

John's notes on,
**What Freddie Mercury can teach us about
God's love**

By John Van Sloten
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There's a Queen song entitled, "I want it all..." **PAUSE** reading it's lyrics this week (& having read a several books about Freddie M)>> I thought, "**These words pretty much sum up what Q's lead was all about!**"

"I'm a man with a one track mind... So much to do in one life time... Not a man for compromise and where's and why's and living lies... So I'm living it all (yes I'm living it all)...And I'm giving it all (and I'm giving it all)... Yeah yeah Yeah yeah yeah yeah... I want it all all all all..." **LONG PAUSE...**

I think what Freddie wanted... **is what we all want...**
PAUSE What Freddie **needed**(for his life> to have meaning/matter) **is we all need!**... What Freddie Mercury **yearned for**, as a human being, made by God, in God's image is what **we all yearn for...** **PAUSE...**

(SLOW) "I want it all" ... "Find me somebody to love"... "I want to break free"... **PAUSE...** Queen's questions are our questions... "**Is this the real life, or is this just fantasy...look up to the skies and see...**"

PAUSE... (now all got song in heads!)...FM, the artist, > was on the **quintessential human quest... every man's existential search** for meaning of life... **PAUSE** and he engaged that journey in a unique way!...

His goal was to **live life to fullest...** "Excess is part of my nature. To me dullness is a disease. I really need danger and

excitement. I was not made for staying indoors and watching television"... << F's life really exemplified his goal of living on the edge... << **hard to miss** in his >> **flamboyant, outrageous, lavish, generous, fun loving, hedonistic, over the top lifestyle!...**

In so many ways > seemed to push things to extreme!
Via outrageous songs [**B. Rhapsody – too long rock/opera> about despair/unforgivable sin!**
Via extravagant dress... outlandish attire... crazy addiction to shopping... < FM wanted to be noticed!
Via insatiable performer's heart... <pull in an audience!
Via hugely promiscuous lifestyle... < made Elton John look like a shrinking violet!... <led a very promiscuous, lewd/crude life! **VERY LONG PAUSE...** (*longingly*>>) "**How in the world do you preach Freddie Mercury?**"

Then I remembered> **G.K. Chesterton** once said, "Even when men knock on the door of a brothel they're looking for the love of God."... Freddie often said, "...that his promiscuity was an attempt to cure the loneliness he felt..." **PAUSE...**

C.S. Lewis once wrote about why, he thought, kids so liked to dress up, "It's all a kind of pretending, but it's also a kind of preparing, because every child wants to one day be a person who fits into clothes of this size."... we're meant to be **seen...** to be **noticed/known...** be **beautiful...** to **fit in** and **belong...** and we're meant to one day **be perfect!**

Jesus once said, "I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of." John 10:10, MSG
"...in him was life, and the life was the light of all people." John 1:4, NRSV
"...yet you refuse to come to me to have life." John 5:40 NIV
"...everyone who looks up to him, trusting and expectant, will gain a **real life**, eternal life." John 3:15, MSG

“Is this the real life... or is this just fantasy?...” **PAUSE**
can we **consume** our way there?.. **dress** our way there
sex our way there?... **perform** our way there?...

“Mercury was stopped in full flow when I asked him if there was anything the man who had everything still wanted. In a moment of pure drama Mercury, ever the performer, looked up at me with eyes that now looked soft and soulful, paused for what seemed like an eternity, and said, ‘**Happiness, I don’t think I’ve got that!**’

How many of us... in the **great audience of life**... if we’re honest... **don’t at times share that sentiment?**
PAUSE... [SONGS VIDEO CLIP – 61:10 -63:37 FADE]

“Happiness, I haven’t got that. Yes I have thousands of friends, but you can seem to have everything and yet have nothing. Maybe one day I’ll catch up with myself and that will be my downfall.”

“For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self?” Luke 9:24-26

“Freddie didn’t practice religion... Freddie and I never discussed religion at all... I don’t know if his family’s religious values affected his life in any way – they may have. I do remember lying in bed beside him, half asleep at times, and hearing him praying.” Jim Hutton, Mercury’s Partner, p309, Freddie Mercury, The Definitive Biography

"When you call on me, when you come and pray to me, I'll listen.
"When you come looking for me, you'll find me. "Yes, when you get serious about finding me and want it more than anything else, I'll make sure you won't be disappointed." God's Decree. "I'll turn things around for you. I'll bring you back from all the countries into which I drove you"—God's Decree—"bring you home to the place from which I sent you off into exile. You can count on it." God via Jeremiah 29:12-14 MSG

LONG PAUSE... At FM’s funeral (he died of aids at 45)... which he meticulously planned... the songs, “**Precious Lord take my hand and You’ve got a friend** (via Aretha Franklin)” were played... **PAUSE**

At the **FM tribute concert held in 1992** - where stars covered Freddie’s tunes (Metallica, Liza Minelli, David Bowie, Elton John, etc...) - a concert that an estimate 1

billion watched on TV –not one of the artists could hold a candle to Mercury’s voice... not even close!... **PAUSE**

Last week, after downloaded “**A Night at the Opera**”... walked... listened... remembered... deeply moved>> ...by that collection of songs (best album of the lot!)... recalled **how NB Queen’s music as to me at 17**... helped me express my heart... cries... **PAUSE**... My **angst > my unforgiveable sins... my despair**... ‘**find me somebody to love**...’

Man did I love their music... still do!... such **creativity**... such **giftedness... wonderful eclecticism**... a **beauty borne out of such brokenness**... a gift from God!

God must have really loved Freddie Mercury!... to so gift him... design him so uniquely... “wonderfully made”

I don’t know if Freddie **ever loved God back**... >> **anonymously** in many ways I’m sure... but knowingly? < I don’t know... (sorry, no posthumous, Hollywood, deathbed conversion stories here!)... but I do hope God found a way to let F. Mercury know... < [**imagine him leading the Soprano’s**(not the mobsters/hope there too!)]

<< that is what **Grace is all about right?**... pin all our hopes on!... all kinds of total losers, like you... and you... and you... and I... getting to get it all as a gift from God!... “I tell you the truth, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you.” **MT 21:31**

We all want to believe in grace... all of God’s love as a eternal gift!... “The problem with love is that you lose control and that is a very vulnerable state to be in. I would love to really have a beautiful relationship with somebody, but it never seems to work out. *What I would like most of all is to be in a state of blissful love.*”

As I was listening to that old album... >> song called "A prophet's song"... had **the same kind of prophetic edge** that Jesus did in those (and earlier) words... As I listened > imagined all of the prophets.. all of the ages > calling us to listen... to hear... to open our eyes... > Abraham... Moses... Isaiah... Jeremiah... Jesus...

It was quite moving to me... so I tried to re-create it... it's a 7 minute song... so get comfortable... listen to FM's prophetic song... **hear God speaking to you... in your life... messed up choices you're making... desire for more... [SONG SHOW]**