

MISSION POSSIBLE: HOLY GHOST PROTOCOL

The Protocol of Love

INTRODUCTION:

Matt = Valentine's day, love all over the place, comes and goes, Hallmark created it

Heidi = Did not!

Joke: ranch animals, husband, "Are those your relatives?"

Heidi = wife, "Of course, those are my in-laws"

Matt = love at first sight, at least Heidi

Heidi = Well, for me it was more like a love learned – actually it was both learned and definitely a God-given love...God deposited love into me.

Matt = love can actually be learned and it can be given to us by God, God's love is radically different than the love the world has, everyone has a hunger for love, as we wrap up this series we will be talking about tonight (today)

JOHN 13:1 Heidi read

"It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end." Some versions "He now showed them the full extent of his love."

He loved them to the end and He showed them the full extent of His love, how did He do this?

Matt = last minutes of life, most important things are the focus of what they will communicate, Last will and testament of Jesus, it brings to mind the importance of His words...

Heidi = and His actions...immediately after these words he washes the disciples feet

Matt = He washed their souls

JOHN 13:31-32 Matt read

"When he was gone, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified and God is glorified in him. If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once."

Heidi = Dictionary defines glory: adoring praise or worshipful thanksgiving, a **state** of great splendor, magnificence or prosperity. I have heard it defined as the visible evidence of His Presence on earth. Many of us would say we have experienced a time or perhaps many times where we recognized this glory, the evidence of Him and His presence on earth, perhaps through praise, worship, prayer (Spirit). The Bible says that we are moving from glory to glory – this means that we are to be more and more aware of His presence on this earth. Recognizing Him more and more – that's how I can live in that glory – that resplendent beauty or magnificence...you want prosperity, live in a greater awareness of His

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presence.

Matt = Jesus purpose was to let the Father be glorified, the glorification of Jesus, the Cross, this is where His love would be made known.

JOHN 13:33 Heidi read

"My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come."

Matt = Jesus dropped this bomb on the disciples, the first time they are truly recognizing he may be leaving them. Story: pilot dying, father flying his family to safety. Where is our future without Jesus being present with us?

Heidi = You said they wondered where their future would be without Jesus in it. I remember feeling this way when I was 18 years old and my parents separated, my family left within two weeks taking only a suitcase each and I was left to manage the responsibility of a house and its contents while reeling from the emotional struggle of separation, loss and grief. I imagine the disciples were faced with a similar situation – He was going to leave them, they didn't understand it all and they would be the ones left with the loss of His presence as well as the responsibility of His absence...it was a heavy weight. So He gives them instructions on how to cope, how to deal with His departure...

JOHN 13:34a Matt read

"A new command I give you: Love one another."

Matt = New command, new law, not just OT neighbors or brothers but agape

Heidi = We are finishing up this series Mission Possible – a protocol of love. Protocol is procedures, practices, or a code of behavior. Love is my protocol and my distinctive – a distinctive is the characteristic of a person or thing. So when Jesus gave this protocol, this distinctive to his disciples this is the thing Jesus distinguishes as most important. He embodied love and now He directs them to live it out as well. He directs us to make it our characteristic.

Matt for me love was a way to manipulate people, this is not that kind of love, it is agape love

I. MY MISSION IS TO LOVE

Heidi = Our definition (as a child I thought love was being nice – this actually created some problems for me, I was mistreated and taken advantage of because nice is not all we are to be), Jesus definition (to be love, to serve, to live in humility, to live in truth) As I have loved you, you also love, we are loved first and then we learn how to love. Why did I say earlier that I learned to love Matt? Well, he first loved me. In his loving me, I learned to love him. This is what Jesus does for us. He first loved us and when we recognize and accept this love, we in turn learn to love. We are learning to live *in* His love and to then

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live *out* His love.

JOHN 13:34b Heidi read

*"As **I** have loved you, so you **must** love one another."*

Matt = Difficult commandment, must love. Different than the world, how did He love us, how did he love you? He pursues us. Is there anything you could do to lose His love?

Matt = How did He love? He pursued us; there is nothing we can do to lose His love

Heidi = Love feels different in varying relationships. How does what you just said apply to me loving the person on the street, my coworker, my friend, my children, and my spouse, my lover?

Matt = Love is not an emotion, it is rather action (cared for them, served them, washed their feet), love will look different because of the emotional aspects of different relationships but the action of love is

SO II. MY MISSION IS TO LOVE THE WAY HE LOVED with the same action of love

JOHN 13:35 Matt read

"By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

Matt = By this all will know you are My disciples, identity as Christians is love

Heidi = Satan's favorite tactic is to fracture Christians, if he can create disunity and strife amongst God's people, he has already won. If the love we have for one another is the thing that the world determines our Christianity by, no wonder the world has a general idea that Christians are hypocrites – we have a long way to go in loving one another and being in unity. The early church experienced thousands being added to its numbers daily, why? Because they were living out love in unity. How can we do that?

Matt = How do people know who the disciples, Christians are today? Pray before a meal, cross around their neck, bumper sticker, go to church, political position, stance on something they stand against, we are known by what we don't do

Heidi = We are supposed to be known by what we do, not by my words but by my actions

III. MY MISSION IS TO LET HIS LOVE BE SEEN THROUGH MY RELATIONSHIPS

Matt = *John 17:20-23*, 300 denominations in the US today. His prayer for us too is that we would be united; He prayed this for us that it would be seen in us. How are we doing in that? Could we guarantee that at Faith Center people will be loved always, under every circumstance, couldn't keep people away from here. Fear is that people will take a license to sin.

Heidi = ****MY MISSION SHOULD I CHOOSE TO ACCEPT IT IS LOVE!**** As a Christian, is it a choice? When

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I say I am a Christian then I am choosing love.

Matt = points of application: some of you are divided amongst one another, other Christians right now

Heidi = Unity: I may have to repent if I am going to be united, I also usually have to forgive, when my parents separated, there was some very ugly and sinful situations (can only be forgiven as much as I forgive, I don't know about you but I definitely need to be forgiven much so I try to forgive much and as soon as possible so there is no delay on my own forgiveness)

Matt = Biblical word for growth is repentance, respond = genuinely care

Heidi = Care: for those who are hurting, Jesus sought out those who were hurting, those the rest of the world ignored, cast aside, looked down on, rejected – those are the ones Jesus reached out to, He helped those who needed to be rescued. Who do I know that is hurting, ignored, cast aside, looked down on, rejected? Who needs our help today? Who are those that need to be rescued?

Matt = marriage, relationships

Heidi = Value: Another way is to appreciate, value people, Jesus valued people

Matt = PRAY!