

Illogical Love: Part 6- The Most Illogical Love

Luke 15:1-2 and 11-24; 1 John 4:10; 1 John 1:9; John 1:12-13

I. ME

- A. Review
 - 1. Series
 - 2. Marriage, Family, Work, Conflict
 - 3. Go back and watch
- B. True love is illogical
 - 1. It's a choice. Not a feeling
 - 2. Based on submission- willingly giving all of me for what benefits you the most.
- C. One relationship that we've only touched on
 - 1. It's the theme that's been running throughout... just behind the scenes.
 - 2. Relationship that affects every other...glue that holds all of them together
 - 3. Get this one right and you **can** get all of them right
 - 4. For many it's the most illusive/frustrating/illogical
 - 5. Our Relationship with God
 - 6. **A healthy relationship with God paves the way for healthy relationships with others.**
 - 7. The key to it all is the most illogical love ever seen.

II. WE

A. Two main views on a relationship with God

- 1. **Skeptic**- God doesn't care. Uninterested. We can never know for sure what he wants or is like.
 - a. Leads to fear of unknown- Maybe you're in maybe you're out
 - b. Does anything really matter?
 - 2. **Religious**- God really cares how you act. Waiting to get you. Do everything you can to make him like you.
 - a. Leads to fear of unknown- maybe you're in maybe you're out?
 - b. Extreme rule following.
 - c. Hypocrisy
 - d. Judgmentalism
 - 3. How every religion (ancient or modern) sees a relationship with God.
 - 4. We all tend to lean one way or the other
- B. There's another view... the illogical one.
- 1. Doesn't make any sense.
 - 2. But it's the one Jesus taught.
 - 3. It's so illogical that he had to prove it.
- C. A lot of the confusion and differences between these views has to do with the idea of **SIN**.
- 1. Breaking **the law of love**.
 - a. **Love God. Love your neighbor.**
 - 2. Sinner- Someone who knows better but does it anyway.
 - 3. We've all sinned. We're all sinners.

D. And **sin makes us** do one of two things... **hide or bribe**.

1. We either try to hide from God.
 - a. Say, "Oh he doesn't care, he doesn't exist"
 - b. Or just really not allow ourselves to think those deep thoughts... shut them out.
2. Or we try to bribe him
 - a. "I'll do these good things so you won't punish me"
 - b. "I won't do these bad things so you'll like me"
 - c. "Hopefully my good will outweigh my bad enough to convince you to like me."
3. Think about it, neither of these responses do anything to give us a healthy relationship with God.
 - a. Would it be a healthy way to interact with other people?
 - b. Can't have a healthy relationship if you are always hiding or bribing.
 - c. There would always be something between you... separating you.

d. Hiding and bribing separate us from our Heavenly Father

- E. So what do we do?
1. Jesus actually told us the solution.
 2. It's not hide or bribe... it's admitting and trusting.
 3. Whenever Jesus talked about sin (it was a lot) it was always in the context of restoration... restoring a healthy relationship with God.

III. GOD (Luke 15:1-3 and 11-24)

A. Background

1. One day Jesus is surrounded by two groups of people... those who were trying to hide (skeptics) and those who were trying to bribe (religious)
2. And he realized neither of these groups really knew what it meant to have a healthy relationship with God. And How God actually viewed sin.
3. So he told three stories about lost things... things that were separated from their proper place.
 - a. Sheep, coin...
4. Son.
5. Completely turned how people view God and a relationship with him upside down.

B. Luke 15:1-3

1. The two groups.

C. Luke 15:11-12

1. "You just won't die... give me my share."
2. Deserved to be stoned under their laws...

D. Luke 15:13-16

1. Relationship is broken
2. Tries to do everything he can to hide

E. Luke 15:17

1. Realizes hiding is not working out

F. Luke 15:18-19

1. Is honest that he broke the relationship
2. Acknowledges that he has SINNED... "I have sinned"- Maybe someone here has never uttered those words...
3. So he's going to try a new tactic... bribe.
4. He's gotta try to make up for what he did.
5. He knows life is better with his father (everyone listening knew father represented God).
 - a. Revolutionary idea.
6. But the father is going to be mad (only logical conclusion)... so he's gonna have to earn his father's approval. And grovel and slave away.
7. **But he obviously didn't know his father very well.**

G. Luke 15:20

1. Is the Father mad? (Extrapolate)
2. "While he was still a long way off."
3. "Filled with compassion"
4. **God is not mad at you.**
5. **He is broken hearted over the separation sin has caused.**
6. He longs for you to be restored to Him.

H. Luke 15:21-24

1. Son tries to give his speech but the Father doesn't even listen.
2. There's no, "I told you so." Or "How dare you think you can come back." Or "Do you know what this did to your mother?"
3. There's no need.
4. The son has admitted that he broke the relationship and now the father is ready to celebrate that they are restored.

5. The father never stopped loving his son... he was just waiting for the son to be willing to restore the relationship.

- I. Hiding and bribing do nothing about our sin, they only separate us from our Heavenly Father.

1. Admitting our sin does everything.

2. Admitting our sin brings forgiveness and restoration.

3. Why is it so simple? Why is that all it takes?
 - a. If God is really a good God, why does he let all the hurt and evil we've done to others just go? Why don't we have to grovel, and work, and bribe?
 - b. B/C... The work has already been done for you.

c. 1 John 4:10 (NLT)

J. Gospel

1. Grace
 - a. Can't earn it, don't deserve it
2. Sin
 - a. Can't do anything about it ourselves.
3. God
4. Jesus
5. Faith
 - a. It's a choice
 - b. Not forced

K. God's love is so illogical b/c it's so simple

L. It's illogical b/c it's so undeserved

M. It's illogical b/c it's so powerful.

IV. YOU

A. God's love is illogical but it's true.

1. We don't have to hide
2. We don't have to bribe.

3. We simply have to admit and trust.

B. It's time to make a choice

1. Choose to trust His illogical love.
2. "It's too easy!" I told you it's illogical.
3. Admit and trust
4. If you've never had a moment in your life...

C. Maybe you have before... Know and rely on His love.

1. John 1:12-13

2. Might be time to renew that trust.
3. Stop trying to bribe and simply rely on his illogical love.

V. WE

A. **Having a healthy relationship with God paves the way for healthy relationships with others...**

B. B/c of God's illogical love

1. We can submit to others b/c he submitted for us
2. We can serve b/c he has served us
3. We can forgive b/c he forgave us
4. We can truly and illogically love b/c true illogical love died for us

C. Pray