

Loving God Series Part 4 - Loving God with all your Strength!

Mark 12:28-31

Here in Mark Ch.12 the religious leaders have been trying to trip of Jesus with an array of questions

A) Questions about Loyalties – God / Caesar
Questions about the after life

B) Jesus is passing the test in flying colors –
Mark 12:28

Then one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, perceiving that He had answered them well, asked Him, "Which is the first commandment of all?"

C) Another tricky question: See there were 613 laws in the Law of Moses - Odds 613-1

29 Jesus answered him, "The first of all the commandments is: 'Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one. 30 And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment. 31 And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

Jesus tells us that of the 613 laws - and the 10 commandments God gave to Moses - the most important is LOVE GOD

A) But Jesus doesn't leave it at that. He also tells us how to love God...We're to love the Lord in 4 ways...

Heart/ Soul/ Mind / Strength

B) Pt Loving God with your whole person –

1) Every capacity of our lives expressing a fullness of affection.

2) First 3 weeks

C) **With all our heart** (our desires)

Something that you do that is all out – With all the heart

D) **With all our soul** (our emotions)

{Pouring out to God what is on the inside of us – being real with God

E) **With all our mind** (our thoughts)

1) Loving God with our mental capacities – How we think – what we think about

Today we are going to finish up by talking about Loving God with all our Strength!

A) What does it mean to Love God with all of our Strength? 4-5 ideas

B) 1st Love manifested by Actions Effort, Energy

It reminds me of the father who came home from work on a Friday night.

He was dog tired. Say in the south, “He’d been worked harder than a borrowed mule.”

It had really been a rough week. All he wanted to do was curl up in the lazy boy for a minute or two, and read the newspaper.

This dad needed just a few minutes of rest & relaxation

But no sooner had ole dad plopped down in his chair that his four year old little boy came bounding in the room - *so glad to see him.*

At first the little guy just stood there looking up at his pooped-out father. Finally the little guy said, “Daddy, I love you.” And from behind the newspaper the dad groaned, “I love you too, son.”

At last the little boy raced toward his dad, and dove into his lap - ripping and crumpling up the newspaper. The unexpected dive almost knocked the dad over.

After regaining his balance, he scolded his son, “Oh, come on buddy, why did you do a thing like that?” That’s when his little guy answered him, “Dad, I love you so much I couldn’t just stand here. I had to do something about it.”

C) Same idea here: If we really love God we can’t just stand there... *We’ve got to do something about it.*

D) See Real faith is not a passive faith. It’s an active faith. James 2:20 “Faith without works is dead!”

1) Not saved by our works but our faith is to be a faith that works.

3) 1 John 3:18 “Love not just in word but also in deed.”

E) Love that says: I want to show you my love

1) Seen in actions / activities / Service

1st A Love that responds:

A) Love that wants to Please – Marked by Obedience

B) What is your Master Passion? What is your Masters Passion?

1) Your answer to the first question is going to be linked to your answer to the 2nd question

C) Your Master Passion is going to be determined by who is your Master

1) If your Master is Money – Your Master Passion is going to be to make more of it –

2) Get is much as you can & can all you get

C) If your Master is your Boss – your employer –

1) Your Master Passion is going to be to make him happy

D) If your Master is a Hobby – Your master passion is going to be to be involved w/ that hobby

But if JESUS is your MASTER – then your Passion is going to be Live for Him – please Him.

A) Love that responds to His wishes and desires

B) **This was the kind of love King David's soldiers had for him.**

1) During a war with the Philistines, a couple of David's men overheard David wishing ...Beth

C) Problem was the enemy the Philistines were camped out at Bethlehem

1) But that didn't stop these guys – They risked their lives to go to Bethlehem – break thru – draw water well

D) That would be like me thinking out loud – What I could really use is a bowl of New England ...Chowder
1) Aaron my son – hops in his Car – Drives 3,000 miles 72hrs to New England / Bowl of Chowder

2) **72hrs back another 3000 to get it to me!**

E) **That would be impressive! What incredible love!**

That is the kind of love three of David's men had for him...

A) When they hear David verbalize his longing for a cup of water from the well in Beth: They respond

B) Here were men who didn't just talk about their love for David – they love him with their strength.

1) This is how God want us to love Him... with all our strength.

C) We hear his heart beat and we respond

1) God's commandments are His enablements

D) **Bondslave** – Choice to be a Willing servant for life

1) Responds out of love for his master

2nd A Love that Gives!

A) Mary's costly ointment- a yrs Salary: Extravagant love!

B) **It was a sacrifice: It was an extravagant gift.**

1) But it was worth it to her – in order to bless Jesus

C) Loving God with our Strengths!

You have a Talent / gifts – God has made you a Steward –

A) Loving God with all your Strength is using that Talent – to Bless Him / Bless others

B) Don't know what your Talent is – Ask – someone who will be honest – AMERICAN IDOL.

C) Gifts – Talents {Parable – two men used their talent – Blessed with More

D) One man buried his! Lost it

1) An unused talent / gift is a buried talent

E) Paul wrote to Timothy – Stir up the gift

What is your talent:

A) Writing – send letters / email to encourage missionaries

B) Music – use it in Worship – Kids Ministry

1) Home groups –

Mechanical – Bless the Lord – by being honest

A) Thankful to the brothers here – Work on cars – recommend – Honest guys

B) Good with kids – teach Sunday School

C) Whatever it is that you are gifted in you show your love for the Lord by using that gift to serve Him

1) Giving of yourself

Not just Talents – but also Time!

A) God isn't looking for ability as much as availability

B) Loving God with all of my strength means I am willing to invest my time/ my energy/ my effort into the things that interest him.

C) As a parent: I love my kids – because I love my kids I have invested time in their interest

1) Coached youth Sports – Wasn't so much that I loved doing it.

D) Often times the kids were Squirrely - tried my patience –

1) Some of the parents were obnoxious and demanding – got on my nerves –

D) But I did it for a long time {One reason – I loved my kids and I wanted to invest in their interest

Loving God with all of our Strength means –we are going to willing to invest our time in the things that interest him – His Kingdom – Serving others

A) Teaching kids / giving of our lives

B) Another thing that is a part of your Strength are your resources! -

C) Later in Mark 12, Jesus noticed the people putting their money in the Temple offering box.

1) The rich Jews were making a show of their large contributions..... And Now.....

D) They wanted everyone to see how much they were giving to God.

1) But Jesus looked right past these people and pointed to a poor widow who dropped in only a few pennies.

Jesus told His disciples, “Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury; for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty.”

Mark 12:43

A) The same can be said for our strength...

B) God doesn't care if your strength is only like a few pennies

1) As long as you love Him with all the strength you can muster.

4th Loves in all seasons; Not a Fair weather love

A) The Brazilian word for a person with perseverance is “garra.”

B) Look up the word “garra” in a Portuguese dictionary and you'll discover it's the word for fingernails.

1) It literally means “to dig in and hold on”.

2) It's the person who's hanging in.

C) This is what the writer of Hebrews says to us, “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.” Hebrews 10:23

D) In other words dig in to the promises of God with your fingernails.

1) Hold on with all the strength you can muster.

2) Don't trust God passively.

The popular author, Stuart Briscoe, talks about a 10,000 meter race he ran in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

A) The race started with 24,998 people.

B) Since it was the city of Milwaukee there was one guy dressed up like a beer bottle.

Another guy wore a banana suit.

Another fellow came decked out as a bunch of grapes.

C) AND Before the race the banana was shaking hands with people in the crowd.

1) But as the race progressed things changed.

After a quarter mile the banana and beer bottle were hanging over a fence – neither was looking very good.

D) After a mile, there was no more clattering and laughing and joking.

1) After the second mile the only sound you heard was labored breathing.

E) After the fourth mile it was so quiet you could hear the birds sing.

1) After 6.2 miles people were dribbling in one at a time, and not many of them.

Briscoe draws a moral from the story, “You get all kinds of people goofing off at the start, but that doesn't count. Finishing is what counts / and disciples of Jesus keep at it.”

F) Do you love God with a persevering faith? Or are you a fair weather Disciple?

From the diary of John Wesley

Sunday Morning, May 5

Preached in St. Anne's. Was asked not to come back anymore.

Sunday Evening, May 5

Preached in St. John's. Deacons said, "Get out and stay out."

Sunday Morning, May 12

Preached in St. Jude's. Can't go back there either.

Sunday Evening, May 12

Preached in St. George's. Kicked out again.

Sunday Morning, May 19

Preached in St. Mary's. Deacons called special meeting and said I couldn't return.

Sunday Evening, May 19

Preached on street. Kicked off street.

Sunday Morning, May 26

Preached in meadow. Chased out of meadow as bull was turned loose during the service.

Sunday Morning, June 2

Preached out at the edge of town. Kicked off highway.

Sunday Afternoon, June 2

Preached in a pasture. 10,000 people came out to hear me.

Does your faith have fingernails? Does your faith take action? Are you loving God with all your strength?

A) Love that loves thru the dry seasons of ministry.

B) Rob V Amazing –

**1) Jeff Stewart – Amazing 2hrs later – sound down
Just into the day!**

Close Romans 12