

He was an older man, and quite a student of the Word. He studied very diligently the scriptures, gospels, and letters<sup>1</sup> to probe their deepest meaning. He wanted to find out as completely as he could what God really wanted from him – indeed from all of us.

His eyes were getting weaker, though, and he needed good lighting to see the faded script on many of the papyri that he studying. Somewhere in his travels, he had also acquired a polished stone that was able to better illuminate his work. He discovered that this stone could also magnify the words so that he could discern them more clearly.

When I talked to this man, we discussed the purpose that God has for us<sup>2</sup>. His view was that we were created and put on this earth to learn about and find Love. This is central to the whole story that we have been given, of course, but he seemed to have a particular grasp on this essential. He claimed that his reading stone made this idea very clear. It gave him a different perspective, as it seemed to transform some of the word structures. When he first told me about it, I wondered if it distorted the truth – or gave it deeper meaning!

He reminded me that God put man in the Garden of Eden to learn about love: especially for and from God. But He created woman to help in that search for further understanding of it. We have not always been a good pupil concerning this, as we know. Many events from the history of the scriptures can be look upon as a search for Love. Abraham left his home by faith to seek love (a more complete and intimate relationship with God)<sup>3</sup>, accepting a transient condition in view of an eternal one. The Shema<sup>4</sup>, which included what Jesus called the greatest command<sup>5</sup>, was all about finding love for God (and receiving His Love in return).

My friend saw this pursuit of love in every commission that Jesus gave to men – when he sent the twelve<sup>6</sup>, and then the seventy-two<sup>7</sup> to spread the news of the kingdom (and to look for love [search for worthy person] and to give it out), and when he gave us all the same commission<sup>8</sup>. In his eyes it was a means of marketing the most powerful commodity of all: Love. This was to him the truly Good News.

This is beyond that of marital love – that of family, friends, and even enemies. This is love in spite of apparent issues that are hard to understand (points of scripture, etc.). God is love<sup>9</sup>, and that means that He seeks, generates, and grows love. In His power, it is an ever-expanding thing.

He encouraged me to try the stone for myself. When I looked at his parchments, he showed me what he himself had seen:

*... seek **love** and you will find it... for everyone who seeks it finds it...*<sup>10</sup>

*But seek first his kingdom and his **love**, and all these things will be given to you as well.*<sup>11</sup>

*They must turn from evil and do good; they must seek **love** and pursue it.*<sup>12</sup>

*But go and learn what this means: 'I desire **love**, not sacrifice.'*<sup>13</sup>

He showed me where God is also seeking love:

*For the Son of Man came to seek (**love**) and to save the lost.*<sup>14</sup>

*Come, follow me, and I will send you out to find people to **love**.*<sup>15</sup>

*... a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks (loves).<sup>16</sup>*

*God created us so that we would seek (love) him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us.<sup>17</sup>*

*... he rewards those who earnestly seek (love) him.<sup>18</sup>*

The old man had made it his mission in life to find love. I sensed that he wanted to have God say to him, "I have not found such love in all of the world!"<sup>19</sup> But he knows that God shows what love really is (and the magnitude of it<sup>20</sup>) through the gift of His Son<sup>21</sup>. And so he has indeed found the source of what he is looking for, and will spread the news wherever he can.

*... your kingdom come, your love be shared, on earth as it is in heaven.<sup>22</sup>*

1. remember the work of the Bereans, Acts 17:11
2. Philippians 2:13
3. Hebrews 11:8-16
4. Deuteronomy 6:5
5. Matthew 22:37-40
6. see Matthew 10:1, Mark 3:14, Mark 6:6-7, and Luke 9:1
7. see Luke 10:1
8. Mark 16:15
9. 1 John 4:5
10. from Matthew 7:7-8, Luke 11:9-10
11. from Matthew 6:33, Luke 12:31
12. from 1 Peter 3:11
13. from Matthew 9:13a
14. from Luke 19:10
15. from Matthew 4:19 (also Mark 1:17)
16. from John 4:23
17. from Acts 17:27
18. from Hebrews 11:6b
19. see Matthew 8:10 and Luke 7:9, where the subject is faith
20. 1 John 3:16
21. 1 John 4:10
22. from Matthew 6:10