

**2020-05-17 sermon John 14:21**

I expect you've seen lots of videos in these days, heard lots of voices, lots of words. So why listen to these words? Because they are the words of Jesus. You've heard about him; you know about him; perhaps you've been baptised and you follow him.

As so often, Jesus gives us an invitation, and a choice whether to respond.  
Whoever has my commands and keeps them  
is the one who loves me.  
The one who loves me will be loved by my Father,  
and I too will love them  
and show myself to them.

Jesus invites us to put him first, and keep his commands.  
It's like he's saying to me, to you: Come, take me as your Lord and put me first in your life – I think that is what it means, to love him.

@ E and I had an invitation to attend a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace just a few days ago. Cancelled, of course, by COVID.

The invitation that Jesus makes is never cancelled. Come, put me first in your life.

And the invitation comes with a promise:  
The one who loves me will be loved by my Father,  
and I too will love them  
and show myself to them.

God loving me; Jesus loving me; Jesus showing himself, making himself known, to me.

WOW! Really? Yes. Jesus promised it.

You may be thinking, Doesn't God love everyone, all the time, anyway? Yes, but there's a difference between God loving everyone and having an experience of God's love in your body. @ Imagine a small boy out for a walk with his Father. They're walking hand in hand. The boy knows that his Father loves him. Then the Father stops, picks the boy up and hugs him close in his arms. The boy not only knows that his Father loves him, but he feels and experiences his love.

How can I have that? By choosing to put Jesus first in your life – today; and when it comes, tomorrow; each day. But start with today. Choose to put Jesus first; take him as your Lord, and believe his promise.

I'd love you to have this in your life, to experience the warmth and fullness of the love of God.

Will you respond to Jesus now? Hear his words again:  
Whoever has my commands and keeps them  
is the one who loves me.

The one who loves me will be loved by my Father,  
and I too will love them  
and show myself to them.

We can respond to Jesus. To prepare ourselves, I suggest that we put your hands out to receive from him. It usually helps to close our eyes.

Take time. Tell Jesus you want to put him first in your life.

Now, give Jesus time

To speak to you

And love you

Wait

Take time

Use the PAUSE button

Thank you, God, for your love. Please come to me.

Soon I will bring this sermon to an end; but you can take all the time you need to be with Jesus. Let him change your life.