

#3 In the Love Series

# LOVE IS

Forest Park Church

February 22<sup>nd</sup> 2024

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Who is my neighbor?

It was a question posed to Jesus by a man seeking an argument, and yet it's a question that is as valuable today as the moment that was asked. Jesus follows the question with a story we called the parable of the good Samaritan; in the end, we were left with respect for the Samaritan who chose to stop and assist the one who is in need, but we are also challenged by the behavior of the two religious leaders. What was it that made these two men unwilling to stop and provide assistance, something that seems to be the most basic of human instincts?

**Could it be that they were in a hurry?**

- The most serious sign of hurry sickness is a diminished capacity to love. Love and hurry are fundamentally incompatible. Love always takes time, and time is one thing that people don't have.
- The truth is, look around at our society people cannot love because they are always in a hurry!
- Hurry sickness (lack of patience syndrome): It kills love, and hurry is the great enemy of spiritual life. Hurry lies behind much of the anger and frustration of modern life.
- Hurry prevents us from receiving love from the Father or giving love to others.

As Paul opens his discourse on love to the church in Corinth, he lays out three comparisons, drenched and hyperbole. In my estimation, this is as serious as it gets.

**I Cor 13:1**

**Hear Nothing:**

*If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels but have no love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.*

**Am Nothing:**

*And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.*

### **Gain Nothing:**

*If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned,<sup>[a]</sup> but have not love, I gain nothing.*

## I. Love is Patient

### **Numbers 20:6-13**

*Then Moses and Aaron went from the presence of the assembly to the entrance of the tent of meeting and fell on their faces. And the glory of the Lord appeared to them, <sup>7</sup> and the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>8</sup> “Take the staff, and assemble the congregation, you and Aaron your brother, and tell the rock before their eyes to yield its water. So you shall bring water out of the rock for them and give drink to the congregation and their cattle.” <sup>9</sup> And Moses took the staff from before the Lord, as he commanded him.*

*<sup>10</sup> Then Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly together before the rock, and he said to them, “Hear now, you rebels: shall we bring water for you out of this rock?” <sup>11</sup> And Moses lifted up his hand and **struck the rock** with his staff twice, and water came out abundantly.*

*<sup>12</sup> And the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, “Because you did not believe in me, to uphold me as holy in the eyes of the people of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land that I have given them.” <sup>13</sup> These are the waters of Meribah, where the people of Israel quarreled with the Lord, and through them he showed himself holy.*

### **Deuteronomy 3:23-28**

*<sup>23</sup> “And I pleaded with the Lord at that time, saying, <sup>24</sup> ‘O Lord God, you have only begun to show your servant your greatness and your mighty hand. For what god is there in heaven or on earth who can do such works and mighty acts as yours? <sup>25</sup> Please let me go over and see the good land beyond the Jordan, that good hill country and Lebanon.’ <sup>26</sup> But the Lord was angry with me because of you and would not listen to me. And the Lord said to me, ‘Enough from you; do not speak to me of this matter again. <sup>27</sup> Go up to the top of Pisgah and lift up your eyes westward and northward and southward and eastward, and look at it with your eyes, for you shall not*

go over this Jordan. 28 But charge Joshua, and encourage and strengthen him, for he shall go over at the head of this people, and he shall put them in possession of the land that you shall see.'

James 1:19–20

*Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.*

- Lack of listening, combined with a lack of restraint in speech, leads to ill-tempered action.
- Slow to anger does not mean that all human anger is sinful (cf. Eph. 4:26),
- but the quick-tempered, selfish anger of the world (“the anger of man,” James 1:20) betrays lack of trust in God and lack of love for others.

Man's self-reliant anger, even when directed against some wrongdoing, fails to recognize that we cannot change another person's heart by ourselves!

- Thus it does not produce the righteousness of God,
- Nor is such anger fully righteous itself.
- God is holy and righteous, requiring that his people emulate his righteous character. “Righteousness” is the sense of conducting one's life by the will of God, according to his standards.

## II. Love is Kind

**Galatians 5:22–23**

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things, there is no law.*

Why are patience and kindness central themes in the message of the gospel? Paul points this out in the book of Romans when he challenges the Christians living there not to mistake the patience and kindness of God for apathy or lack of concern.

### **Romans 2:4**

*Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?*

If we want to see a broken world come to repentance, the church will have to develop characteristics of patience and kindness, as our Father demonstrated to us.

- We don't have time to talk about all the times in the life of Christ or his life and mission were drenched in both patients and kindness,
- but we do know this these two attributes are what love is made of.

## Conclusion:

### **2 Peter 3:8-10**

*But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord, a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.*

*The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. **Instead, he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.***

<sup>10</sup> *But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.<sup>[a]</sup>*