

Love Gone Cold

Text : **Luke 12: 13-21 ; Matthew 24: 9-14**

S#1.

S#2.

A. We live in an era when brotherly love is rapidly becoming a thing of the past.

1. Atrocious acts are all over the news.
 - a. A girl and her father who run a pizza joint received death threats and were closed down because they would not want to cater an ungodly union of perverts.
 - b. A police officer guns down a man who is fleeing a citation for a broken tail light.
 - c. Muslim terrorist blow up children, behead Christians and kill fellow muslims.
2. Our nation is more divided than at any time in my lifetime. **Divided by :**
 - a. Race , national origin
 - b. Religion , even lack of religion
 - c. Gender , or rejection of it
 - d. Political opinion , morals
3. This cultural degeneration is even affecting the Lord's church.

S#3.

B. Jesus warned us that in latter times Christians' love would grow cold.

S#4.

1. **Matt. 24: 12** – **Because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold.**
2. When the Revelation of John was written, dwindling love was already a problem.
 - a. The brethren at Laodicea had become complacent.

S#5.

Rev. 3: 15-16 'I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot. **16** 'So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold (average), I will spit you out of My mouth.

- b. The brethren at Ephesus had lost the fervor of their love.

S#6.

Rev. 2: 4-5 But I have this against you, that you have left your first love.
5 'Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place—unless you repent.

C. Each one of us must evaluate and monitor ourselves.

S#7.

1. **II Cor. 13: 5** – **Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test?**
2. We must ask ourselves, "Do I love God as much as I once did ?"
 - a. With the passing of time has my zeal begun to languor ?
 - b. Do I sometime find myself just going through the motions out of habit or duty ?
 - c. Is my faithfulness sometimes burdensome to me ?

S#8.

I. If our care meter is running low, we must ask ourselves “*Why don’t I care ?*”

A. Many don’t care because they are selfish.

S#9.

1. Narcissism is a prevailing trend today. (*I can’t think about anyone but me.*)
2. The selfish person (*Narcissist*) makes every decision based on how it affects him.
3. Jesus interacted with a selfish person.

S#10.

- a. **Luke 12: 13-15** Someone in the crowd said to Him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.” ¹⁴ But He said to him, “Man, who appointed Me a judge or arbitrator over you?” ¹⁵ Then He said to them, “Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions.
- b. Jesus is teaching spiritual truths, but this guy’s mind is on himself. *Things*
- c. God was not the center of his thinking ... he wanted money. *Make ME happy.*
4. Jesus taught a parable to explain this man’s error. (*Notice the pronouns*) **S#11.**
 - a. **Luke 12: 16-21** And He told them a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man was very productive. ¹⁷ And he began reasoning to himself, saying, ‘What shall I do, since I have no place to store my crops?’ ¹⁸ Then he said, ‘This is what I will do: I will tear down my barns **S#12.** and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹ ‘And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years to come; take your ease, eat, drink and be merry.” ²⁰ But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night **S#13.** your soul is required of you; and now who will own what you have prepared?’ ²¹ So is the man who stores up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”
 - b. As he thought in his heart, all of his thoughts were about himself. (*not about God*)
 - c. All of the barns he filled were on the earth. (Cf. **Luke 12: 33-34** .. heart) **S#14.**
Matt. 6: 20-21 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; ²¹ for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (**6:33**)

B. Many don’t care because they are ignorant. (*Don’t understand sovereignty*)

S#15.

1. They don’t realize who God is and what He has done.
 - a. God spoke the world into existence and He can speak it out of existence.
 - b. God sustains the world by the word of His power.

S#16.

Col. 1: 16-17 For by Him (*Jesus*) all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

2. People of the world do not know God so they cannot love Him.
 - a. Many have the urge to worship, but they don't know who to worship.
Acts 17: 23 – (22-34) For while I was passing through and examining the **S#17.**
objects of your worship, I also found an altar with this inscription,
'TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.' Therefore what you worship in ignorance,
this I proclaim to you.
 - b. They were religious, but uninformed about the nature of the one true God.
 - c. Animists like the Hindus, Buddhist, Taoist, etc. are religious, but ignorant.
3. Even many Christians do not realize the true nature of our sovereign God.
 - a. We forget that **"in Him we live and move and exist," (Vs. 28)**
 - b. You have life only because of God and only at His pleasure.
 - c. Our nation stands ONLY so long as God wills it. **"...having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, ..." (Vs. 26)**
- C. Many don't care because their love is being choked by worldliness. **S#18.**
 1. Maybe I'm not an uninformed narcissist, but my care meter is clogged by life.
Luke 8: 14 – The seed which fell among the thorns, these are the ones who **S#19.**
have heard, and as they go on their way they are choked with worries
and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to maturity.
 - a. **"riches"** We so desire prosperity that our elections are decided by the economy.
 - b. **"pleasures of this life"** we work hard to have vacations and buy expensive toys.
 2. In this country we just have TOO many things to do.
 - a. Basically, we can go most anywhere we want to go.
 - b. There are more pleasures than we could experience in a lifetime. (**Branson**)
 - c. Everyone has a TV and most have more than 100 channels. (*commercials tempt*)
 - d. Activities of our children and grand children wear us out.
 3. The scriptures forewarn us about Satan's allurements.
 - a. **I John 2: 15-17** Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone **S#20.**
loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that
is in the world, the longings of the flesh and the desires of the
eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is
from the world. 17 The world is passing away, **and also its lusts;**
but the one who does the will of God lives forever.
 - b. We watch the news for 8 minutes and are seduced by the world for 2 minutes.
 - c. We **try** to have a relationship with God and enjoy the fruits of the world. **Jas 4:4**
 - d. **Luke 16:13 – No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one** **#21.**
and love the other, or else he ... You cannot serve God and wealth.

II. I don't really care as I should, but why should I care ?**S#22.****A. We should love God because He loved us first.****S#23.**

1. **I John 4: 10** – In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. **S#24.**

2. **I John 4: 19** – We love, because He first loved us.

3. God's love is proven.

Rom. 5: 8 – But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. **S#25.**

4. *God's love should not be left unrequited.*

B. We should love God because He provides for us.**S#26.**

1. God allows us to live on His earth for only a 10% share. **S#27.**

a. **Psa. 24: 1** – The earth is the Lord's, and all it contains, The world, and those who dwell in it.

b. **I Cor. 16: 2** – On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper, so that no collections be made when I come.

2. All of our good things come from God. **S#28.**

Jas. 1: 17 – Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.

3. He gives us all spiritual blessings in Christ Jesus. **S#29.**

a. **II Pet. 1: 3** – seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.

b. **Eph. 1: 3** – Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,

C. We should love God because He protects our souls.**S#30.**

1. **I Pet. 1: 5** – reserved in Heaven for you **5** who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. **S#31.**

2. **Jude 24** – Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy,

III. How do we rekindle our love for God and make it stronger?**S#32.****A. Keep learning more about God and come to understand Him better.****S#33.**

1. All relationships require maintenance. S#34.
Jude 21 – keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life.

2. Thought he is a spirit, God reveals Himself in the scriptures.
 - a. He gave revelation to specific people and they recorded His words.
 - b. By studying His dealings with man, we learn about Him.

B. Spend time with Him S#35.

1. Love draws people together. *Bonding takes time together.*
2. Communicate through reading and prayer.
3. Spend time meditating on God, on His interactions with man and on His commands.

C. Spend time with people who love Him. S#36.

1. Birds of a feather flock together. (*What does preferring another flock say ...?*)
2. God ordained assemblies for a reason.
 - a. **YOU need reinforcement. Christianity is a one another lifestyle .. duty to all.**
 - b. **Only a narcissists or an extremely unwise person tries to stand alone.**
3. Avoid exposure to unspiritual people. (*self-help courses teach: associate with ...*)

D. Tell others about Him. S#37.

1. Making a public expression of commitment strengthens one's bond with God.
2. The more one talks about God the less comfortable he feels talking about worldliness
3. Once off the fence it is easier to go in either direction. (**Matt 10: 32 .. confess b4**)

CONCLUSION :

A. Examining yourself, are you as close to God as you want to be ? No Christian is. S#38.

1. We must redouble our efforts to overcome self and to overcome the world.
2. **James 4: 8** ... We must draw near to God so He will draw near to us. (*learn*)

B. It is only natural that we should desire to be closer to God. S#39.

1. He has demonstrated such a powerful love for us ... we feel compelled to reciprocate.
2. We are totally dependent upon His provision and His protection.

C. Our challenge is to constantly work on strengthening our relationship with God. S#40.

S#41. S#42.

INVITATION : Do you have a relationship with God ? Rekindle your flame !

Lesson Text :**Luke 12: 13-21**

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Matthew 24: 9-14

9 “Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name. **10** At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another. **11** Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many. **12** Because lawlessness is increased, most people’s love will grow cold. **13** But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved. **14** This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.