

## This Jealous Lover

I once knew a man who dearly loved his wife. They had been married more than 50 years when someone noticed that he regularly called his spouse by the name “Wife!”

The phone would ring: he would say, “Wife, it’s for you.”

There might be a knock on the front door. He might say, “Wife, would you get that while I’m tied up on the phone?”

Although it is a rather unusual way to refer to one’s spouse, that was his habit. He was once asked why he did not show more affection to her by calling her by her given name or by a pet name known only by the two of them. His answer was “I told her I loved her the day I married her. And I told her that if I changed my mind, I would let her know!”

Again, this man really loved his wife; but for whatever reason, he was unable to manifest affection for her simply by calling her by her name.

I got to thinking about how the Lord “feels” about you and me, what His real attitude is towards us. Is He a God with an inability to express affection for us? Does He have any feelings for us that can be construed as loving? Has He expressed His heart in ways I can be sure about His attitude toward me? I’m going to let Him speak for Himself.

***“I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness.”** Jeremiah 31:3*

*But now, thus says the Lord, your Creator, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel, “Do not fear, for **I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine!**”* Isaiah 43:1

*“**I have also called you by your name; I have given you a title of honor though you have not known Me.**”* Isaiah 45:4

Now here is where I have been lead. Our Father’s love for us, Jesus’ love for us has so consumed Him that He speaks of that commitment to us as that of a jealous lover, that of a protector who will go to any and all lengths to purchase us, to rescue us, to redeem us, to protect us, to woo us - - until we capitulate and enter fully into the relationship of friends, indeed into a relationship of being corporately His Bride, and He, our Bridegroom King.

Would you let Him speak to you of the depths of His love for you? He is a fiery, all-consuming, jealous God – who will not be satisfied until you are mutually consumed with Him. Listen to His heart:

*"I am a **jealous** God." Exodus 20:5 (but I show love – verse 6)*



*"The Lord, whose name is **Jealous** is a **jealous** God." Exodus 34:14*

*"For the Lord your God is a consuming fire, a **jealous** God." Deuteronomy 4:24*

*"I, the Lord your God, am a **jealous** God..." Deuteronomy 5:9*

*"This is what the Lord Almighty says: 'I am very **jealous** for Jerusalem and Zion,..." Zechariah 1:14*

*This is what the Lord Almighty says: "I am very **jealous** for Zion; I am burning with **jealousy** for her." Zechariah 8:2*

*Place me like a seal over your heart, like a seal on your arm; for love is as strong as death, its **jealousy** unyielding as the grave. It burns like blazing fire, like a mighty flame. Song of Songs 8:6*

*"You cannot serve God and man." Matthew 6:24*

*"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, just as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not have it!" Luke 13:34*

*"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as **I have loved you...**" John 13:34*

*"This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as **I have loved you.** John 15:12*

***God is love**, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. 1 John 4:16*

*"Our God is a consuming fire." Hebrews 12:29*

So today, here is the word of encouragement to you: Your God loves you. He loves you with a personal love. He has spoken directly of His love for you; He has not only spoken that love in writing, but He has taken personal steps to win you from your place of estrangement with Him, from all of your other lesser loves, from your idolatry and harlotry (loving anyone or other things more than one loves Him.)

He is intensely jealous in His love for you and me. I believe in these critical days of salvation history, He is calling us – He is calling us to rise up from our places of mediocrity. He is calling us to leave behind our compromises and our lesser loves. He is calling us to radical discipleship and intimacy with Him.

Our God is a God who has called us by name; He is a consuming fire who loves us with a jealous love.

He calls us right now.

Would you give up everything for Him? He awaits a fresh surrender from you - - and from me.

