

Volume 2, Day 23: Look for the Love in Every Verse

I think the Old Testament is the story of love told from the abused dog's perspective. When abused we end up hiding in the bushes. And the New Testament describes those who have come to know God's love through the revelation of the cross. They're kind of like the dogs who have finally come inside the house. They look at God in a whole different way since they have been exposed to His unconditional love. Once rescued, these dogs no longer see their masters through the eyes of shame or fear, but through the eyes of affection.

Don't take the difficult words of scripture as commands. Take them as promises. When Jesus tells us to love our enemies, he knows there's no way we can do it without Him. That's a promise. I'll teach you how to love your enemies the way my Father does. When you find things that are too difficult to understand, you know what I like to encourage people to do? Take what's here that you understand clearly and what makes sense to you. Fully enjoy what you do understand. You might have a lot of questions about things that don't make sense. Don't worry about those. You can sort those out down the road.

Instead, focus on what is clear. Look for the love in every passage. Listen for the voice that speaks to you. If it is not audible, it will be thoughts or sensations in your soul. Look for something you're doing that invites you to live a little more loving. That's the Holy Spirit opening you up, helping you see what God's doing to change your life. And maybe someday this book won't be boring to you. This will be encouragement to all the wisdom and knowledge that God wants to pour into your life.