

### TEASER #3 THE BEST PLACE TO FIND LOVE!

Radio, TV, the Internet—they're filled with commercials on how you can find that special someone. "Just sign up and we'll get all your vital statistics and introduce you to your thrill of a lifetime." What happens? Some find their thrill—others a chill. For some it's a dream come true—for others a nightmare that makes them blue. But I can speak for millions—I'm one of them—who really have made a life-changing discovery—The Best Place To Find Love. I'm Frank Eiklor and that's where we're going today on More Than Talk.

### I DON'T LOVE YOU ANYMORE!"

Oh the pain those words have caused. "I don't love you anymore!" Perhaps you have heard them hurled at you. Maybe more than once. A foolish child wanting to hurt a parent. Or, a more foolish parent saying those words to a child. Or a spouse, angry at his/her mate, wanting to inflict a heavy wound.

Sometimes "I don't love you anymore" is spoken in a moment of pain or resentment and regret, and apologies are made and accepted. Other times those words are final. The runaway child. The abusive or selfish parent who abandons a child. The broken engagement. The divorce that destroys a marriage. Or a thousand other heart-breaking situations.

Yet out of that hellish darkness of people crushing people comes a light that can never be put out. And from that light comes a voice. It's the voice of your heavenly Father and He has something to say. "I have loved you with an everlasting love" (Jeremiah 31:3). "You will never hear from me that 'I don't love you anymore'".

No matter what pain or rejection you have suffered – or may yet have to endure – know one thing: the One who matters most loves you most. Loves you when you sin and wants you to repent. Loves you when you doubt, forget, deny or even hate Him. Loves you when you feel abandoned, betrayed and alone. Loves you when you are so tired you want to give up.

Nothing can keep Him from loving you. He demonstrated that from a Cross where it looked like love had died but then rose again. God doesn't just love. He is love – and you're the focus of all that "everlasting love". Believe it! It's true! Welcome it! It's for you!

## THE OLD RUGGED CROSS

(God's Open Window Into His Love)

How much are you worth to the One that matters most—God? So much that His Son, Jesus, would hang on a cross for six hours of agony and torment so that you could live forever. That's why the Cross is like an open window into God's love for you. We know Christ is alive forevermore. His resurrection shows His power. But it is His sinless body and heart being hated, rejected and ridiculed that draws my tears again and again and again. His death shows His love.

Kneel before the Lord. Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you the timeless message of the Cross. You will hear the voice of Jesus deep in your spirit. This is what I often hear Him say:

1. I shall take upon myself the curse that you deserve for breaking God's laws.

"Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree)". Galatians 3:13

2. I shall take your nakedness of sin.

"So he (Adam) said, I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself." Genesis 3:10

"And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account." Hebrews 4:13

3. I shall absorb your weakness and helplessness.

"He saved others; Himself He cannot save. If He is the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe Him." Matthew 27:42

"For though He was crucified in weakness, yet He lives by the power of God..."  
2 Corinthians 13:4

4. I shall endure prolonged suffering so that you will see no retreat from my love for you.

"Then Jesus said, Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do. And they divided His garments and cast lots." Luke 23:34

5. I will be lifted on a cross between heaven and earth—and my love will draw you to Me.

“And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself. This He said, signifying by what death He would die.” John 12:32,33

6. My cross is directional—vertical and horizontal—like the love in My heart. Love me and you will love others, just like I love the Father and you.

“As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.” John 10:15,18

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” John 13:34, 35

7. The cross will provide an autopsy of My heart broken for you.

“But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out.” John 19:34

8. Look intently at My cross and you will see someone else—your old sin-loving nature—crucified with me. Now I can put my new God-life in you and make you a new creation.

“Knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.” Romans 6:6

“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.” Galatians 2:20

This is what I see when I gaze at that old rugged cross. Jesus may show you much more. One thing is for sure. The more clearly we see His sufferings, the more we will love the One who considered our souls worth it all!

**THE CROSS: HIS PAIN! YOUR GAIN!**

Jesus Christ endured six hours of indescribable pain while nailed to a cross. He uttered only seven brief phrases from the moment the nails tore into his flesh until that final breath put an end to His sufferings.

Those seven sayings will live forever as proof that it was only through His pain and sacrifice that those who trust Him would find gain and acceptance! Take a look at the following. Then you, like Paul, will never cease to glory in the Cross and its eternal message of love that knows no limits—the love of God fully expressed—for you!

1) In His pain:

Matthew 27:46—Jesus cried with a loud voice saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

So He can say to you:

Hebrews 13:5—...for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

2) In His pain:

Luke 23:34—Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.

So He can say to you:

I John 1:9—If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

3) In His pain:

Luke 23:43—And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise.

So He can say to you:

John 17:24—Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.

4) In His pain:

John 19:26—When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son!

So He can say to you:

Matthew 11:28—Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest.

5) In His pain:

John 19:28—After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst.

So He can say to you:

John 7:37,38—In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

6) In His pain:

John 19:30—It is finished...

So He can say to you:

2 Corinthians 5:17—Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

7) In His pain:

Luke 23:46— Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit...

So He can say to you:

I Peter 5:7—Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

It's an old song that still tells a story: "When I survey the wondrous cross, on which the Prince of glory died; my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride."

## GOD'S PLAN OF THE AGES

What a wondrous Creator we have. He is God of eternity and Creator of time. To Isaiah, God thunders, "Thus saith the Lord, the King of Israel, and his redeemer, the Lord of hosts; I am the first and I am the last: and beside Me there is no God (Isaiah 44:6). Then in Genesis 1:1 we know that "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." Here is the creation of time and space itself. And we know that it was God the Son to Whom the Father entrusted the act of creation when we read in John 1:1, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." We go on to learn that it was Christ as the living Word, who created all things and who became flesh in order to live among us (John 1:1-14).

But what is it that the eternal God had in mind in creating the universe, our galaxy, planet earth, and the human race? The scriptures are clear. He would create a family of sons and brothers with free will and the power to choose (John 1:12; Hebrews 2:10,11). Through this new birth, our awesome God would make each of us a part of His plan of the ages. What would that plan include? Take a look:

1. THE GREATEST LOVE OF ALL. John 3:16
2. THE GREATEST SUFFERING OF ALL. ISAIAH 52:13-53:12
3. THE GREATEST LIE OF ALL. (Satan tries to tell the world that "death ends all", when this life is really only the dressing room getting ready for the main stage called "Eternity"). 1 Cor 15:35-49
4. THE GREATEST FACT OF ALL. (The actual life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ). 1 Cor 15:3-8
5. THE GREATEST OFFER OF ALL. (The forgiveness and cleansing of the greatest cancer of all – sin). 1John 1:5-10
6. THE GREATEST INVITATION OF ALL.(The very God of eternity inviting you to be an eternal member of His Kingdom). Isaiah 1:18; Revelation 3:20
7. THE GREATEST HOPE OF ALL. 1 Peter 1:3-5
8. THE GREATEST GUARANTEE OF ALL. (God will obliterate our four terrible enemies – death, sorrow, crying and pain). Revelation 21:4

9. THE GREATEST FUTURE OF ALL. (John 14:1-6)

10. THE GREATEST GIFT OF ALL. (To share forever the wonder and glory of Christ's own presence). John 17:24

CONCLUSION:

You are as much a part of God's Plan of the Ages as any man or woman who has ever lived. Meditate deeply over the above ten points and then offer Jesus your heart, soul, mind and body in a fresh dedication. Ask Him to show you if there are any places in your life where you are proud, pretentious, playing games with God, or phony. Then tell Him, "I want only Your plan for my life, Lord. Thank You for making me part of Your Plan of the Ages!"