

**“A Lesson in Love”**  
**By Brother Parrish Lee**  
**Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

Oh, great God in Heaven. You may be seated, Saints. If, sometimes, I appear like I'm just newly saved, can I be honest, that's how I feel. This whole thing, it's not tired and worn out to me. If it's tired and worn out to you don't leave before we visit this altar. Because, though our outward man perish, the new man is renewed day by day (2 Corinthians 4:16) according to His Word and the Lord made us a promise, "Behold, I make all things new." (Revelation 21:5) That's the God that we serve. And to me, I feel like it was just yesterday I got saved. Yeah, I've been through a few things here and there. But, it's so fresh, and He's such a present help. I remember, I remember, and, no, this ain't the message. Well, ok, this will be part of it. I won't go longer. But I remember, I remember the hole, the pit from which I was dug (Isai51:1)ah . I remember what I was wrapped up into, I remember, and there was a long list, if I'm honest. I remember being an idolater. I remember going after people who would name the name of Jesus and call Him Lord and Master, and I would make it my business to rip them up. I would come with such a fury, so, why would God save me? Why would God allow the joy of his Gospel, the peace of His Spirit? Why would God choose somebody like me? Why? Because, for God so loved the world, every single one of us. He knew what we were into, and He loved us anyway, it wasn't about us loving Him, it was about Him first loving us. It's still there, it's still new, it's still fresh. It's a vibrant thing. As the singers were singing this morning, I couldn't stop—Normally I don't join the singers on the days that I have the message, but they were singing What a Mighty God We Serve. How are you going to sit down? How are you going to stay seated? How are you going to hold it in, when you're talking about a Mighty God we serve? How are you going to hold it in? I couldn't hold it in. I couldn't hold it in. He's been mighty to me—I would say all week—but He's been mighty to me for fifty-six some odd years. fifty-six years. He's been that kind of good to me. That He's been that good, even when, *especially when* I don't deserve it. Yeah, He's a mighty God, the Mighty God I serve.

So, good morning, everyone. Welcome to Christian Fellowship Church of Great Lakes. So many things are happening. You know, so many things are happening on both sides. You know, so many things are happening, and you can see, it looks like that's a downer over there, and there's so much going on over there. It's like wow, there's so much potential, there's so much going on, we could move. But we have to realize in every situation God is in control. God is in control when we let Him be. Amen.

Last month, we had a wonderful time in the Word. And this month we actually are talking about love. Family love and our Scripture theme for the month. I'm going to ask Brother Todd, if he would come up here, Todd Bostwick, if he would come up, and we're going to ask him to read from the book of John, chapter thirteen, verses thirty-four and thirty-five.

***John 13:34-35*** *A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.*

Our theme for the month, that's our theme for the month.

And I do have just one announcement to make; it didn't make the announcements. But, this Wednesday is our congregational worship. And this Wednesday, it's actually going to be a Bible study. And the Bible study is going to be the gifts and callings of God; what is our purpose? What is our purpose?

But, I must give honor and glory to God who is the Head of my life, first, the Head of our life, our Maker, our Creator, our Sustainer, Shepherd and Bishop of our souls, and lover of our souls. He who makes the way out of no way. He who is the all lasting, all caring, all-knowing God. God, to give honor to Him to

thank Him for all He's done. And give honor to all those who have gone before us to our founding pastor, he and his family to our pastor, who was here last month, he and his family. And all those who have come and stood in the gap to make up the hedge. And, giving honor, at this time, to all of y'all, who present yourselves before that same God and say, "Lord, feed me. Give unto me that, which may be nutritious in our lives, that I might go forth to do more for you."

And, and as we went over this, I'd like to read it one more time before we have prayer.

**John 13:34-35** *A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.*

Could we bow our heads for just a moment? Almighty God, how can we thank You enough? When You do what You do over and over. God, it just seems so frail what we give unto You that which we have. To say thank You, and to praise You, and to lift You. For God, You are the Giver of all good and perfect gifts. We thank You for these things, Lord. We thank You for our time of worship today, to put You above everything else, to give You the praise that is due unto You, glory and honor, and benevolence. And, Lord, we come to this part of the service where we come before You, and we ask that You would add a blessing to the reading and the instruction of your Word, that it would not return to You void, but would accomplish that to which it was sent, that it might nurture us, that it might nourish us, God, that it would feed us as You would have it to do. Lord, that it would provide leading and guiding and answers to our lives, that it would be a sustainer and a strengthener in us. And God that it would provide that You and I could have a closer walk from here on. Because, God that's what we want, we want to be closer to You. We want to be more tight, more right with You Almighty God, and we just can't thank You and praise You enough. So, we come give You praise, thanks honor and glory this we pray and claim in Jesus name and everyone said, amen. Amen.

So, the title of today's message, could have gone so many ways with this. The title of today's message is: A Lesson in Love. A Lesson in Love. And I'd like to read this just one more time.:

**John 13:34-35** *A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.*

A new commandment. The Lord says, a new commandment. And we're familiar with the other commandments that had come down, the big spectacle that was made, they were on a mountain. Moses alone could walk up, Joshua could walk a little ways, but Moses was the only one that was called to walk all the way up to receive the commandments to guide the people, so that they could know that they walked in God's ways. A new commandment, He says, that we love one another, and as we look into the New Testament, over and over, we see this to be a theme that keeps coming up. Over, and over, and over, this love thing. This love thing. And, I say, a few years ago, Pastor Paine, he had actually given us a word and he said, you know, when you are in your life and you have things related to your life, you are going to find that the things in your life that relate to Christ begin with love. It starts with love. This whole life in Christ, this whole relationship, the things of the Lord, they start in love. They begin in love. But, if we're going to be a follower of the Lord, if we are going to be a follower of the Lord, we realize that we don't stop at the beginning. Love does not stop, which is our first point, here, love does not stop at the beginning. From the Book of Luke, if I could ask Brother Rob Severance to come. From the book of Luke chapter eight, and we're going to read verses one, two and three:

**Luke 8:1-3** *And it came to pass afterward, that he went throughout every city and village, preaching and shewing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God: and the twelve were with him, And certain women, which had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary called Magdalene, out of whom went seven*

*devils, And Joanna the wife of Chuza Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others, which ministered unto him of their substance.*

Thank you, Rob. If we were to go to Luke, chapter seven, if we were to go to what precedes this in Luke chapter seven, if we were to go ahead, we would see the occasion just before this. It's the occasion of the Pharisee who had the Lord coming over to his house. And, in that scenario, the Pharisee had the Lord coming over to his house, and, of course, the sinner woman. And, as we see, the story goes, the woman who, yes, she washed His feet with her tears, and she dried them with her hair. And, then there was Simon. And, so, that whole scenario, the Lord only asked one question, and, He asked it, after Simon had a certain thought that came up, and He only asked one question: as He presented a certain parable before him, and He said, "Who loves the Lord the most? Who really loves the Lord the most?" And Simon said, "I suppose, I suppose him that is forgiven most. I suppose the one that was forgiven most," and the Lord said, "Thou hast rightly judged." And, who, the Lord says, "Who really loves Me? Who really loves Me?" And, of course, He said, "Thou hast, rightly judged," when he said, "Who has been forgiven most." Now, in this scenario, the Lord wasn't passing judgment. In this scenario, there's just the two, there is the Pharisee and there is the woman. And, in this house, you know that the Pharisee had things squared away. The Pharisee, he was a religious man, and he had this great person coming over to his house, so, you know he pulled out all the stops. You know he would have had the best furniture; you know he would have had everything cleaned and decked out. And you know he would have had the best China, and the best silverware. You know that he would have had all the best that he had to offer. He would have made sure his clothes were clean. He would have made sure that only the good friends were going to be around, so he wouldn't be embarrassed. After all, the Pharisee, he was preparing the way for this Great Guy coming over, this Teacher of the Holy Scriptures, this Healer Man was coming over. And the Pharisee, he had to have things decked out just right. And, I'm even sure that he used the proper language, but, with the sinner woman, it was different. And, so, the Pharisee, as he would have had the proper diction, and said, "It's so wonderful to have You over, Lord, God. Oh, Jesus, You Teacher of the Holy Scriptures." I'm sure he would have used all the proper diction, but this woman, this sinner woman—and that's the only description that we're actually given in the Word, in this scenario, was that the Pharisee said, "If this man knew, if He was a prophet, He would know what kind, what kind of woman this is, for she is a sinner." The only description that's given in the whole scenario is that she is the sinner that's on the scene. That's the only description that's given, and yes, we're talking about a lesson in love. But as the Pharisee decked everything out, and as the Pharisee pulled out all the stops, and he would have made sure everything was prepared for the Lord coming there. This sinner woman just only knew that He was going to be there. It wasn't her house; she couldn't call things out to be like she would have had them. And, all she knew was that He was going to be there and she needed to be around Him. So, this woman, she didn't pull out all the stops and all that; no, she just came and bowed herself down and she washed his feet with her tears. That's what we read in the Scripture, in the scenario preceding this one. And, we also read that she wiped them with her hair. Now, I've got five sisters, a mom and a step mom. Their hair is kind of a precious thing to them. You touch their hair in my family, you're probably going to get slapped. You're probably going to get slapped, and I don't mean a light slap, either. I mean you're going to have a mark left, because their hair is precious. And, the Bible says it was given to women for a covering. It was given, especially, to women for a purpose, but, she took the purpose for what it was given to her and she chose to use this something special that was given to her to actually wipe the feet of the One that she loved. She washed them with her tears, and she wiped them with her hair, and, according to the Bible, she broke a box of ointment across them. And, so, she didn't come with flattering words, and she didn't come to make a big deal out of things, she didn't come to show that she was special. And, she didn't come for that great Teacher of the Holy Scriptures, and she didn't come for that Healer of the blind and everything, she didn't come for that Guy; she came for the one who was the Lord of her life. It wasn't a special guest to her; it

was the one that she worshipped and loved. It was the one that she wasn't afraid to be embarrassed and humbled in front of. It was the one that she looked forward to. And they tell me that that box of ointment that she broke and put over his feet, they tell me that that was very precious, it was very expensive, when you look at the research, it says it was so precious, it could cost anywhere from six months to a year's labor. It was that kind of precious thing that she chose to anoint the feet of her Lord. And then the Lord would say, "Well, who loves Me most? He who prepares, or he who shows love?"

Now, this is the difference between those that know that they need a great God in their life, and those that think, "Basically, I'm not that bad. I'm pretty much all right. Compared to me, you know, as a matter of fact, if I say so myself, I'm pretty good." Here is the difference between those who know they need the Lord, because they can't go any further without Him, and those who think that they're all right. Those who know that they need the Lord, you see how they give some thanks when He comes. But, those that think they're basically all right, you don't see them getting tremendously thankful about what God does for them, because, to them, it wasn't a big deal, because they are half-way all right, anyway. But, when you know that, "God, I can't get out of this, except you do it. God, I am in trouble. Lord, I've got things in my life that I can't handle." And, when you know that God reaches for his hand and pulls us up out of that muck, and mire, that dirt. When you know that your sins that follow after you and you prayed and God took them away. Then, the sinner man, the sinner woman, the sinner person says, "Hallelujah! I'll give a hâlal to that God! He's not a special guest in my house. I don't just set things up for Him. I just stay right where I am, and I worship Him, I give Him the praise, I give Him the glory, because He has shown that He, alone, is worthy." That God, that God. And that God, alone, is worthy of all our praise. Now, when you know that you didn't get here on your own. And we could take it for granted, the fact that we opened our eyes, this morning. We could take it for granted, the fact that we got in a car, if we got in a car today. And the car, whether its paid for or not, it had gas in it, we could take all that for granted. We could take it for granted that we walked into a place where we could talk about King Jesus, and that is going to be the subject. We could take all that for granted. But, you know it wasn't just but so long ago, for me, that I would have looked at a place like this and thought, "They don't have nothing for me." Because I couldn't see the Lord that was in that place. And when God opened my eyes and shined the light of the glorious Gospel in, it's never just a light thing. Being able to come into his presence is everything for the Saints. He clothed us, put us in our right mind, and then He gave us something that the world doesn't have: That peace that passes all understanding. That love that makes a difference, that changes situations wherever we go. That Jesus, yeah, that miracle working Jesus. And, the difference, here, we have to highlight, the difference, here—and this isn't even the main message, but the difference, here, is what the Lord said about her. And if we were in Luke chapter seven, we would see what the Lord said about her. "Yeah, she, her whose sins are many, are forgiven," and then, He said one thing, He said, "Because, because, because she loved much." And if you look at the Scriptures, it doesn't say how much, it just says she loved much. But who did everybody see that she loved? Who did everybody know that she preferred above herself? Who did everybody see, that she, with her own actions, said, "This is the one who is so much more than even I am, He's worthy of any of my labors. He is worthy of my tears, and He's worthy of the very best that I have, to the very lowest part of Him." Everybody saw who the love of her life was, right there. And the Lord said, "Her sins are forgiven because she loves much, she loves much." She never even said a word she just showed it. I firmly believe that, whether the Pharisee was there or not, as she would have done it. She just looked for the opportunity to bring her worship before the Lord.

## Point number 2: The Example of Mary Magdalene

The example of Mary Magdalene. I'm going to ask Brother Rob to come back up, and, this time, I'm going to ask him to read verses two and three from Luke chapter eight. We could easily spend the rest of the service talking about the first woman, because there's so much in the action that she did. But, we have to talk about this next one.

**Luke 8:2-3** *And certain women, which had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary called Magdalene, out of whom went seven devils, And Joanna the wife of Chuza Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others, which ministered unto him of their substance.*

Thanks, Brother Rob. And certain women, and certain women, which had been healed of evil spirits. It wasn't just one woman, there were *women* that were healed of both evil spirits and infirmities. Now, when it says they were healed of the evil spirits and healed of the infirmities, the evil spirits, yes, spiritually healed, emotionally healed, and the infirmities, the physically healed. And sometimes, sometimes those kind of go together. You know, I mean, if you encounter somebody who has a real bout of arthritis, you, you're going to think they have an evil spirit that they're going through, I know if it's me and I am having a migraine, I'm just saying, "Get away, leave me some time." If I am having a migraine, I want the door shut, I want the phone off the hook, I want the shades pulled, no sound, nobody talking, I don't even want you breathing in the same room. Please, stop whatever you're doing, please stop. I don't know what it is, just stop. And, you would think that infirmity and that evil spirit are just the same thing together. Yes, so, sometimes it seems like that. But, the truth is from time to time when those things happen, we see that one of these examples shows us that, the Bible says that He healed seven devils out of Mary Magdalene, seven devils. It doesn't name the devils, and that's for a reason. It doesn't name what they were. You know why? Because if it would have named them, we could let ourselves off the hook. If it had named the seven devils that He healed out of Mary Magdalene, we could say to ourselves, "Oh, He healed that one, and that one, and that one, but, He, He didn't heal the one that I've got." And we would tend to let ourselves off the hook, but the truth of the matter is, it didn't matter what the seven were; the Lord Jesus was on the scene. And He healed all of them. And seven, in the Scripture, is the number of completion. So, every infirmity that was there, was healed out of her.

I had a coworker that—actually Andy knew him too. I just found out. I got a message from a friend who said that our coworker had died, he didn't work for us anymore, but he was forty-six years old. Forty-six and he died, and when we got the word my friend was telling me. He said yeah, he had talked with my ex-coworker's brother. And his brother said, "Yeah, our whole family. Our whole family is... What can I say? We're all addicts, we're addicts to something, we're all addicted to something." And he said, "In our family, we've got people who are addicted to alcohol. We've got people who are addicted to drugs. We've got people who are addicted to all kinds of sexual things. We've got people who are addicted to gambling. In our family addiction just runs rampant through all of us." And, he was saying, he just went on to name more and more and as my friend was telling me the whole story I thought, "Wow, and, if you were to name some of the addictions there, you might get off track, and you might think, 'He healed that one, and that one, and that one, and that one, and that one, but He didn't heal the one that I've got,'" and Mary Magdalene is the testament to say, yeah, He'll heal them all. He will heal them all, and I've got to have a sidebar on this.

If there is a devil that is after you, the Lord Jesus is on the scene to heal you. If there is a devil that has been coming after you, there is the Lord Jesus who is here, to take care of everything. We must first take it to Him. He says, "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest." That is a promise. That is a guarantee. You don't have to have an excuse for not having victory. And, yeah, it

might be a thorn that you have, and you'll get relief as you pray, some of the thorns, some of the spirits, some of the battles, you have to fight off daily, and that's for a reason, that we don't get slack, and think, "That's all cured I can go home and watch TV now." It's for us to be around the Lord. And, the testament here, the testament here is that Mary Magdalene had these ones healed, but there were these other women, and He had healed all of them. All of them had evil spirits, all of them had infirmities, and He had healed them, and the testimony was that after they got healed what did they do? They continued following the Lord. After they got healed, they didn't go home, make a ham sandwich, and sit on the couch, and see what was on the tube. After they got healed, they made it their business to be around the Lord Jesus. After they got healed, that became their business to be around Jesus. He didn't heal them for them to go back and do what they used to do. He didn't heal him to go back to their own ways He healed them that they could have new ways. Him, the giver of life.

### **Part 3: Everyone That Loveth Is Born of God.**

You might say, "Brother Parrish, you've been talking a whole lot about women today. What about the men?" Well, the truth is, there is a woman that we can all be a part of: The bride of Christ. We are all in that woman, the bride of Christ, from the Book of First John, chapter four, verses seven and eight:

**1 John 4:7-8** *Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.*

Saint John, the Apostle, Saint John of Patmos, Saint John the divine, the disciple whom Jesus loved. This one turns around and says everyone that loveth is born of God. Every one that loveth and uses God's love is born of God. He asks us to bring love, therefore, into all of the situations, bring love into our fellowship, bring love into our home, bring love into every situation that we encounter, bring God's love everywhere. And they'll know we are Christians by our love, one towards another. When I first got saved, I noticed that a lot of people could quote a lot of Scriptures. Well, the people that I was around, were teaching me Bible studies. It was just amazing that people knew Scriptures in the Bible. They could, you know, rattle them off, and I thought, "Well, that's really neat. That's really good." And that was one of the marks that I saw of Christians. And, then I saw that some could really sing, and other ones they could really worship. I got really emotional and I thought, "Oh, those are the signs of being a Christian. You know, you worship, and you sing real good, and you can quote Scriptures. Those are the signs that will tell that you are Christians." And I never could get a lot of peace with that. Because, here, the Scripture says that they will know that we are his disciples by our love, one toward another. If you don't ever know how to quote a Scripture, if you don't ever sing on the right note, and if you don't get the kind of happy that you might see other people get, they will know that we belong to Him by our love, one toward another. When we are able to minister to people who can't minister back to us, when we're able to love people who can't love us back the way we show love to Him, they will know that we are His disciples. And in chapter first, Peter chapter four verse eight, our last scripture:

**1 Peter 4:8** *And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.*

Above all things, above all things, have fervent charity—godly love, godly love—have fervent charity, one toward another, have fervent charity among yourselves, I'm sorry, for charity shall cover the multitude of sins. Charity or godly love will cover the multitude of sins. I've got something between me and a brother, or me and a sister, I've got something between us. Oh, I need to bring charity into the

situation. If I bring charity into the situation, if I bring God's love into that situation, it will cover the distance in that multitude of sins. "Well, you know, I kind of got this slack a thing going on here. I kind of got, you know, I kind of want to get a little rebellious." But I need to bring charity into the situation. If I could bring God's love into the situation, then I can find resolution from my laziness and my slothfulness, and say, "You know what? I've got to get back on track. I've got to get back on top of things." He's just loving me like that. "Well, I'm not able to show emotion and concern to people," because I haven't brought enough charity. When I bring charity into the situation, then they will know, they'll know; it will cover a multitude of sins, and they will know that I am his disciple. And God tells us, as He said in the first Scripture, "A new commandment I give you, that you love one another, as I have loved you, that you love one another." Amen. Give the Lord a praise.