The First and Final Word

Pastor Toby • Week 8 • 5/1/2022

**It’s Time to Reciprocate!**

Matthew 22:34-40

Introduction: Our first duty to God is to actively receive the love that He has for us. Once we’ve done that, what’s next?

Once we Receive, we are called to Reciprocate!

* God wants us to \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_…but **how**? (Matthew 22:34-38)
* …with all our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
  + “Heart” was a metaphor for the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ life.
  + In this passage it means to \_\_\_\_\_\_ something for God.
  + Arrogant \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for God turns His \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (Revelation 3:14-17)
  + The only solution is to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Jesus back into our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ lives. (Revelation 3:18-20)
  + We must maintain passion with constant \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and careful \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (Romans 12:11)

Conclusion: Do you feel a burning passion to know, serve and please God? Or do you need to be zealous, and repent?

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Debrief Plan: 5/1/2022

**Icebreakers**:

1. Who was your best friend as a young person? (Define that however you like.) What was it about your relationship that meant so much to you?
2. Who is someone that you enjoy buying gifts for? What makes it so fun?

**Sermon Summary**: The next logical step after receiving God’s love is to reciprocate that love. Jesus calls us to do this, in part, by feeling strong emotions for God in our “heart”, or inner self. Nurturing and maintaining this passion for God is of utmost importance!

**Discussion Questions**:

***Read Matthew 22:34-38.***

1. Why do expressions of strong emotions make us uncomfortable?
2. Why do you suppose it’s so important to God that we love Him with our emotions and not just our intellect or our will?
3. Is it easy to imagine God as a person who experiences extremely deep and affecting emotions? If so, why? If not, why not? Do we have any evidence in the Scriptures that God is a Being of extremely deep emotions?

***Read Revelation 3:14-20.***

1. What kind of things in our lives today tend to “douse” the fire of passion we could feel for God?
2. What are some tips you could offer to someone who has lost their passion for God but wants to get it back? What kind of things could they do?

***Read Romans 12:11.***

1. What are some protections you can build into your relationship with the Lord to **maintain** your “zeal” and “fervency” for Him over a lifetime?