

# **“A HEART FOR GOD” LESSON 6: LOVE SPEAKS**

**BIBLE BOOK CLUB - JUNE 27 AND JULY 1**



**MOST PEOPLE PAY IT LIP SERVICE, BUT AS A CULTURE WE TEND TO BELIEVE THAT “LOVE IS ALL YOU NEED”, “LOVE IS ALL AROUND US”, “WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS NOW IS LOVE”, AND SO ON. JESUS COMMANDS US TO LOVE.**

**HOW, THEN, DO WE RESPOND WITH LOVE WHEN WE ARE CAUGHT IN THE TRAP OF OTHER’S HATRED?**

**IN 1 SAMUEL, WE FIND THAT JONATHAN WAS REPEATEDLY CAUGHT BETWEEN HIS BEST FRIEND DAVID AND THE RAGING HATRED OF HIS FATHER, KING SAUL. SOMETIMES, THAT HATRED TOOK AIM AT HIS OWN SON. JONATHAN WAS BIBLICALLY OBLIGED TO HONOR HIS FATHER BUT WAS ALSO SWORN TO A COVENANT FRIENDSHIP WITH DAVID. HE RECOGNIZED THE SIN IN SAUL’S BEHAVIOR TOWARDS DAVID.**

**HOW DID JONATHAN RESPOND IN BIBLICAL LOVE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS TO BOTH HIS FRIEND AND TO HIS FATHER?**

# LOVE AS A COUNTER TO HATRED

- **HATRED TEARS DOWN AND DESTROYS**
- **HATRED LIES (TO OTHERS AND TO SELF)**
- **HATRED ORIGINATES FROM AND CENTERS ON THE SELF**
- **WHEN WE FEEL SOMEONE HATES US, WE ARE TEMPTED TO RESPOND IN KIND. IT DESTROYS CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS (JUST LIKE SAUL AND JONATHAN).**
- **LOVE CREATES, BUILDS UP, SACRIFICES, AND TRANSFORMS US WITH REDEMPTIVE POWER**
- **LOVE SEEKS THE TRUTH**
- **LOVE IS DIRECTED OUTWARDLY TOWARDS GOD AND MANKIND**
- **LOVE CAN CREATE CONFLICT AND TENSIONS IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS AND SOMETIMES REQUIRES DIFFICULT DECISIONS AND SACRIFICES.**

## ***LOVE SEEKS THE TRUTH***

**WHEN CAUGHT BETWEEN SAUL AND DAVID, JONATHAN EXAMINED THE CIRCUMSTANCES, OPINIONS, AND HEARTS OF BOTH MEN WITH IMPARTIALITY. HE MADE THE EFFORT TO DISCERN WHO WAS IN THE WRONG AND THE TRUE HEARTS AND MOTIVES OF BOTH HIS FATHER AND HIS FRIEND SO THAT HE MIGHT RIGHTLY RESPOND OR GIVE COUNSEL.**

- **TENSION AND CONFLICT IS PART OF ANY RELATIONSHIP, INCLUDING A LOVE RELATIONSHIP. SOMETIMES, THE CONFLICT TESTS OUR CONVICTIONS AND OUR LOYALTIES.**
- **COMMIT YOURSELF TO SEEKING THE TRUTH IMPARTIALLY. REMEMBER THAT OUR OWN EMOTIONS ARE ROOTED IN THE SOUL AND SUBJECT TO SINFUL INFLUENCES (PRIDE, AMBITION, DESIRES). THAT MIGHT PREJUDICE YOU TO ONE SIDE OR THE OTHER. TRY TO BE OBJECTIVE.**
- **WE CAN'T LOVE A PERSON WISELY OR WELL IF THE RELATIONSHIP ISN'T ROOTED IN TRUTHFULNESS. HONESTY MATTERS, EVEN IF IT IS PAINFUL, AND CAN BE OFFERED IN LOVING AND RESPECTFUL MANNERS.**
- **UNTIL WE FACE THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES AND OUR LOVED ONES, WE'RE IN NO POSITION TO HELP THEM. WE HAVE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THERE IS A PROBLEM BEFORE WE CAN BEGIN TO SOLVE IT. CAN YOU HELP A RELATIVE WITH A DRUG PROBLEM WITHOUT FIRST ADMITTING TO YOURSELF THAT THEY HAVE A DRUG PROBLEM?**

# LOVE SPEAKS THE TRUTH

***WHAT IS OUR LOVING RESPONSE WHEN WE DO  
ACKNOWLEDGE THE TRUTH IN A RELATIONAL CONFLICT?***

***DO WE SIT PASSIVELY AND SAY NOTHING? DO NOTHING  
FOR FEAR OF HURTING THEIR PRIDE, THEIR FEELINGS, OR  
OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THAT LOVED ONE?***

**WE CAN'T FORCE OTHERS TO RECEIVE THE TRUTH, BUT  
NEITHER CAN WE HELP THEM UNLESS WE TRY. HOW THEY  
RESPOND IS THEIR RESPONSIBILITY.**

- **IF OUR LOVED ONE IS ENDANGERED BY THEIR WORDS, EMOTIONS, OR ACTIONS—BY SINFUL BEHAVIOR—SHOULD WE NOT TELL THEM THAT THEY ARE IN TROUBLE?**
- **LOVE FOR THEIR WELL-BEING COMPELS US TO SPEAK THE TRUTH TO THEM IN RESPECT.**
- **WE SHOULD DO SO FOR THEIR PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL HEALTH AND PERHAPS TO SAVE THEIR LIVES OR THEIR SOULS.**
- **IT IS EASY TO LINGER IN OUR SINS, BUT AS LONG AS OUR LOVED ONE IS TRAPPED IN SIN, THEY ARE IN DANGER OF HARMING OTHERS OR THEMSELVES. THIS IS WHY JESUS IS ALWAYS HONEST ABOUT OUR SINFUL CONDITION.**
- **WHEN WE CANNOT ADMIT OUR SINFUL CONDITION, WE REJECT THE LOVE OF OTHERS, INCLUDING JESUS. WHY? BECAUSE WE ARE AWARE THAT SOMETHING IS WRONG WITH US AND WE FEEL UNWORTHY OF THEIR LOVE. CONVERSELY, WE BECOME MIRED IN SELF-PITY AND SELF-ABSORPTION AND PRIDE MAKES US CLING TO THAT HATRED.**



## ***LOVE GRIEVES FOR THE RIGHT REASONS***

**IT MAY HAPPEN THAT WE ARE CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF SOMEONE'S HATRED OF ANOTHER PERSON. THAT HATRED MAY END UP DIRECTED AT US AS WELL, WHETHER IN THE FORM OF PHYSICAL ATTACKS OR VERBAL ABUSE. THIS IS A PAINFUL SITUATION. HOW DO WE RESPOND? WE SEE THE SITUATION WITH CLARITY RATHER THAN TAKING SUCH BEHAVIOR TO HEART.**

- **WHEN SAUL'S HATRED TOWARDS DAVID RESULTED IN HIS ATTACKING HIS OWN SON, JONATHAN, FOR SUPPORTING DAVID, HOW DID JONATHAN RESPOND?**
- **RATHER THAN FEELING PERSONALLY REJECTED BY SAUL OR ANGRY WITH SAUL'S ATTACKS AGAINST HIM, JONATHAN'S CONCERN WAS SAUL'S SINFUL TREATMENT OF DAVID.**
- **JONATHAN ALSO KNEW THAT SAUL'S REBELLION AGAINST GOD HAD LED TO GOD'S REJECTION OF SAUL AS KING. JONATHAN GRIEVED THIS TRUTH. SAUL'S TREATMENT OF DAVID WAS PROOF THAT HE HAD REBELLED AGAINST GOD.**
  - **DAVID WAS NOT SAUL'S PROBLEM**
  - **JONATHAN WAS NOT SAUL'S PROBLEM**
  - **SAUL WAS SAUL'S PROBLEM. WE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR OUR OWN SINFUL BEHAVIORS AND REBELLIONS AGAINST GOD.**

## ***LOVE KNOWS ITS PRIORITIES***

- **WE WANT TO HELP WHEN WE SEE A PERSON MIRED IN SINFUL BEHAVIOR, PARTICULARLY IF THAT BEHAVIOR IS DIRECTED TOWARDS US. HOWEVER, WE MUST BE CAREFUL HOW WE RESPOND.**
- **OUR INSTINCT MAY BE TO “MAKE THAT PERSON HAPPY” (HOPING THE BEHAVIOR WILL STOP). BUT IS PLEASING THE SINFUL PERSON REALLY THE BEST OPTION? ENABLING THEIR BEHAVIOR WILL REINFORCE THE INSECURITIES AND REBELLION THAT MOTIVATES THEIR BEHAVIOR.**
- **ENABLING SINFUL BEHAVIOR DOES NOT HONOR GOD. WE NEED TO CONSIDER THE SITUATION FROM GOD’S PERSPECTIVE.**

## ***LOVE TEMPERS ANGER***

- **IT IS NOT ALWAYS WRONG TO EXPERIENCE ANGER. IT IS POSSIBLE TO BE ANGRY AND YET STILL BE LOVING TOWARDS OTHERS.**
- **ANGER MOTIVATED BY SELF-INDULGENCE AND SELF-PITY IS HARMFUL BECAUSE IT LEADS US TO LASH OUT AT OTHERS.**
- **ANGER MOTIVATED BY “RIGHTEOUS INDIGNATION” OR SO-CALLED PIETY CAN BE HARMFUL AND LEAD US TO LASH OUT AT OTHERS.**
- **WE ARE NOT FREE TO RESPOND TO RAGE WITH RAGE. GOD EXPECTS US TO ALWAYS TREAT OTHERS WITH LOVE AND RESPECT. THIS IS NOT WEAKNESS BUT RATHER SELF-CONTROL, WHICH IS A FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.**



## ***LOVE IS SACRIFICIAL***

**JONATHAN'S PRIORITY WAS NOT SECURING HIS PLACE ON THE THRONE OF SAUL. HIS PRIORITY WAS NOT MAKING SAUL HAPPY. HIS PRIORITY WAS RIGHTEOUSNESS AND JUSTICE AND FAITHFULNESS TO HIS COVENANT OF FRIENDSHIP WITH DAVID.**

**TO THAT END, JONATHAN ONLY ASKED DAVID'S LOYALTY IN RETURN (LOYALTY THAT WOULD EXTEND TO JONATHAN'S FAMILY). IN TURN, DAVID KNEW THAT TO FLEE SAUL MEANT LEAVING HIS FRIEND BEHIND.**

- **THERE IS SOMETIMES A PRICE TO BE PAID FOR LOVE OF GOD AND LOVE OF THEIR NEIGHBOR.**
- **THE BIBLE GIVES US EXAMPLES OF MEN AND WOMEN WHO ARE WILLING TO SACRIFICE FOR OTHERS.**
  - **RUTH LEFT HER OWN COUNTRY TO STAY WITH HER MOTHER-IN-LAW, NAOMI.**
  - **RAHAB ABANDONED HER PAGAN CITY OF JERICO OUT OF FEAR AND OBEDIENCE TO THE LORD.**
  - **ESTHER RISKED HER LIFE TO PLEAD WITH THE PERSIAN KING FOR MERCY UPON HER PEOPLE.**
  - **JESUS CHRIST BECAME HUMAN AND DIED ON THE CROSS TO ATONE FOR THE SINS OF ALL MANKIND.**
  - **THE LOVE OF GOD IS FOR ALL OF US, AND IT REMINDS US THAT WHAT SETS US FREE IN THE FACE OF SIN AND SHORT-COMINGS (OUR OWN SIN OR OTHERS' SINS) IS THE KNOWLEDGE THAT GOD LOVES US WITHOUT LIMIT, SO MUCH THAT HE SENT JESUS TO DIE THAT WE MIGHT BE SAVED.**

# THE TYPES OF LOVE FOUND IN THE BIBLE

## **EROS - ROMANTIC**

**EXAMPLE: SAMPSON (BOOK OF JUDGES) AND DAVID AND BATHSHEBA (1 KINGS).**

**THIS LOVE COMES FROM INTENSE PASSION OR SEXUAL DESIRE. THIS LOVE IS ROOTED IN THE BODY OR FLESH, WHICH MEANS THAT IT MAKES US VULNERABLE TO SINFUL BEHAVIORS. AS WE SEE WITH SAMPSON AND DAVID, IT CAN LEAD TO HATRED, REVENGE, DECEPTION, BETRAYAL, AND VIOLENCE.**

## **PHILIA - AFFECTIONATE**

**EXAMPLE: JESUS AND THE APOSTLES, JONATHAN AND DAVID**

**LOVE AND GOODWILL BETWEEN THOSE WE RESPECT AND ADMIRE. FRIENDSHIP IS GROUNDED IN PHILIA LOVE.**

## **STORGE - FAMILIAR**

**EXAMPLE: GOD AND JESUS, JACOB AND HIS SONS, JAIRUS AND HIS DAUGHTER, NAOMI AND RUTH, MALACHI AND ESTHER**

**THIS IS LOVE LIKE FEELINGS FOR A FAMILY; A STRONG BOND THAT CANNOT BE BROKEN EASILY.**

**THE MOST OBVIOUS EXAMPLE IN THE BIBLE IS GOD'S GREAT LOVE FOR HIS BELOVED SON, JESUS (MATTHEW 3:17)**

# THE TYPES OF LOVE FOUND IN THE BIBLE

## **PRAGMA - ENDURING**

**EXAMPLE: RUTH AND BOAZ (BOOK OF RUTH),  
ABRAM AND SARAI (BOOK OF GENESIS).**

**LOVE THAT MATURES AND DEEPENS AS TIME  
PASSES (LIKE A COUPLE THAT HAS BEEN  
MARRIED FOR MANY DECADES). A CERTAIN  
PRAGMATIC ELEMENT HAS ENTERED INTO THIS  
LOVE. IT ENDURES THE TURBULENCE AND  
TESTS OF DAILY LIFE.**

## **PHILAUTIA – SELF- COMPASSION**

**EXAMPLE: DANIEL**

**SELF-LOVE CAN BECOME UNHEALTHY, AS WE SEE  
WITH THE CASE OF SAUL. HOWEVER, PHILAUTIA IS  
MORE LIKE HIGH SELF-ESTEEM (WHICH, AGAIN,  
CAN GET US INTO TROUBLE IF WE ARE NOT  
CAREFUL). IT IS TAKING CARE OF OURSELVES  
PHYSICALLY, MENTALLY, SPIRITUALLY. IN  
CAPTIVITY, DANIEL AND HIS FRIENDS CARED FOR  
THEIR SPIRITUAL HEALTH BY REJECTING MEAT  
SACRIFICED TO IDOLS, BUT ALSO CARED FOR  
THEMSELVES PHYSICALLY BY EATING VEGETABLES.**

## **LUDAS - PLAYFUL**

**EXAMPLE: SONG OF SOLOMON**

**THE FLIRTY, NERVOUS, LONGING, EARLY PHASE  
OF LOVE.**

# THE TYPES OF LOVE FOUND IN THE BIBLE

## AGAPE - UNCONDITIONAL

**EXAMPLE: JESUS CHRIST**

**PERHAPS THE MOST IMPORTANT FORM OF LOVE FOUND IN THE BIBLE, MANIFESTED BY THE LIFE OF CHRIST. HE DISPLAYED THIS LOVE IN HIS EVERY ACT OF COMPASSION, HEALING, EVEN WHEN HE DISCIPLINED OTHERS.**

**THIS IS THE LOVE THAT CHRISTIANS ARE CALLED TO FEEL FOR OTHERS.**

**UNIVERSAL (LOVE FOR ALL MEN)**

**ALTRUISTIC**

**UNCONDITIONAL**

**SELFLESS**

***"JESUS SAID TO HIM, 'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.***

***THIS IS THE FIRST AND GREAT COMMANDMENT. AND THE SECOND IS LIKE IT: YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.'" (MATTHEW 22:37-39)***

# REFERENCES FOR THIS LESSON:

- ***“A HEART FOR GOD”, REBECCA MANLEY PIPPERT, IVP BOOKS, 1996***
- ***“THE 7 TYPES OF LOVE IN THE BIBLE”, STEPPES OF FAITH, FEBRUARY 14, 2020***