"LORD, BEHOLD, HE WHOM YOU LOVE IS SICK"

John 11:3

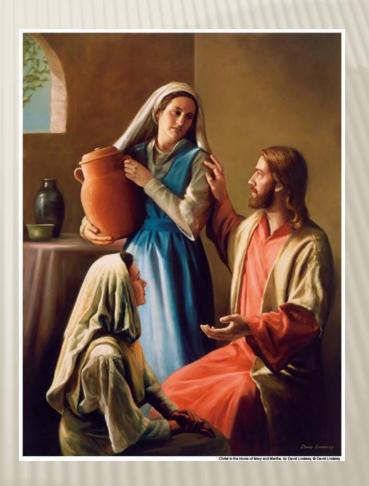


How do we understand the phrase: "He whom you

love"?



* The Lord found a resting place for himself at Lazarus' house: "Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus" John 11:5



The Lord Jesus loved the young rich ruler because of his answer even though he did not accept the Lord's invitation to him:

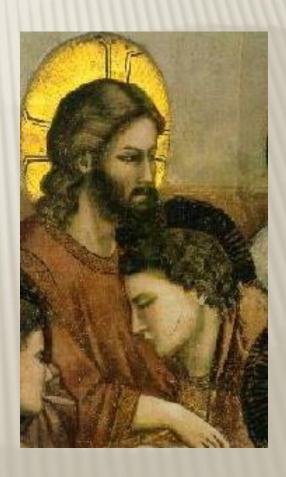
"Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, 'One thing you lack:
Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me."

Mark 10:21

God loved the world and this is the reason behind His Incarnation: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" John



* St. John is the one who used to tell us about the Lord's love to him: "Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved" John 13:23



The Lord even loved and befriended the sinners: "The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a winebibber, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' But wisdom is justified by her children." Matthew 11:19



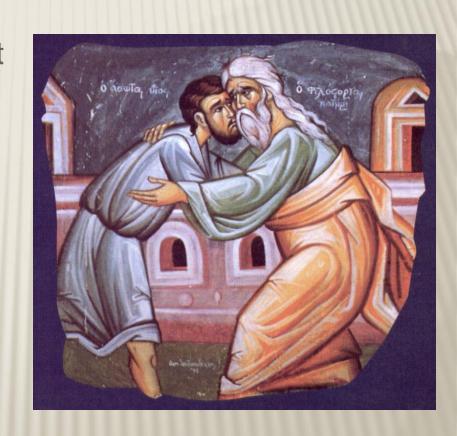
CHALLENGES TO REALIZING THIS LOVE (1)

- Our wrong belief that God's love can be only earned
- 2. The ups and downs of our spiritual struggle and understanding of God's love
- Between God's love and His calling to certain people (Aaron)

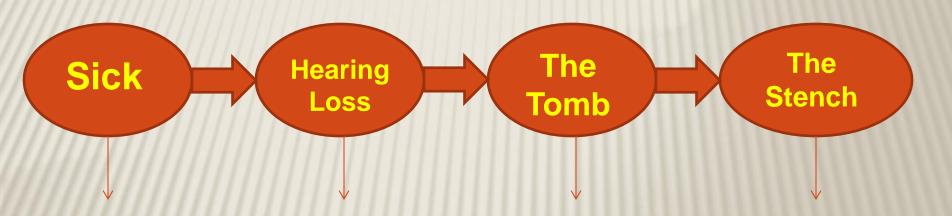


CHALLENGES TO REALIZING THIS LOVE (2)

- 4. Understanding love while not approving of a certain action (the prodigal son)
- 5. Reconciling love and unanswered prayers
- Inability to see God's love while going through suffering

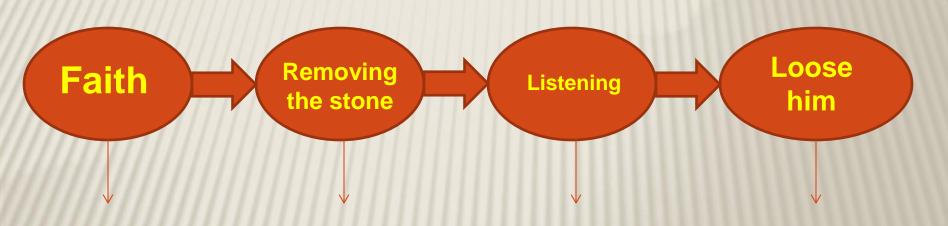


The Phases of developing spiritual death



- Accepting sin as normal
- Compromising one's values
- Ignoring then resisting the voice of the mind, the conscience, the spiritual guide and the Spirit of God
- The stage of isolation and preferring darkness over the light
- Becoming an offense and a trouble to others

The Stages of Recovery



- "I am the Resurrection"

Removing the barriers - To His voice;to recovery understanding

To His voice;
 understanding the
 message and
 responding
 positively

Severing the chains and bonds of the sin