

THE GREAT WENCHOSTER BIBLE

John 15: 9-17

9. And Jesus saith unto them, As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you, in a filial brotherly sense, lest any conclusions be drawn: so I tell you, continue ye in my love.
10. If ye keep my commandments, even the hard one about loving your enemy, and I'm looking at you Simon, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love, oh yes.
11. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full and free, for money can't buy me love. Oh, oh. I'll give you all I've got to give if you say you love me too. I may not have a lot to give but what I got, I'll give to you. I don't care too much for money, money can't buy me love. Now that might catch on if I could just find someone to write it down.
12. Where was I? Ah yes. This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you, and though you may exchange the kiss of peace in your ecclesiae – oops, I let that slip - let there be no tongues. For this is verily a liturgical act and not an opportunity to say good morning.
13. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends, or even lend him his collection of Samaritan etchings without assurances. Yea, even the super-naughty Ashkelon Abstracts.
14. So then, at the risk of repeating myself, ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.
15. Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth and whence he goeth, or cometh, or goeth again to the inn, or even when he shall return, and in what state: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you, and thou knowest where I am going. And it's not to the inn. And Thomas did think to ask him a question about this, but held it back for another time and did keep silence and looked at his hand.
16. And Jesus saith, Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and taken you away from the familiar into unknown lands, for the past is another country. They did things differently. And I have ordained you, though not in the sense that the church will perceive it, for I have not laid hands on any of you – especially you, Thaddeus - that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain. And Philip did ask James, Does He want a fruit salad? and they comprehended not the figures of speech, and some thought about melons. So Jesus, raising His eyes unto heaven (for it was the correct gospel) repeated, Whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, He may give it you. And He, knowing what they were thinking, said unto them, Yes, even melons.
17. And as they stood there silent greatly confused by His utterances, He saith again, Listen very carefully for I shall say this only once more, These things I command you, that ye love one another.