

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

On February 24, 2012, we received the following comment:

“Can you explain John 14:21?”

“He that has my commandments and observes them, that one is he who loves me. In turn he that loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and will plainly show myself to him.” – **John 14:21**

To the author of this inquiry, we want to thank you for visiting the site and submitting your query. And we commend you for your determination to understand the Christ and his teachings.

You will note that we did not post the full text of your question because we do not wish to cause any friction between you and your elders. As **Our Mission*** page states: “Our purpose is to build up the spiritual house of anointed brothers and sisters in order for them to become sources of encouragement and spiritual lights to the congregations with which they are associated.” So, you see, our primary concern is with Jesus’ work of the “revealing of the sons of God.” (**Romans 8:19**)

As such, we wish not to attempt an explanation of every scripture in the Bible. There are many other fine sources for general Biblical expository. However, your question does allow us to discuss a subject that we feel would be beneficial to the entire Body of Christ. So with the above spirit in mind, we respond to your inquiry as follows:

We suspect that the portion of the scripture you are most concerned about is the phrase “and will plainly show myself to him.” The first portions of the scripture are quite unambiguous. It tells us that if we take Jesus’ commandments (**Matthew 22:37-40**) and make them our very own, we demonstrate that we love him, and, in turn, the Father loves us. However, the phrase that Jesus ‘will plainly show himself to us’ is another matter that even the other apostle Judas was not clear about:

“Judas, not Iscariot, said to him: ‘Lord, what has happened that you intend to show yourself plainly to us and not to the world.’” – **John 14:22**

Jesus explains this by admonishing his apostles to remain in peace and not fret that he would be going away because he would be returning. (**John 14:23-29**) True to his words, Jesus did go his way to the Father after his resurrection, and did return shortly thereafter where he plainly showed himself to his disciples and apostles on various occasions. He first appeared to Mary Magdalene at the memorial tomb where he explained to her that she could not ‘cling’ to

him because he had not yet ascended to the Father. (*John 20:11-18*). But eight days later, he returned, apparently after having presented himself to his Father, and showed himself to the apostles in the upper room where he did allow them to touch him and to see him ‘plainly.’ (*John 20:26-29*). He also appeared to the disciples at the sea of Tiberias and even ‘breakfasted’ with them. (*John 21:1-17*).

So, you see, the answer to your question was there in plain sight. Judas did not know the answer because the event had not yet occurred. But to us, we have the benefit of the scriptural record. And it required simply a reading of the context of the record, not isolating verses. Sons of the kingdom must be proactive in their search for truth. As the Apostle Paul said:

“For, indeed, although you ought to be teachers in view of the time, you again need someone to teach you from the beginning the elementary things of the sacred pronouncements of God and you have become such as need milk, not solid food. For everyone that partakes of milk is unacquainted with the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to mature people, to those who through use have their perceptive powers trained to distinguish both right and wrong.” – *Hebrews 5:12-14*

We cannot emphasize this enough. The realization that we are sons is just the beginning of the journey. It is the ‘unadulterated milk.’ (*1 Peter 2:2*) There are so many other things that must be discussed in view of the time – the meat, the “solid food,” the things of the spirit. But first, we must lay the foundation. It is as Jesus said to Nicodemus:

“If I have told you earthly things and yet you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things?” – *John 3:9-12*

Until then, we are constrained by the spirit. Jesus taught his apostles many things. He used illustrations to the crowds, and afterward, he would explain to his apostles the meaning behind the illustrations. (*Mark 4:34*) Still, there were many more things he could not teach even his apostles because mentally and emotionally they were unable to receive them. Jesus told them:

“I have many things yet to say to you, but you are not able to bear them at present. However, when that one arrives, the spirit of truth, he will guide you into all truth, for he will speak not of his own impulse, but what things he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things coming.” – *John 16:12-13*

Therefore, we strongly urge you to apply yourselves in your **own** study of the Bible. And more importantly we implore you to pray for understanding and allow the spirit of truth to direct you into all things. And above all, never forget:

“Eye has not seen and ear has not heard, neither have there been conceived in the heart of man the things that God has prepared for those who love him.” – ***1 Corinthians 2:9***

We sincerely hope our response has been encouraging and causes a strengthening up of your determination to follow closely in the footsteps of the Christ. If our words have proved a bit strong, please consider them the strikes of a lover (***Proverbs 27:6***), from those who care about your spiritual growth and your eternal future.

“Elaia Luchnia”

**As stated in February 2012. Our mission page is revised occasionally as this ministry progresses.*
