

THE QUESTION OF THE WEEK

“Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him.”

John 15: 23

The short text quoted above is worthy of some deep thinking. Jesus speaks of what happens within any person who chooses to love him. As I love him or as you love him, in that moment he says that the Father will love me and will love you. (Actually if you think about it the Father’s love for me and for you is like the prerequisite for any love that emanates from me or you.) But Jesus says not only that the Father will love us but that He and the Father will come to us and will abide, will their dwelling with us.

How does that happen? First of all, this abiding within has come to be called The Indwelling. God indwells my soul. God indwells your soul. Saint John of the Cross the sixteenth century Carmelite friar, mystical writer and reformer once said that the soul of a person does not simply live within the body that it animates. The soul of the person actually lives where the person loves. I have seen this in human behavior. Watching a mother and father watching their little one walk up the path to a new school on the first day gives ample evidence that the soul of the parents goes out to the little one and actually accompanies the little one, goes with, abides and even indwells the little one. It is one of the great but peculiar dimensions of love that it can do such things.

We abide where we love. We indwell where we love. That is true of God and it is true of us who are made in the image and likeness of God. And it has amazing repercussions in the area of our loneliness. We are not ever really alone if we love Our Lord. We cannot truly fathom this great truth but we can accept it and live in it. And when we do it begins to make all the difference in the world. The question is whether we will believe that or not? That is the question of the week.