

Cultivating A Heart That Loves

Matt 24:12 “And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold.”

- grow cold, shows that this is a process, not an instant change
- this is something that we need to guard against
- our zeal for righteousness can lead to a heart that is hard towards others

Jonah's love had grown cold:

Jonah 4:2b “That is why I made haste to Tarshish; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster.”

- He saw the wickedness around him
- He had no compassion
- He desired judgement for the wicked
- He was angry when people repented
- His heart was far away from the heart of God

How do we protect our hearts?

- Having an eternal perspective

Psalm 73:17 “I went into the sanctuary of God and I discerned their end.”

- We get excited about the reality of Gods kingdom, but Hell is just as real.
- When we keep in mind that people are headed towards Hell, how could we not be moved with compassion.
- When we keep eternity in mind, we begin to be able to see through what people do and see them for who they are. People created by God. People that He loves and died for.

This is what Jesus did

Luke 19:1-10

Zaccheaus

-Everyone saw a sinner.

-Jesus saw a lost person who needed a savior

Another way to cultivate love is to be gospel focused.

-Its hard to hold a grudge when we keep in mind that we have been forgiven of so much.

Colossians 3:13 "Bearing with one another and if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other, as the Lord has forgiven you so you must also forgive.

Ephesians 4:32 Be Kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

The parable of the man in debt.

Matthew 18:23-38

-The man owed the king 10,000 talents.

-The man begged for mercy and the king forgave the debt.

-The same man went to someone who owed him 100 denarii.

-He refused to forgive that debt and had the man thrown in jail.

-When the king heard about this, he was angry and had the man put in prison.

We have all been forgiven so much and God has given us so much and even promised us even greater reward. When we look at the Fathers love towards us, how can we not extend that love to others.

If we let our love grow cold we make ourselves ineffective in the Kingdom of God.

I Corinthians 13:1-3

These are things that we seek in our spiritual lives.

- To prophesy and speak in tongues.
- To understand the mystery of God.
- To grow in faith.
- To be generous.
- To be bold until the end.

This scripture tells us that if we do these things but don't have love, we have gained nothing.