

ELECTING LOVE

JOHN 15:16 • TV-474A

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By
HENRY T. MAHAN

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Zebulon Grace Church
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John 15:16

“Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.”

Now, I want you to open your Bibles this morning to **John chapter 15**. I’m going to bring you a message entitled: **“ELECTING LOVE.”**

And **John chapter 15:16** is my text. I’ll be using several other Scriptures. I wish you’d take your Bibles and follow along with me as I turn to these Scriptures. But we’ll speak on **“ELECTING LOVE.”**

Now here in **John chapter 15:16** our Lord said to the disciples: *“You have not chosen me but I have chosen you that you should go and bring forth fruit and that your fruit should remain.”*

Now there’s something special; I told our congregation this not too long ago, there’s something special about these **four chapters** in the book of **John, chapter 13, 14, 15, and 16**, something very special.

For these four chapters record the last days and the last hours in which our Lord spent with His disciples before He went to the cross, before He died on Calvary and rose again. And in these four Chapters He talks with His disciples.

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He talks with them and comforts them and instructs them. You see, these men faced an unfriendly, hostile world. They were going out to preach the Gospel and a Gospel which is contrary to the ways and thoughts of natural men.

And they were going to preach the Gospel of God's grace which is so contrary to the gospel of works and even brings the wrath of religious people upon them, not only the natural world, but the religious world would bring their wrath down upon these dear men.

Now these men would undergo great hardships and hatred and even die; every one of them but one was killed because of the Gospel that they preached. And our Lord said that when He finished speaking to them in **John 13, 14, and 15**.

And the last verse in **chapter 16** He said: *"And in this world you'll have tribulation, (troubles and trials) but be of good cheer; I've overcome this world."*

So, if you'll read these chapters, **13, 14, 15, and 16** of **John**, you'll find our Lord instructing, comforting and encouraging His people. And it's for you and for me. We're His people, we're His disciples and we're His children.

And the same things that He said to them He says to us. In **John 13** when He washed their feet and gave them that example, He said; "No pride is to exist among you, no contention, no strife, and no envy. There's no place for pride and envy in the family of God: He who would be your leader let him be your servant. He who would minister let him be a servant of all." And our Lord said, *"If I your Master have washed your feet; you ought to do the same for one another."* You see, pride and grace are inconsistent; they just don't go together.

And then in **chapter 14** they were so troubled and downcast. He told them He was going away, going back to the Father and they were troubled. And He said to them; *"Now don't be discouraged. Let not your heart be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me."*

"In my Father's house are many mansions. If it were not so I would have told you. (I go to the cross, to the tomb, to the right hand of God) to prepare a place for you. (And my promise is sure) If I go and prepare a place for you I'll come again and receive you unto myself that where I am there you may be also."

"Well show us the Father," they said. *"He that hath seen me hath seen the Father. I and my Father are one."*

And then in **John 14**, having left that room where they were having the meal in **John 13, 14**, it says in the last verse of **chapter 14**; He said to them: *"Arise let us go hence."* And they left the room.

And **John 15**, having left the room with these disciples, someway, I believe they passed a vineyard. Vineyards were very plentiful in that area. And I feel like, perhaps, the Lord and His disciples walked by a vineyard because that's when He picked up this conversation. He said, *"I*

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am the true vine and you're the branches." He says, "Just as that vine and those branches are one, you and I are one, but I'm the vine and you're the branches."

He said when He prayed to the Father; He said, "*I in them and thou in me that we may be made perfect in one.*"

And that's what He says to these disciples; "Do you see that, do you see that vineyard; you see the vine, see the branches, see the leaves, see the grapes, and see the fruit? Well I am the vine and you're the branches."

You see, He said, "The branches have no life in themselves. The life is in the vine and the branches live because they're in the vine. Apart from the vine the branches would be withered and die and would be fit only to be burned."

"Even so, if you'll abide in me and my words abide in you have life. I'm the life, I am the vine, and you're the branches. And if you'll abide in me you'll have life."

These branches they do not bear fruit of themselves. That fruit there is the fruit of the vine. Oh, the branch bears the fruit and the fruit is on the branch but the branch bears fruit because of the vine, because of the life and nourishment and strength it receives from the vine.

Even so, He said, "*Without me you can do nothing.*" So that's the relationship we have, "*I am the vine and you are the branches.*"

Then look down in **verse 16 of John 15**, the same chapter here. And He says; "This relationship, I'm the vine and you're the branches; you live in me. You bear fruit because of me. What you have I give you. You participate and partake of me, my life, and my redemption."

"And this relationship between you and me is not something that you've done; it's something I've done. This relationship between you and me is not because of a choice which you made; it's because of a choice which I made. The vine is not of the branch; the branch is of the vine."

That's when He said this in **verse 16**: "*See, you didn't choose me; I chose you. And I chose you that you should go and bring forth fruit, my fruit, (my will, my purpose, and my glory and that being in the vine and a branch of the vine bearing fruit, my fruit; that fruit will remain because it's from me).*"

You have no cause to be proud; "*You were children of wrath even as others. But God, who is rich in mercy for His great love wherewith He loved us, even when we were dead in sin, hath made us alive in Christ.*"

We have no reason to be proud. The glory's His. Paul said, "*God forbid.*" I guess Paul was one of the greatest preachers who ever lived, the greatest writer who ever lived, the man who suffered more than any preacher who ever lived said, "*God forbid that I should glory save in the cross of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.*"

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You have no cause to boast before men. *“Who maketh you to differ? What do you have that you didn’t receive? Now if you received it why do you boast as if you didn’t receive it? You have no cause to glory in what you have. A man can receive nothing except it be given him from above.”*

You have no cause to glory in who you are. Paul said, *“I am what I am by the grace of God.”* You have no cause to glory in what you know. Peter said, *“You’re the Christ, the Son of the living God.”* He said; *“Peter, flesh and blood didn’t reveal that to you but my Father which is in heaven.”*

Jeremiah the prophet speaks to all of us in **chapter 9** and he says; *“Thus saith the Lord, let not the wise man glory in his wisdom. Let not the mighty man glory in his strength. Let not the rich man glory in his riches. But let him that glorieth glory in this that he understands and knows me, saith the Lord.”*

How does a man know God? How can a man know God, only in Christ? That’s what our Lord said to the disciples; *“He that hath seen me hath seen the Father. No man knoweth the Father but the Son and He to whom the Son will reveal him.”*

“No man has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son hath declared Him. The Son quickeneth, you see, whom He will.” So our Lord says to these disciples; *“You didn’t choose me, I chose you.”*

“But preacher; these men did choose Christ, didn’t they? They did come to Christ didn’t they? They did love Christ didn’t they? They did follow Christ, for didn’t they say, ‘Lord; we’ve left all and followed you?’” Of course they did.

But they love Him because He loved them. They chose Christ because He chose them. You see, *“Herein is love, not that we love God, but that God loved us. We love Him because He first loved us.”* Do you see that?

We choose Him in response to His choice. We call on Him in response to His call. We cast ourselves upon Him in response to His drawing. Our Lord Jesus said in **John 6:37**; *“All that my Father giveth me shall come to me.”*

Yes, they do come; they come because the Father called them. They come because the Father drew them. *“No man can come to me except my Father which sent me draw him. And I’ll raise him up at the last day. They shall be taught of God and every man that hath learned and heard of the Father; he comes to me.”*

What are you saying? I’m saying this: Our Lord Jesus Christ says to His disciples: *“I love you with an everlasting love, therefore, with lovingkindness have I drawn you.”*

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We're one as the vine and the branches. But I want you to understand this; this relationship and this grace and this mercy is not because of something you've done or a choice you made, "I did the work and I chose you. You didn't choose me; I chose you."

"And we love Him because He first loved us." And we do come to Christ because He came to us. We do call upon His name because He called upon us. David said, in **Psalm 110**, *"His people, shall be willing in the day of His power."*

That's His precious, electing, love and electing grace. Paul summed it up in **Ephesians 1**; listen to him, *"Blessed be the God and Father."* Thank God He didn't pass us by. Thank God He didn't leave us in darkness. Thank God He loved us first. Thank God He called us. Thank God He chose us.

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in the heavenlies, in Christ, according as He chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestinated us to the adoption of children by Jesus Christ according to the good pleasure of His own will."

Who? God. What? Chose us. When? *"Before the world began."* For what purpose, that we might be holy adopted sons of God? Why us? *"Because it seemed good in His sight, according to the good pleasure of His own will."*

Can you think of any other reason? Why would God love you and me? David said; *"When I consider the heavens, the sun, the moon, the stars, the work of thy hands, the things you've made; what is man that thou should be mindful of him?"*

David, even king David, a man after God's own heart said; *"Who am I? What is my people that you should show such mercy to us," why?*

Our Lord Jesus Christ one day was rebuking the cities in which His mighty works were done, Chorazin, Bethsaida, and those others, Capernaum. He said; *"Woe unto you. If the mighty works which are done in you had been done in Sodom; it would have remained to this day."*

And then He lifted His eyes to heaven and He said; *"Father; I thank you. You've hid these things, (these mysteries, this glorious Gospel) you've hid these things from the wise and the prudent and you've revealed them to babes. For even so Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight."*

What am I saying? I'm saying what He said; *"You didn't choose me; I chose you. You didn't love me; I loved you. You didn't call upon me; I called upon you. I have chosen you."* That's so clear in the Scriptures.

"The children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil that the purpose of God, according to election, (electing love) might stand. It was said to her, the elder shall serve the

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younger. Jacob have I loved, Esau have I hated. What shall we say to these things? Is there unrighteousness with God? God forbid."

"He said to Moses, I'll be gracious to whom I will be gracious. I will be merciful to whom I will be merciful. So then; it is not of him that willeth, it is not of him that runneth; it is of God that showeth mercy."

That's what the Scripture says. **2 Thessalonians 2**; Paul said to the church at Thessalonica; he said; *"I'm bound, to give thanks to God for you all brethren, beloved of the Lord, why, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation?"*

Who chose who? "Well I choose Jesus." I'll tell you if you do it's because He chose you. "Well I love Jesus." Sure you do; I do, but I love Him because He first loved me.

I came to Christ. I came broken hearted, repenting, and believing in Christ. Do you know why? He drew me. He made me willing. He gave me the grace. He gave me the repentance. *"God chose you to salvation from the beginning of this world, through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth."*

Now watch this. Christ said to these beloved disciples; *"You didn't choose me."* Oh what a horrible indictment, what a charge, what a serious charge to bring against us considering who He is, considering what we are and who we are, and considering what we need.

And yet, we won't come to Him? This is a universal charge; it goes throughout the Scriptures. *"He was in the world; the world was made by Him. The world knew Him not."*

Isaiah wrote about it; he said, *"He grew up as a tender plant, as a root out of dry ground, and there was no beauty about Him that we should desire Him. He was despised and rejected of men, a man of sorrows, acquainted with grief. And we didn't come to Him we hid as it were our faces from Him."*

"He came unto His own and His own received Him not." He said to the religious leaders, *"You search the Scriptures. In them you think you have life. They are they which testify of me and you will not come to me that you might have life."*

"Oh Jerusalem how often would I have drawn you but you would not?" He said in **John 5**; *"I come in my Father's name and you won't receive me. Let another come in his own name and him you will receive."*

Why? *"You didn't choose me."* Left to yourself you'd perish in your sins, or in your religion, or in your self-righteousness, or in your morality, left to yourself. God has to quicken, God has to awaken, God has to call, and God has to move upon on us in love and grace or we'll never move toward Him. That's right! *"It's the spirit that quickeneth. The flesh profiteth nothing."*

"Not by might

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Nor by power But by my Spirit Saith the Lord.”

“The preaching of the Gospel is foolishness to them that perish. But unto us it’s the wisdom and power of God.” Who is the “us?” *“I’ve chosen you.”*

Now why, why do men not choose Christ? Why do they not come to Christ? I’ll give you four reasons:

First of all: They don’t know who He is.

They just don’t know who He is; they do not. When He talked to the woman at the well; here’s a woman, a great sinner who needs a Saviour desperately, just like you and I need a Saviour. And here’s the Saviour standing and looking her in the face and He said to her:

“If you knew the gift of God and who it is that’s speaking to you, you’d ask of Him and He would have given you living water, (if you knew who talks to you).”

1 Corinthians 2:8 says; *“If the princes (leaders) of this world had known who He was they’d have never crucified the Lord of glory (put Him on that tree.)”* But they didn’t know. And they cried, “Give us Barabbas.” Pilate said, “Well what do I do with Jesus who is called Christ?” They cried, “Crucify Him!” They didn’t know who He was. And that’s the reason people do not choose Christ; they don’t know who He is.

Secondly, the reason men do not choose Christ; *“You have not chosen me,”* He said.

Secondly: They do not need Christ!

They do not need His blood to cleanse because they don’t think they’re sinners. They do not need His righteousness to cover their guilt because they think they’ve got a righteousness. That’s right!

Matthew chapter 9; our Lord was having a meal with a group of sinful people and the religious men were watching His disciples; the religious fellows turned to His disciples and they said; *“Why does your Master eat with Publicans and sinners?”*

And our Lord knew what they were saying. He looked back at them and He said; *“The well do not need a physician but they that are sick. You go learn what that means. I am not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.”*

People do not come to Christ and do not choose Christ because they don’t think they need Christ. Those Pharisees said; “We are not sinners. We are not born in original sin. We are not born of fornication. God is our Father. Abraham is our father.”

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Christ said; *“If God were your Father you’d love me; I came from God. If Abraham were your father you would do the works of Abraham.”*

Thirdly: They do not choose Christ; they do not see the wisdom of God in the death of Christ!

They see no reason for Him to die. Do you? He didn’t die as an example or a martyr or a reformer; He died as a substitute. You see, there was a law, there was a law to satisfy and a justice to honor. And He died for us that, *“God might be just and justifier.”* Do you see that?

That’s right! There’s a law to be honored and a justice to be satisfied. And Christ as our sin-offering and substitute came and fulfilled the law, kept it, every jot and tittle, giving us who believe on Him a perfect righteousness.

He went to the cross and died and paid our sin debt. Now people who realize that; they look to Christ, believe on Him, and receive Him.

Fourthly: People do not have any desire to walk the walk of Christ!

They do not desire the life of a disciple, the walk of a disciple. *“No man can serve two masters.”* People don’t want to give up the world; they don’t want to give up the world. They want a religion that leaves them alone, leaves them where they are, with whom they are, doing what they do, making money like they do, living like they live.

They want a convenient religion. And that’s what the churches and preachers today are giving them. Nobody’s demanding, nobody’s demanding turn from your idols to the living God. Come to Christ in repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

People do not; they do not know who He is. They do not need Him. They do not see the wisdom in Christ’s death. And they do not want to walk with Him as Lord of their lives. That’s right!

“You didn’t choose me; I chose you!” This is the electing love of God.