- 2 She came to Jerusalem with a very great retinue, with camels that bore spices, very much gold, and precious stones; and when she came to Solomon, she spoke with him about all that was in her heart.
- 3 So Solomon answered all her questions; there was nothing so difficult for the king that he could not explain it to her.

- 4 And when the queen of Sheba had seen all the wisdom of Solomon, the house that he had built,
- 5 the food on his table, the seating of his servants, the service of his waiters and their apparel, his cupbearers, and his entryway by which he went up to the house of the Lord, there was no more spirit in her.
- 6 Then she said to the king: “It was a true report which I heard in my own land about your words and your wisdom.
- 7 However I did not believe the words until I came and saw with my own eyes; and indeed the half was not told me. Your wisdom and prosperity exceed the fame of which I heard.
- 8 Happy are your men and happy are these your servants, who stand continually before you and hear your wisdom!

The Queen of Sheba came to King Solomon because of the rumors she heard about the King’s fame. So she came and tested him to see if it was all true. After discovering that the King’s wisdom and wealth was exceedingly more than what the rumors even declared, the Queen was overwhelmed. She had no more spirit in her. She had all her questions answered by the King. She recognized what joy there was just serving in his presence.

Matthew Henry a 1600’s British Minister put it this way,

*“Here the truth exceeded; and all who, through grace, are brought to commune with God, will say the one half was not told them of the pleasures and the advantages of wisdom’s ways. Glorified saints, much more, will say of heaven, that the thousandth part was not told them, 1 Cor. 2:9. She pronounced them happy that constantly attended Solomon. With much more reason may we say of Christ’s servants, Blessed are they that dwell in his house; they will be still praising him.”*

Like the Queen of Sheba, we too, as we grow in knowledge of Christ and commune with Him, will discover that there is even more to God's wisdom, riches and love than we can fathom and a great joy of just being in His presence.

In this series, we will look at the progressive phases of our pursuit of the Lord.

Let me share a quote as we end this introduction to our series "Banner of Love":

*"Spiritual fellowship with the Lord in the hidden, secret place of the heart is a very sacred thing...God, Himself, has opened to us by His own revelation that fulness of this sweet and Holy fellowship so that He may make us to know the paths of love and at the same time, challenge us to walk therein."*

*Taiwan Gospel Bookroom, January 1954*



Many Christians are content with a mere legal union with Christ the Lord. And like Porky Pig at the end of a Looney Tunes cartoon would say, "That's Not All Folks!" The goal of this series of messages is to encourage every believer to reach a fuller and more mature love for Jesus!

