



# 溪邊的樹

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## 中華教會

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## 愛主

今天我們要講到“愛”，來認識真愛的意義。我們要從約翰福音 15：1-17 主耶穌所講的話開始看。在這一段裏，“住在我裏面”這句話一直在重複。那什麼是住在主裏面呢？主在第十節告訴我們，“你們若遵守我的命令，就常在我的愛裏”。愛祂就是遵守祂的命令--像主愛我們一樣彼此相愛。主這樣命令我們有兩個原因：第一，愛祂就是遵守祂的命令；第二，這樣行就顯出我們是神的兒女。所以在約翰福音裏祂命令我們彼此相愛。但這個命令並不是像字面上這麼簡單。這個命令可能是最難做到的一件事，因為這不是屬於我們天然的反應。我們要遵行那個命令需要有所犧牲，當主告訴我們彼此相愛時，祂不只是說說而已，祂也犧牲了祂自己向我們表明了祂愛我們。所以我們也必須像祂愛我們一樣，以行動彼此相愛。

在羅馬書 13 章 9 節，“像那不可姦淫，不可殺人，不可偷盜，不可貪婪…”等誡命，都包含在“愛人如己”這一句話之內了。這是十誡中後六條的誡命。任何人都不需要逐字查考這段經文，然後把這些字句運用在他身上。我們從主所教導的話中得到一個基本的概念：就是你們要彼此相愛，簡單的說就是不要傷害他人。當我們彼此相愛的時候，這就見證了我們是神的兒女。這樣的見證告訴人們我們是屬於神的，同時也見證主耶穌的名。當我們向別人傳福音的時候，別人不僅是聽我們所講的，更是看我們之間是怎麼相處，我們的行為如何。他們想從我們中間看到神的真愛。

彼此相愛最難的一點是我們說話的方式。我們常常不能在愛中交談。“用愛心說誠實話”變成了“你若不能在愛中說，那麼你就乾脆不要說實話。”但是我要向你們挑戰：你們有誰能從聖經中找出這樣的經文嗎？事實是我們沒有一個人能很恰如其分的接受真話。聖經裏“用愛心說誠實話”這句話、看起來似乎有點矛盾。當講到在愛中的時候，總是需要某些程度的犧牲。那犧牲包括當我向你講實話的時候，你可能會不喜歡我，可能會恨我，甚至可能會成為我的敵人。但是因著我對你的愛，我願意付上這樣的代價。因為如果我不憑愛心告訴你，我只能站在一邊眼看著你在你的困難中受苦。而聖經並沒有告訴我們：“說實話吧，這樣別人會愛你。”

請注意，我並沒有要你去當面控訴別人。我們需要盡量溫和的說出實話，但要明白這是需要付上代價的。我們彼此相愛是因為主命令我們如此行，祂同時告訴我們要在愛中說出實話，而不只是用些抽象空洞的術語。主耶穌愛我們，但祂不僅僅是說說而已，祂為救我們甚至捨了祂的生命。這就不單單是口裏的話，而是帶著行動的。想想那個窮寡婦，她獻上了她所有的，雖然僅僅是兩個小錢。主對她的稱讚提醒我們：當我們談到愛的時候，要從我們心裏發出。我們的寶貝在哪裏，我們的心也在那裏。

最近，我聽到有關瑪拉基書中十一奉獻的討論，令人頗受攪擾。討論的焦點在於這個事實：今天、人們不再把初熟和最好之物獻給神。有的人因偶發的負擔、隨

意獻上幾個小錢就心滿意足了。不錯，主耶穌要我們獻得甘心樂意。但是如果我們只在自己高興時、有點奉獻，那麼誰來定期地付會所常規的電費和設施費？誰來負房屋貸款？人都可以很容易的說我沒有負擔。但是十一奉獻真正的意義是我們不能空著手來朝見神的面。這是神的命令。如果你什麼都不給神，你不要指望神會祝福看顧你。神對你的祝福是根據你對祂的奉獻。所以我們千萬不要像瑪拉基書中那些硬著心的以色列人那樣、不討神的喜悅。

我還要告訴你這一點：Owen 弟兄決定出來全時間服侍主。在我看來，當他毫無保留的出來事奉主時，他的這一個委身也是與我們相關聯的。注意，這就是十一奉獻的原則。為什麼是十分之一。因為這樣十個家庭就能支持一個家庭出來全時間的事奉主。這樣這家人就不用為經濟憂慮。我們來做一道數學題。如果有十個家庭，每家收入是一萬美元，他們都奉獻十分之一，這樣就有一萬美元供給這個全時間事奉的家庭或弟兄。這樣，這個家庭就如其他每一位工作的家庭一樣會得到一萬美元。但是我們總是感覺這位全時間服事的同工、不配像我們一樣得這麼多錢。我們認為神的工作不重要，所以他們不應得這麼多，因此我們不願意打開我們的皮夾，奉獻給主。我們給主，主會從天上把祝福傾倒給我們。但是如果我們不給神，我們就不要奢望神的祝福。這就是我們怎麼來愛神，做我們口裏所說的、而且是甘心樂意的去做。

你還記得使徒彼得在主復活前後的對比嗎？在主復活前，他跟隨主是為了自己的利益。他總是說：“主，我愛你”，但其實他愛自己更多一點。然而，當他經歷了否認主，當主復活後，彼得完全的改變了。那就是為什麼後來彼得一站起來傳福音就有三千人歸主，爾後又是五千人。主告訴他：“當你看到這些事，你回頭以後，要堅固你的弟兄。”這就是彼得所作的，到今天仍然能堅固眾聖徒。那就是愛主，並愛人如己。

我想再提一下“一領一”行動。我們常常把這個和教會的行動混淆。我們把這個稱

作福音外展，這是教會的行動。然而，我想大家對這點要有個清楚的認識。“一領一”的目標不是教會的行動或者是教會的目標，這應該是每個基督徒個人的目標，每天的行動。上次我和大家講到耶和華見證人和摩門教，他們對他們的神和他們的宗教有極大的熱心，可惜他們有好的熱心、卻放在一個錯的神身上。但我們卻剛剛相反，我們有一個對的神，但是對祂卻沒有對的熱心。我們常常把人帶到教會，希望有誰能和他講講基督的事。但為什麼我們不先向他講基督、然後把他帶到教會來呢？

導航會 Trotman 弟兄有一次傳講的信息特別感動我，題目是《生、為生養》。所有神的孩子的出生是為了生養。就是說那因我們傳福音而相信的人可以看作我們屬靈的孩子。當傳福音成為我們個人的目標時，我們的屬靈的孩子將會遍布各地。教會對這些孩子的角色就是把所有的孩子聚集在一起。這就是意義的所在：不是教會出去把人帶進來。我們常認為教會傳福音救人，這些得救的人就成為教會的孩子。對這些屬靈的孩子我們沒有所有權和責任，是教會對這些孩子負責。事實是當人得著屬靈的孩子，教會就得著屬靈的孩子。教會不會生出另一個教會。當我們出去分享福音的時候，我們把裏面主耶穌的生命分享出來。這個生命從我們裏面流到他人裏面，將產生一個何等奇妙和矚目的傑作。紙和言語只會生出紙和話的孩子。但是當基督的生命從我們裏面傳到他人裏面，我們是傳遞生命。那就是主耶穌所說的：“我是葡萄樹，你們是枝子。”之意義所在。

我禱告神向你的心說話。我相信今年會是很好的一年。我看到神在我們中間做了許多的事，開始要帶領我們進到一個更高的階段。我們需要跟著神的行動繼續往前走，不要失去我們的地位，反而倒回頭去。我們必須跟著祂、而且是緊緊的跟隨。千萬不要灰心！（王大恩）



## About Loving the Lord

Today we will talk about “love”, to really know what true love means. We will begin with what Jesus said in John 15: 1-17. The phrase “abiding in me” keeps appearing over and over again in this passage. What is the abiding in the Lord? The Lord tells us in verse 10, “If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love.” To love Him is to obey His commandments, in which He asked us to love one another as He loved us. The Lord commanded us to love for two reasons. First, to love Him is to obey His commandment. Second, it shows that we are His children. So in the gospel of John He commanded us to love one another. You know this is not simple as it seems on the surface. It is probably the hardest thing to do for it is not in our natural reaction. We need make some sacrifices to do that. When the Lord tells us to love one another, He says that He sacrificed His life to show that He loves us. So we must love one another as He loves us.

As Romans 13 : 9 put it "YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY, YOU SHALL NOT MURDER, YOU SHALL NOT STEAL, YOU SHALL NOT COVET." It sums up in this saying, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF." It is all last six of the ten commandments. Here is the basis. We don't need to read word for word from the Bible and then try to pencil the word on ourselves. We can have a general sense what the Lord is telling us. You should love one another in simple term that you should not do harm to anyone. When you love one another, it is a testimony that you are a child of God. We tell people that we belong to God, and we testify the name of Lord Jesus. When we preach the Gospel to others, people just look at us to see how we deal with each other, and how we conduct ourselves. They want to see in us the true love of God.

One of the greatest difficulties to love one another is the way we talk to each other. We fail to communicate with love to one another. The word “to tell the truth in love” became “don't tell the truth at all, if you can't tell in love.” I challenge anybody to find a verse in the Bible that says so. The fact of the

matter is none of us can handle the truth very well. It seems paradox that in scripture it says to “tell the truth in love”. When you are “in love”, it always requires some kind of sacrifice. That sacrifice includes when I tell you the truth; you are going to hate me. That may risk making you my enemy, that you dislike me. But because of my love to you, I am willing to pay that price. If I don't tell the truth in love, then I stand to watch you suffer to your difficulties and troubles. The Bible didn't say, “tell the truth, so the other person will love you.”

Well, I didn't tell you to accuse others in the face. We need to tell the truth as gentle as we can, but knowing that there will be a price to pay. We love one another, because the Lord commands us. And He tells us to tell the truth to each other in a loving manner, and not in abstract terms. Lord Jesus loves, and He gives His life for us. It is not something only verbally expressed, but with action. Remember the poor widow in the temple, who gave all she had, which was only two coins. The Lord praised her giving to remind us: when we talk about love, it is from the heart. Where the treasure is, where the heart is.

Recently, I heard a very troublesome discussion concerning the study of tithing in Malachi. The focus was on the fact that today we don't bring the first and the best to the Lord. Some people were contented with their occasional burden to give any small amount they wish. Yes, Jesus wants you to give cheerfully and willingly. But if we only give when we feel like, then who is going to pay regularly the power bill and facility bill of these buildings? Who is going to pay the mortgage of these buildings? Everybody can easily say I have no burden to give. But the real meaning of tithing is that when you come to the Lord, you must not come empty-handed. This is the commandment! If you give nothing to the Lord, don't expect the Lord to bless you or take care of you. God's blessing is measured in the same way what you give to him. So we cannot be like the stubborn Israelites as in the book of Malachi.

I will tell you this: Brother Owen decided to be a full time worker. In my mind, his whole commitment is so much conditioned on our side when he without reservation came out to serve the Lord. You see, here is the principle of tithing. Why ten percent? Because this will enable ten families to support one family to become full time for the Lord. So that family does not need to worry about finance. Let me do the math with you. If ten families, each family making 10,000 dollars and giving ten percent, then the total of 10,000 dollars being given to this family or this brother who serves full time. You understand this: this brother will have 10,000 dollars just like all other ten families who work. But what we ultimately feel that the coworker who ministers full time does not deserve to make as much money as we do. We think God's work is not that important, so that they shouldn't be paid that much. That is why we don't want to open our wallet. Give to the Lord, and the Lord will bless us and pour the blessing out of heaven unto us. But do not expect God to bless us if we do not give to Him. It's how we love the Lord. Do what we say verbally and actually do it cheerfully.

You recall the contrast of the Apostle Peter before the resurrection of the Lord and the Peter after that. Before the resurrection of the Lord, he followed the Lord all for the sake of personal gain. Always he said "Lord, I love you", but he loved himself a little more. However, when he has gone through the denying of the Lord, when the Lord was resurrected, there was a whole different Peter. That's why Peter can stand up and speak, and three-thousand, and again five thousand people come to the Lord. The Lord told him, "When you see all these things, when you repent from this, you will come to strengthen your fellow brothers." And this is what Peter had done, even strengthening the saints of today. That's to love the Lord, and love one another.

I want to talk about our one-plus-one action. We often time confused it with church activities. We call this outreach, and say this is the church direction. Nevertheless, I want you to be clear about this. The goal of one plus one is not church activity or church goal, but a personal goal of every Christian to

conduct it on a daily base. I told you about the Mormons and Jehovah witness. They have a great zeal for their god and their religion. They have the wrong god but right zeal. For us, it is the opposite. We have the right God but don't have the right zeal for Him. Often times we just bring the people to the church, hoping someone else would talk to them about Christ. Why don't you talk to them about Christ and then bring them to the church?

Once Brother Trotman of the Navigators preached a message that really touched me. It is entitled "born to reproduce". All the children of God are born to reproduce. That means that we as Christians are to go out and preach the Gospel to someone. That someone believes in the Lord and can be considered our spiritual children. Having a personal goal of preaching the Gospel will lead to spiritual children everywhere. And the church role of these children is that we get all together. So here is what it means: it is not that church goes out to bring people in. We will preach the gospel and they will be church children. We don't take ownership of them as spiritual children, but church will take ownership as children of church. When people bear children, the church bears children. The church doesn't bear another church. When we go out and share the Gospel, we share the life of Lord Jesus in us. And when the life flows out of us into other, what a remarkable and amazing production it makes. Paper, words create children of paper and words. But when the life of the Lord that is in us passes onto other people, we pass on life. That is what it means when the Lord Jesus said, "I am the vine and you are the branches."

I pray God would speak to your heart. I believe this year will be a very good year. I see many things God has done among us, to begin moving us to the next level. We must catch on to this momentum and move on. We must not lose ground or fall back. We must catch up to Him and follow Him quickly. Don't give up! (Joshua)