

February 2, 2012

Have You Told Others About Jesus?

Are you one of those who, when you find a good thing, tell others about it? That's how the two of us often feel. Can you picture the unrestrained joy in Andrew after his first encounter with Jesus? *"The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, 'We have found the Messiah!'"* (John 1:41). Israel had been waiting for centuries for Messiah's coming, and now Andrew had seen and talked with Him. And wouldn't you have delighted in being the angel who joyfully proclaimed to those humble shepherds that the Messiah had been born in Bethlehem (Luke 2:8-14)?

We're asking these questions with a purpose. Since the Spirit first inspired us to write our study guide, *Going To The High Places*, for Hannah Hurnard's book, *Hinds' Feet On High Places*, we've continued to hear the life-changing effect it's had on individuals and marriages. Yet this guide is one of the most underutilized works we have on our website. That's why we've written this Teaching E-mail: to encourage you with the good news about what the book and study guide can do for you. If you've never taken a pilgrimage to the "High Places" in your life journey in Lord Jesus, please don't let spring arrive this year without going through the lessons in *Going to the High Places*. The Holy Spirit may use this to transform your whole walk in Christ!

Please, prayerfully read this Teaching E-mail and see if it's not time for you to both understand and cooperate with the various means our Lord Jesus uses to help you become more like Him, and to instill and deepen His love in you. His love has absolutely NOTHING in common with human love. You can't develop it in your own strength, nor can you well it up through any human effort. But when Jesus instills it in you through His Spirit, His love carries with it a motivation that's incomprehensible to the world. Is it any wonder Paul's prayer for the Ephesian followers of Jesus was this:

"I pray that out of His glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God" (Ephesians 3:16-19).

Or consider his simple exclamation, ***"For Christ's love compels us..."*** (2 Corinthians 5:14).

How would you recognize if you're missing the kind of love which only Jesus can instill in you? Here are some telltale indicators:

- Do your actions or responses habitually produce tension or apprehension in your spouse or others close to you? Then you lack the love of Jesus for one another.

- Does the process of how you make decisions together produce tension or apprehension in others? Then you lack the love of Jesus for one another.
- Do you bristle or shut off communication when certain topics are brought up? Then you lack the love of Jesus for one another.

If any of these are true of you, receive the Spirit's conviction and repent! Our Lord is eager for you to experience His love and extend it to others. That's His work of transformation in you.

Please, if you haven't "gone to the High Places" at least once, don't let this opportunity pass you by. In the difficult days still to come, it's only the love of Jesus that will get you through.

Mike & Sue