

ALL ABOUT LOVE

THEME: LOVE

TEXT: Matt 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." NIV

INTRODUCTION:

(add your own introduction....)

ILLUSTRATION: In 1976, a researcher named John Lee conducted extensive interviews with people to discover what the word "love" meant to them. He learned, of course, that love means different things to different people. Lee concluded that humans think of love in six separate ways. He labeled these love forms with Greek nouns:

1. **Eros Love:** Eros refers to the romantic love that has tremendous passion, physical longing, deep intensity, and intimacy.
2. **Ludas Love:** Ludas is called game-playing love. It is like the love of a knight for a princess. There are playful interactions here but little intimacy or deep intensity.
3. **Storge Love:** Storge exemplifies friendship-based love. There is strong companionship and shared values here but little physical intimacy.
4. **Pragma Love:** Pragma, a combination of storge and ludus love, refers to practical or logical love in which someone actively searches for a partner with certain characteristics.
5. **Mania Love:** Mania is a combination of eros and ludus love. It is also known as the troubled love. This love has jealousy and dependence (often called co-dependency), great intensity, some intimacy, and many psychological symptoms related to the relationship.
6. **Agape Love:** Agape is also a blend of two other types of love, eros and storge. This is the love of altruism, of giving without asking anything in return, and of sacrificing oneself for one's partner. Many would consider it to be the purest form of love.

THE TWO MAIN FOCUS OF LOVE

- To understand what love is to know the main focus of its attention in order to know that love is all about these two main characters. This must be where love must revolve and applied.

1. THE LOVE OF GOD

a. FOR HIS SON: JESUS

- i. Matthew 3:17 And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." NIV (Matthew 17:5)
- ii. Luke 20:13 "Then the owner of the vineyard said, 'What shall I do? I will send my son, whom I love; perhaps they will respect him.' NIV
- iii. John 17:24 "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.
- iv. NIV

b. FOR THE BELIEVERS OF JESUS

- i. John 17:23 I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and **have loved them even as you have loved me.** NIV
- ii. John 16:27 No, the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. NIV

c. FOR THE WORLD

- i. John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. NIV
- ii. Romans 5:6-8 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. 7 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. NIV
- iii. 1 Timothy 2:4 who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. NIV
- iv. 2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. NIV

2. THE LOVE OF MAN

a. FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

- i. John 13:34 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. NIV
- ii. 1 John 3:10 This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not a child of God; nor is anyone who does not love his brother. NIV
- iii. 1 John 4:20-21 If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. 21 And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother. NIV

b. FOR ENEMIES OF GOD'S PEOPLE

- i. Matt 5:43-48 "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. 46 If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? 47 And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? 48 Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect. NIV
- ii. Rom 12:20-21 On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. NIV

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT:

TO LOVE IS TO NEVER GIVE UP AND TO NEVER LOSE SIGHT OF THE OBJECT OF ITS FOCUS AND ATTENTION EVEN WHEN DENIED OR REJECTED. THIS IS WHAT LOVE IS ALL ABOUT

THINGS TO DO:

1. ALWAYS LOVE GOD AND LOVE PEOPLE UNCONDITIONALLY.
2. *(add your own ideas.....)*

CONCLUSION