

and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

We were the joy set before Him, we were the reason He could endure!

Luke 15:10 NKJV - Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.

John 17:24-25 NKJV - Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

LOVE'S AWAKENING

1 John 4:19 NKJV - We love Him because He first loved us.

Ephesians 3:18-19 NKJV - (18) may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height — (19) to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

God wants us to have an encounter with His love that goes beyond an intellectual acknowledgment and reaches into the depths of our heart.

CONCLUSION

Romans 8:38-39 NKJV - (38) For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor power, nor things present nor things to come, (39) nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

A LOVE AWAKENING

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INTRODUCTION

Matthew 13:44-46 NKJV - (44) "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. (45) "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, (46) who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

Both see the value, both make a conscious decision and both gain more by selling all that they had.

Jesus is the man or the merchant. The hidden treasure and the pearl are the people of God. Jesus looks at you and proclaims that you are of such value that He will give everything in order to have you.

LOVE'S PERCEPTION

From His throne of glory and perfection Jesus looks down into the darkened world and your broken life and He perceives a hidden treasure, a beautiful pearl.

He turns the ash heap of broken humanity into beauty...

Isaiah 61:3 NKJV - To give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they may be called trees of

righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.

It is only in the light of Christ and what He did that we can understand the value of human life.

LOVE'S PURSUIT

Philippians 2:6-8 NLT – (6) Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. (7) Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, (8) he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross.

He looked at the perfection of heaven and then looked at the brokenness of humanity and in them He saw a beauty that filled His heart with indescribable joy and saw a people that would become His Bride to stand with Him forever.

He counted the cost and nothing could hold Him back, not even the glory of heaven!

LOVE'S POVERTY

2 Corinthians 8:9 NKJV - For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.

We have no measure by which we can understand the richness of God's power and glory. Job speaks of the majesty and glory of Jesus in creation...

Job 26:7-14 NKJV - (7) God stretches the northern sky over empty space and hangs the earth on nothing. (8) He wraps the rain in his thick clouds, and the clouds don't burst with the weight. (9) He covers the face of the moon, shrouding it with his clouds. (10) He created the horizon when he separated the waters; he set the boundary between day and night. (11) The foundations of heaven tremble; they shudder at his rebuke. (12) By his power the sea grew calm. By his skill he crushed the great sea monster. (13) His Spirit made the heavens beautiful, and his power pierced the gliding serpent.

And then Job ends with the reality that we have only caught a mere glimpse of His power and richness.

(14) These are just the beginning of all that he does, merely a whisper of his power. Who, then, can comprehend the thunder of his power?"

This powerful uncreated God, living in perfect love and fellowship confined himself to dwelling in human form.

He who was fully God would now be fully God and fully man for eternity...and there would be one body in all of the perfection of heaven scarred – His.

Psalms 8:4-5 NKJV – (4) What is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him? (5) For You have made him a little lower than the angels, and You have crowned him with glory and honor.

LOVE'S JOY

Hebrews 12:2 NKJV – Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame,