

## UPPER ROOM ADULT BIBLE STUDY CLASS

### “Matthew 5-7: Living the Life of the Beloved and the Belonged

Pastor Jim Otte

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Lesson 1: (March 18, 2018) “You are Beloved and You Belong”

#### 1. Opening Discussion:

- a. What does it mean to be “loved” and to “belong?”
- b. The Bible describes love and belonging in terms of what they do/do not do: ***1 Corinthians 13:1-7***. *If I speak in the tongues<sup>[a]</sup> of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup> If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup> If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast,<sup>[b]</sup> but do not have love, I gain nothing. <sup>4</sup> Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. <sup>5</sup> It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. <sup>6</sup> Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup> It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.”*
- c. “**Love**” = “agapy” – the unconditional love whose origin is from God; describing the power of God’s loving us enabling us to love each other.
  - i. **The Beloved & Belonging Principle #1**: God’s love always **seeks** a relationship with you.
  - ii. **The Beloved & Belonging Principle #2**: God’s love empowers you to love others the **way** that God loves you
- d. Jesus’ agapy loving = accepting people where they are, but not leaving them where He found them.
  - i. ***John 8:1-11***. *but Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. <sup>2</sup> At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them. <sup>3</sup> The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group <sup>4</sup> and said to Jesus, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. <sup>5</sup> In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?” <sup>6</sup> They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him. But Jesus bent down and started to write on the*

ground with his finger. <sup>7</sup> When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." <sup>8</sup> Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground. <sup>9</sup> At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. <sup>10</sup> Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" <sup>11</sup> "No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."

- ii. **John 13:34.** "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another."
  1. **Beloved and Belonging Principle #3:** Accepting someone with all their faults means being willing to **walk** with them as God changes them and **you**.

## 2. God's Sequence of Loving Empowers Us to Love Like Jesus!

- a. **Matthew 3:16-17.** As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. <sup>17</sup> And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."
- b. **Galatians 3:26-28.** So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, <sup>27</sup> for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. <sup>28</sup> There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.
  - i. **"baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves"** – the affirmation of God's love for Jesus is conferred to you, through your Baptism in Jesus' name.
  - ii. **The same promises Jesus received...we receive!**