

A Passion for Holiness – Love for the World Drives out Love for God

Matthew 6:24 ²⁴ “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

1 John 2:15-16 ¹⁵ Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.

❖ **Introduction** – The Main Point I would like to get across today is this:

- **Theme of Sermon:** Love for the World Drives out Love for God (**Expositional vs Sytematic**)
- **This Sermon Series** is taking a very natural progression through what should be:
 - The Christian’s Experience in Sanctification
 - **Sermon 1: A Prayer for the Fullness of God**
 - We started here praying for God to work a work in us
 - To give us a goal to strive for in our walk with God
 - **Sermon 2: A Passion for Holiness**
 - So... here... I was undecided about which I wanted to do next... A passion for holiness or Jesus
 - Because... I assume if you have a passion for Jesus in your life...
 - You will desire to live a Holy Life...
 - But... if you are currently in sin... your passion for Jesus is low...
 - **So, repentance is needed... a break from the world is needed...**
 - ◆ And if you want to see last week’s prayer come true...
 - ◆ It is imperative that you seek repentance... Sin breaks down your fellowship with Christ...
 - ◆ It grieves the Spirit of God... it quenches the Spirit of God...
 - **God is not going to bless spiritually while your holding on to sin...**
 - ◆ Until... **through** God’s goodness you come to repentance...
 - **Sermon 3: A Passion for Jesus**
 - Jesus is the goal of the Christian life... to be like Him, to know Him, to be with Him...
 - A passion for Jesus will make you the man or woman God intends for you to be...
 - **Sermon 4: A Passion for the Works of God**
 - When you have a passion for Christ... you will have a passion for the Works of God...
 - **You will want to pray and read the Word and Evangelize and Give and come to church...**
 - **Sermon 5: A Celebration of God’s Goodness**
 - After we have fasted from worldly things we will come to the Lord and celebrate
 - We will celebrate His goodness toward us...
- **Today is all about Turning our Hearts toward God through Repentance...**
 - We must have a Passion for Holiness if we want to see God move in mighty ways...
 - Although we are not saved through Good and Holy Works...
 - We are called to them... and God saved us unto good works...
 - **What we do and how we live is so very important to God...**
- **If You think You Can Continue in Sin as a Christian...**
 - You are dead wrong... God will not allow it...!
 - God will bring discipline or death your way...
 - **Are you ready for discipline? Are you ready for Death?**
 - These are both, very clear principles in the bible...
 - You can see it in Hebrews... in the life of David... in John’s writings...
 - **Are you ready for discipline? Are you ready for Death?**

- Then... be ready for repentance!

➤ Now... Hopefully you see the logic of where we are going and why today...

❖ Outline:

- 1) Worldliness is Driving Out Our Love for God
- 2) We Can Not Serve Two Masters
- 3) John the Baptist Called Men to Repentance
- 4) God Called David to Repentance
- 5) God Teaches Even the Best of us Repentance

❖ 1) Worldliness is Driving Out Our Love for God

- 1 John 2:15-16 ¹⁵ Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.

➤ We are told Clearly: Do not love the World

- Lets define what the **world** is and What loving it entails.
- **It means the outlook that has rebelled against God, and turned its back upon Him.**
 - It is the typical type of life that is being lived by the average person these days, who has little thought of God, but mainly thinks of this world and life, it is an outlook almost void of God.
 - **Example of Worldliness... do we covet, lie, sexually immoral, selfish, lack contentment, gluttonous, drunkards, too much tv or social media, work to gain worldly riches, unkind to others, use profane talk, prideful, angry without real cause, impatient?**
 - ◆ All examples of different forms of world like ness
 - ◆ I personally think that what we watch or listen to is usually a window into our soul...
 - It is for me at least... it tells me a lot about myself
- **From this text you see... If you love the world... the love of the Father is not in you...**
 - This is a warning... this is for the person who thinks He is saved... to examine himself
 - **What do I love more???? Worldly Things... or God?**
 - So... here... either the Christian needs repentance... a return back to the God you love
 - Or, this person has never turned to God in the first place...

➤ Why do we (the Christian) need repentance?

- The World creeps in on us so often... and when it does... it drives out our love for God...
- **Our fellowship with God breaks down (Notice how it happens)**
 - When a person is saved... the Spirit of God comes to dwell within them
 - **And this is a glorious thing...**
 - ◆ b/c the Spirit brings conviction, comfort, help, guidance, unction etc.
 - ◆ The Spirit of God moves you in many ways...
 - **But... sometimes it may seem like the Spirit is not even there...**
 - ◆ That maybe you are on empty when it comes to the Spirit...
- **I believe this is because of our Sin**
 - It grieves and quenches the Spirit.

➤ Grieving the Spirit of God

- **Ephesians 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.**
- Are you interested in the context...? Check it out... grieving is shown by how we live...
 - **Ephesians 4:25-32 ²⁵ Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. ²⁶ Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷ and give no opportunity to the devil. ²⁸ Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have**

something to share with anyone in need. ²⁹ Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. ³² Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

- We grieve the Spirit when we live in Sin

➤ **Quenching the Spirit**

- 1 Thessalonians 16-22 ¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not despise prophecies, ²¹ but test everything; hold fast what is good. ²² Abstain from every form of evil.
- **From the context it seems this means a number of things...**
 - 1) It means to try to “hush” the Holy Spirit... to snuff Him out...
 - ◆ Not that we can stop the Spirit... but God allows us to resist
 - 2) It means to despise the moving of the Spirit... to dismiss it when the Spirit is moving...
 - ◆ Here it happens in regards to prophecies...
 - ◆ I think this would apply when the Spirit is speaking through preaching
 - ◆ Or when the Spirit is moving in Singing... and you sit with a grumpy face...
 - ◆ And you decide not to take part
 - 3) It means when we are not praying and rejoicing and giving thanks...
 - 4) It happens when the spirit moves and we say no

➤ **Why do we need repentance... Because many of us are too closely tied to the World...**

- And we are grieving and quenching the Spirit of God...
- We are not on “fire” for God... because we are on fire for the things of the world...
 - [Look at what Jesus said about serving two masters...](#)

❖ **2) We Can Not Serve Two Masters**

- **Matthew 6:24 ²⁴ “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.**

➤ **This is obviously in regards to money here...**

- But I think the principle holds true across the whole board of sin...

➤ **Interestingly... much of our love of the world does revolve around money though**

- We use our money on things that do not last...
- On things that bring about temporary enjoyment

➤ **Many of us would rather have hours of television that keeps our mind off of God...**

- Than to use our money on heavenly things...
- On giving to the work of the kingdom...

➤ **Here Jesus says... you can not serve two masters...**

- You will either hate one and love the other...
- Or be devoted to one and despise the other...

➤ **What master are you serving?**

- Is it Jesus... is it the dollar? Is it some other sin?
- Does Jesus get in the way of your serving of sin?

➤ **To What are you devoted?**

- I think this is asking... what gets your attention... your energy... your time... your resources
- Hey... this is an important question to ask...
- And for many of us... we may say... I am not devoted to Jesus like I should be...
- And for you... I offer a call of Repentance...

- **What is Repentance? Before we go any further... let's define it...**
 - **It's literal meaning...** the meaning from the root of the word:
 - The basic meaning of repent is to experience a change of the mind's perceptions and dispositions and purposes.
 - **In Usage... when Peter is calling men to repent in Acts...**
 - He is calling them to change their mind about Jesus... they need to turn from not believing
 - ◆ To believing on Jesus... (And I believe that is a very accurate description of repentance)
 - **One person I read said that repentance is not just a mind change about something...**
 - He said, "real repentance not only regrets having done what is wrong, it will not repeat the same sin again if given the chance"
 - ◆ Now... I am not completely certain that is a great definition...
 - Because it leaves no room for being imperfect...
 - But, I do not think we are far off here...
 - **Repentance is a change in mind in regards to who Jesus is...**
 - It is a **recognition** that He is Lord and Savior when you previously did not believe this...
 - ◆ **Confession** is an acknowledgement to God that you have sinned
 - **Repentance** is a change in **mind** toward sin from it being **agreeable** to it being **wrong**
 - But repentance has another side to it... the **fruit of repentance** shows up...
 - And true repentance always shows up in the fruit it bears...
- **Please Understand:**
 - There is a call to repentance for the man who has never trusted in Jesus...
 - But there is a continual lifestyle of repentance for the person who knows God...
 - For the person who has repented and turned to God...
 - They are to continue a lifestyle of repentance...
 - And this... is assuredly not legalism... this is examination... this is fellowship...

❖ 3) John the Baptist Called Men to Repentance (repentance to the lost continued when saved)

- Luke 3:7-14 ⁷ He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸ Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. ⁹ Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." ¹⁰ And the crowds asked him, "What then shall we do?" ¹¹ And he answered them, "Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise." ¹² Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?" ¹³ And he said to them, "Collect no more than you are authorized to do." ¹⁴ Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages."
- **Here... we see an initial call of repentance to the person not yet saved...**
 - But... we see John teaching them to live out their change of heart
 - And it shows up in their actions...
 - **Specifically, it shows up in how they handle their money**
- **So... John calls them to Repentance... and He is very harsh with the Pharisees...**
 - We know from Matthew that it is toward the Pharisees that he directs
 - "You brood of Vipers"
 - Remember... they were the church leaders of the time...
- **The crowd asks what to do...**
 - In Matthew 3 we see John saying... ⁸ "Bear fruit in keeping with repentance."

- And John tells them to handle their money right...
 - He says... share what you have with others...
 - He says... don't take what is not yours... be honest with you money
 - He says... do not take advantage of others...
 - He says... be content with what your paid...

➤ **Notice... Your Repentance will be clear in how you live...**

- If you supposedly come to Jesus... get baptized... whatever...
- But there is no change in how you live your life...
- No change in what you value...
 - There has been no real repentance...

❖ **4) God Called David to Repentance (Saved person in repentance)**

➤ **The Story of David's Sin (Expound)**

- **2 Samuel 12:13** ¹³ David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord." And Nathan said to David, "The Lord also has put away your sin; you shall not die.
 - David responded to being called out by the prophet...
 - You can look into what was going in within him in his Psalms
- **Psalm 51:1-4** Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. ² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! ³ For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. ⁴ Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.
 - He acknowledged his sin before God... knew God was right... begged forgiveness
 - The Psalm continues and you see he desired to also go out and DO... what God called him to
- **Psalm 32:2-6** For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. ⁴ For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. *Selah* ⁵ I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. *Selah* ⁶ Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found;
 - Sin was eating him up... he sought and received forgiveness
 - Then he calls others to do the same

➤ **David's Repentance was much Different than Saul's**

❖ **5) God Teaches Even the Best of us Repentance (a man who knew the Lord, repented)**

➤ **The Story of Job...**

- **Job 42:5-6** I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; ⁶ therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes."

➤ **Job... even as great as he was... still needed a reminder of who God was**

❖ **Invitation**

➤ **Are you where you need to be with God today?**

- It is a very simple question... with simple answers...

➤ **If not... then the response is simple as well...**

- Confess your sins to the Lord... repent... and bear fruit in keeping with repentance...
- That is the sign that your repentance is real
- No fruit means no repentance...