**Forgiveness**

**17 November 2024**

**CS Lewis wrote “*I admit that this means loving people who have nothing lovable about them. But then has oneself anything lovable about it? You love it simply because it is yourself. God intends us to love all selves in the same way and for the same reason: but he has given us the sum ready worked out in our own case to show us how it works. We have then to go on and apply the rule to all others. Perhaps it makes it easier if we remember that that is how he loves us. Not for any nice, attractive qualities we think we have, but just because we are the things called selves*.”**

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***“Charity means love, in a Christian sense. But love, in the Christian sense, does not mean an emotion. It is a state, not of feelings but of the will; that state of the will which we have naturally about ourselves, and must learn to have about other people.”***

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***Do not waste time bothering whether you love your neighbor, act as if you do. As soon as we do this, we find one of the great secrets. When you behave as if you love someone, you will come to love them. If you injure someone you dislike, you will find yourself disliking them more. If you do a good turn, you will find yourself disliking them less.***

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**“*The difference between a Christian and a worldly man is not that the worldly man has only affections or “likings” and the Christian has only “Charity”. The worldly man treats certain people kindly because he likes them; the Christian, trying to treat everyone kindly, finds himself liking more and more people as he goes on-including people he could not have imagined himself liking at the beginning*.”**

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***“Good and evil both increase at a compound interest. That is why the little decisions you and I make every day are of such infinite importance*.”**

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***“The smallest, good act today is the capture of a strategic point from which, a few months later, you may be able to go on to victories you never dreamed of. An apparently trivial indulgence in lust or anger today is the loss of a ridge or railway line or bridgehead from which the enemy may launch an attack otherwise impossible*.”**

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**You can use the word “charity” to describe not only Christian love between human beings, but also Gods love for man and man’s love for God. About man’s love for God-I don’t know about you but sometimes I feel disappointed in myself because I don’t have the love for God that I feel like I should. So, what do I do? Well, using this theory, I act as if I do. I don’t sit around trying to manufacture feelings. I ask myself “*if I were sure I loved God, what would I do?”* Then I go do it.**

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***“Overall, Gods love for us is a much safer subject to think about than our love for Him. Nobody can always have devout feelings: and even if we could, feelings are not what God principally cares about. Christian love, either towards God or towards man, is an affair of the will. If we are trying to do His will we are obeying the commandment, “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God.” He will give us a feeling of love if He pleases. We cannot create them for ourselves, and we must not demand them as a right. But the great thing to remember is that, though our feelings come and go, His love for us does not*.”**

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***“…if you read history, you will find that the Christians who did the most for the present world were those who thought most of the next.”***

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**“…*we shall never save civilization as long as civilization is our main objective. We must learn to want something else even more.”***

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**“…*when the real want for heaven is present in us, we do not recognize it*.”**

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***“If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world*.”**

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**“*I must keep alive in myself the desires for my true country, which I shall not find till after death*.”**

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**Other scriptures cited: Matthew 22:37-39; Leviticus 19:18; Matthew 6:14-15**