

Receiving God's Love

I. The Greatest Commandment

Mathew 22:36-40

³⁶ "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" ³⁷ Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

- a. Before we follow the greatest commandment, we first need to receive God's love.
 - i. Before we give something away, we must possess it first.
 1. We love *Him* as a response to His love for *us*.
 2. We love *our neighbors*, because *He loves us* so much
 3. We love *ourselves*, because *we receive His deep love and care* for us.

II. Love Is the Foundation

- a. When we receive God's love, everything else becomes easy.
 - i. We then can read the Bible through a different perspective.
 1. Knowing He loves us:
 - a. We respond to His instructions differently.
 - b. We look at life struggles differently.

III. A Powerful Example of God's Love

- a. Despite our sin, God deeply loves us.
 - i. No matter what we have done
 - ii. No matter how bad it is
 - iii. No matter what others think of us

Hosea 1:2-3 NKJV

When the LORD began to speak by Hosea, the LORD said to Hosea:

"Go, take yourself a wife of harlotry
And children of harlotry,
For the land has committed great harlotry
By *departing* from the LORD."

³ So he went and took Gomer the daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.

Hosea 3:1-3 NKJV

Then the LORD said to me, “Go again, love a woman *who is* loved by a lover and is committing adultery, just like the love of the LORD for the children of Israel, who look to other gods and love *the* raisin cakes *of the pagans.*” ² So I bought her for myself for fifteen *shekels* of silver, and one and one-half homers of barley. ³ And I said to her, “You shall stay with me many days; you shall not play the harlot, nor shall you have a man—so, too, *will I be* toward you.”

- b. God is still chasing after us.
 - i. He paid the price for us and wants to us to receive from Him.
 - ii. It is a story about the nature of God, and it speaks volumes about His character.
 - 1. God is love.

IV. 2 Keys for Locating Ourselves

- 1. Dig into His word.
 - i. Your answers are found here.

Romans 8:35-39 NIV

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶ As it is written:

“For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- 2. Sit in His presence and receive His love.
 - i. So much of our walks with God has to do with our ability to receive.
 - 1. Not our ability to do and strive for more

V. How We Know God Loves Us

- a. Creation proves it.
 - i. His goodness is evident.
- b. The cross proves it.
 - i. Jesus died for our sins.
- c. The Bible tells us so.