

Introduction:

- I have been in a series of Sunday morning messages that are designed to create in you a foundation, strength and hope that will cause you to stand in the day of trouble and uncertainty. Our success in these times will be based upon knowing Him and ourselves...and what is inside of us. I want to go back to John 14 again this week.
- Theme for today: What to do when I don't feel like doing it. You will have those "I don't feel like days." What do I need to be aware of when that happens. And what do I need to do when that happens.
- *"Jesus replied, **Loving me empowers you** to obey my word. And my Father will love you so deeply that we will come to you and make you our dwelling place." (John 14:23, TPT)*
 - *"I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid." (John 14:27, NLT)*
 - *"I don't have much more time to talk to you, because the ruler of this world approaches. He has no power over me, but I will do what the Father requires of me, so that the world will know that I love the Father..." (John 14:30-31, NLT)*
- I believe in our passages that Jesus is answering questions that we will be asking when trouble comes to our lives.
- I also believe that Jesus is confronting some underlying deceptions/misalignments/misunderstandings that if left unsettled will shipwreck many peoples faith.
- Key insight: **The fact is that you, yourself, decide what relationship you want to have with Jesus.**

I. I'm Not Feeling It: What Do I Need To Be Aware Of

- A. SOOOOOooo many Christian base there walk with God on this great deception. I am calling this a deception because you have to believe a lie to operate in or walk in it. Three things we will look at.
- B. I'm not feeling it. Distant relationship with God.
 1. For some Christians, a relationship with Jesus consists of praying to Him and going to church on Sunday. They allow Jesus to be a sacrifice for their sins, but the relationship with Him stops there.
 2. For others, Jesus is an example they follow, and they try their best to live as He did. But since Jesus is in heaven and they are here, they don't really expect to have much of a relationship with Him, and therefore, in fact, do not.
 3. These kinds of relationships can only be described as "distant." You will not enjoy any relationship that is distant in heart. If your relationship with Christ is distant you will "Not be feelin' it." So be aware of how close you are walking with Him.
 4. The Bible tells us that we can have an intimate and dynamic relationship with Jesus. He is a *person*, not a "theological concept;" not someone who once lived on the earth and now is far away, but a person who is alive and can be very near.

The fact is that you, yourself, decide what relationship you want to have with Jesus.

- C. I'm not feeling it. The fickleness of feelings. Fickle means: Webster- "given to erratic changeableness." Websters 1828: "*Wavering; inconstant; unstable; of a changeable mind; not firm in opinion or purpose.*" In other words, It's dangerous to let your feelings dictate your faith.
1. The battle we face is: One minute I want to live for Christ by worshipping and serving Him. The next minute I want to live for *me* by worshipping and serving me.
 2. There are times when it's hard to follow God and here's the simple reason: "I am not feeling it."
 - a) I don't feel like I love God.
 - b) I don't feel like worshipping.
 - c) I don't feel like reading my Bible.
 - d) I don't feel like going to church.
 - e) I don't feel like praying.
 - f) I am simply not feeling it. "Feeling it" got Peter in trouble more than once.
 3. Peter who is a great example of a Christ follower whose emotions and obedience are in alignment. Peter was following Jesus and doing ministry with Jesus to the point that he said: Matthew 26:33-35. I will die for you. NO, you will deny me 3. His emotions were leading him.
 - a) Later after Peter has denied Jesus we see a moment when Peter feels like we do sometimes. Peter has a moment where his own feelings about himself and how Jesus feels about him are misaligned and not truly reflecting who Peter is and who Jesus is:
 - (1) Jesus said, 'Then feed my sheep'" (John 21:15-17).
 - (2) Peter felt Jesus didn't love him ... but he did.
 - (3) Peter felt Jesus was mad at him ... but he wasn't.
 - (4) Peter felt he wasn't worthy ... but he was.
 - (5) Peter felt he was unforgiven ... but he wasn't.
 - (6) Peter felt he wasn't worthy to be a disciple (he went back to his old profession of fishing) ... but he was—to the point that later he was the disciple leading the outpouring in the upper room in Acts.
 - (7) Peter didn't feel like "the rock," but in Jn 21 he realized in that moment that how we feel about ourselves and how we feel about God isn't always true.
 - b) When we let our feelings lead us we are sure to shipwreck our faith! Feelings are fickle. I have to be grounded in the Word!
 4. Signs you are living by emotions. (See also Orphan Spirit: 160828 Abba Father! Father to the Fatherless)

- a) I don't feel God, so God's not with me or doesn't care about me. Emotional living says if you don't feel God, then God is either mad at you, or doesn't want you. Christian living understands nothing can separate you from the love of Christ (Rom. 8).
- b) I'm feeling it, so I better jump in and just do it. Emotional living leads you in the wrong direction if what you are feeling isn't true. Christian living relies on God's wisdom and counsel and chooses not to make abrupt, hasty decisions but wise decisions based on the Word with wise counsel.
- c) I feel it's right, so it must be true. Emotional living doesn't tell the truth. Emotional living wants your emotions to speak first and then let truth back up what you're feeling. Christian living relies on Scripture to confirm and affirm truth in a situation.
- d) I feel like I am the only one that understands what I am going through because no one else feels it like I do. Emotional living makes you think your feelings are unique to you and that no one in your circle of friends could possibly understand. Christian living relies on your community for support and prayer to help you navigate life.
- e) I don't feel like praying or reading my Bible, so God must not be real. Emotional living makes your spiritual life dependent on having a feeling to back up every spiritually good desire. Christian living is an understanding that faith is critical for moments when you don't feel like it and that faith sustains you until the next time you do.
- f) As a christian I do not deny my feelings but I refuses to make feelings the primary source of God's will for my life. The primary source of God's will for your life is the Word and obedience to it.
- D. I'm not feeling it. A dull heart. Luke 21:34 NLT *""**Watch out! Don't let your hearts be dulled by carousing and drunkenness, and by the worries of this life. Don't let that day catch you unaware,**""*
1. Don't let your heart be dulled. To be weighted down. Don't let your love grow cold. By...
 2. Don't be given to carousing. Gk - κρπαίλε - drunken behavior without moral restraint, entertainment (as in what one does when drunk) Ie. Alcohol is often associated with forms of entertainment. Carousing leads to a dull heart.
 3. Don't be given to drunkenness. Gr. - μεθη - methe - intoxication. Leads to a dull heart.
 4. Don't be given to worry. Gr. μεριμναι - *"plural mérimnai is often used for the cares of life which disturb sleep, from which refuge is sought in love or drink, and which*

only death can end." Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. (1985). TDNT (p. 584). Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans.
Worry leads to a dull heart.

II. **Learning From Jesus** What can we learn from Jesus that will help us in our walk with God.

A. Number One: Jesus was always focused on His relationship with the Father.

1. Jesus had decided that the most important relationship in this life was the one He had with the Father. That is why he prayed early and often; he knew the Word; he was committed to the community of believers; he spoke what Father was saying and He did what Father was doing.
 - a) Jesus chose the Father above His own life this was the depth of his relationship to Him.
 - b) The fact is that you, yourself, decide what relationship you want to have with Jesus. You must first choose to believe that an intimate relationship with Jesus is possible before you can enter into such a relationship for it will be a product of your faith.
 - c) And a relationship with Jesus is not one-sided! Jesus makes this clear when He says, *"If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him."* Jn 14:23. Just think, Jesus and the Father want to come and make Their home with you! Is that the relationship that you have with Him? also 1 Jn 4:16
 - d) Have you ever thought that Jesus wants to manifest (reveal) Himself to you? That promise is given to all those who love Him and keep His commandments. It is so clear in this passage that such a revelation of Jesus is to occur throughout your life as a Christian, and not only at the beginning of your Christian life. Jn 14:21
 - e) When Jesus is the center of your affection, then He also sits on the throne of your heart. This is how Jesus lived with the Father. He is showing us how to live this!
2. Jesus experienced an increasingly deep relationship with the Father. He longed to be back with the Father. I go to my Father.
 - a) Relationships with people are dynamic, in that they often change with time and can grow deeper.
 - b) Your relationship with Jesus is no different. We look at some things that can negatively affect that relationship. But...
 - c) Just as God's mercies are new every morning, your relationship with Jesus can also be new and alive every morning! The relationship becomes deeper as your love for Him increases, and as your love for your own life (i.e., your own will) decreases.
 - d) Maybe you became a Christian long ago, but have never really experienced an intimate relationship with Jesus. Do you sense Him knocking at the door of your heart today?
3. It seems Jesus was concerned mainly with shaping and guiding the faith of his beloved disciples.

B. Number Two: Love was the key to the focus of Jesus relationship with the Father.

1. Jesus focused on the love of the Father. *“I don't have much more time to talk to you, because the ruler of this world approaches. He has no power over me, but I will do what the Father requires of me, so that the world will know that I love the Father. Come, let's be going.”* (John 14:30-31, NLT)
 - a) Here is what I want us to see. Jesus was about to suffer. He knew what was coming.
 - (1) Was he vulnerable in this? Yes. Does this happen to us? Yes!
 - (2) Was he afraid? I say, “No.” Because Jesus constantly exhorted his disciples to not be afraid. Was he tempted to be afraid? Yes. That is what makes him a great High Priest.
 - (3) Was he in agony? Yes. He sweat drops of blood. This only happens under great stress.
 - (a) Luke 22:44 Agony - It is a right ordering of priorities. This word means “conflict,” “tension,” “focusing of powers.” In Lk. 22:44 it denotes concern for victory before the decisive struggle. Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. (1985). TDNT(p. 21). Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans.
 - (b) Jesus always carried this burden. Luke 12:49-50
 - b) Because He knew what was coming;
 - (1) He confessed - the evil one has no power over me.
 - (2) I will do what the Father has asked. Obedience motivated by love.
 - (3) When it is done the whole world will know how much I love the Father.
2. Love was/is the key to a focused relationship.
 - a) Now we see why it was so important in Rev 2:4-5 Mt 24 *“But I have this complaint against you. You don't love me or each other as you did at first! Look how far you have fallen! Turn back to me and do the works you did at first.”* (Revelation 2:4-5, NLT)
 - b) Jesus makes this exhortation in Mt 24:12 *Don't let your love grow cold*. Do not let your love get dull for Me (Jesus) and for each other.

Conclusion:

- Love is to be the motivator of our obedience.
- Let obedience lead you and your feelings will follow.
- Loving Jesus will empower you to live for Him.