

WHAT DOES GOD WANT FROM US? LOVE EACH OTHER

Matthew 22:34-40

January 28, 2007 Sunday a.m.

INTRODUCTION

- A. A minister was speaking about all the things money can't buy. "Money can't buy happiness, it can't buy laughter and money can't buy love" he told the congregation.
Driving his point home he said, "What would you do if I offered you \$1,000 not to love your mother and father?" A hush fell over the congregation. Finally a small voice near the front, raised an important question, "How much would you give me not to love my big sister?"
- B. Jesus was questioned by the Pharisees concerning the greatest commandment. His answer was in two parts.
 - 1. First, love God (review Passion sermon).
 - 2. Second, love each other.
- C. Let's look closer at the answer Jesus gave. First lets see...

I. THE DEMAND FOR LOVING EACH OTHER.

- A. The O.T. demands it-Leviticus 19:18.
- B. Jesus also demands it-John 13:34-35.
- C. Paul does as well-Romans 13:8.

II. THE DIRECTIONS FOR LOVING EACH OTHER. HOW CAN WE DO IT?

- A. First, duplicate Jesus' love-John 15:13.
- B. Second, demonstrate Jesus love to others.
 - 1. After she woke up, a woman told her husband, "I just dreamed that you gave me a pearl necklace for Valentine's day. What do you think it means?"
"You'll know tonight." he said.
That evening, the man came home with a small package and gave it to his wife. Delighted, she opened it to find a book entitled "The Meaning of Dreams"
Love is something you do or demonstrate.
 - 2. John echoes this often in his letters or epistles..
 - I John 3:16-18
 - I John 5: 2
 - II John 1:5-6.

III. THE DOMINANCE OF LOVING GOD AND EACH OTHER.

- A. A man reached retirement age and decided that he would help his wife by taking over some of the cooking chores. He began to make notes as he learned things about his newly acquired kitchen duties. Both the husband and his wife liked oatmeal for breakfast. Consequently, one of the first lessons he received was on the art of cooking oatmeal. "Be sure to measure both the water and the oats," his wife instructed. "Use the small saucepan...be sure to stir it carefully when it's cooking so that it doesn't stick...don't forget to time it...when it is fully cooked, turn off the gas, put a lid on the pan and let it stand for a few minutes before you serve it...soak the pan in warm water before you wash it." Later, the wife happened to glance in the husband's notebook and she saw the entry he had made. It read: "Forget about oatmeal."
- B. Many people mistakenly think being a Christian involves keeping a bunch of rules.
 - 1. This is the impression the Pharisees gave with their 613 laws or man made rules.
 - 2. Jesus reduced all their rules, though, into only these two-love God and each other.
Matthew 22:40
Romans 13:9

CONCLUSION

- A. Do you really love God?
- B. You can't love God unless you also love others.
 - 1. But you might say, "You just don't understand. You don't know what they did to me or someone I love?"

2. Or you might say, "I just can't forgive them for what they have done to me?"
 3. Then don't expect God to forgive you or believe you whenever you say or sing how much you love him.
- C. Jesus didn't give us a bunch of laws and rules to follow. All he wants us to do is love God and love others. Easy? No. Necessary? Yes.