

UNDERSTANDING GOD'S HEART

Ashes To Easter – Lent 2

February 24, 2013

Lent provides up with a unique opportunity to understand the heart of God.

Luke 9:51 (NIV) “As the time approached for Him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem.”

WHAT IS GOD'S LOVE LIKE?

1. His love is FEARLESS.

Luke 13:31 (NIV) “At that time some Pharisees came to Jesus and said to Him, ‘Leave this place and go somewhere else. Herod wants to kill You.’”

Luke 9:7 (NIV) “Now Herod the tetrarch heard about all that was going on. And he was perplexed, because some were saying that John had been raised from the dead...”

Luke 13:32-33 (NIV) “He replied, ‘Go tell that fox, I will drive out demons and heal people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach My goal. ³³ In any case, I must keep going today and tomorrow and the next day--for surely no prophet can die outside Jerusalem!’”

The SAFEST place in the world is in the center of God's will.

2. His love is PROTECTIVE.

Luke 13:34 (NIV) “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!”

Psalms 91:1 & 4 (TNIV) “Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. ⁴ He will cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you will find refuge; His faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.”

The CHOICE is yours to accept the shelter and protection of God's wings or to go it on your own.

Ephesians 1:3b-5a (NCV) “In Christ, God has given us every spiritual blessing in the heavenly world. ⁴ That is, in Christ, He chose us before the world was made so that we would be His holy people--people without blame before Him. ⁵ Because of His love, God had already decided to make us His own children through Jesus Christ.”

3. His love has CONSEQUENCES.

John 14:5-6 (NIV) “Thomas said to Him, ‘Lord, we don't know where You are going, so how can we know the way?’ ⁶ Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’”

Luke 13:35 (NIV) “Look, your house is left to you desolate. I tell you, you will not see Me again until you say, ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

Philippians 2:10-11 (NIV) “At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Ways People Respond To God's Love...

- Some respond with REJECTION.
- Some respond with INDIFFERENCE.
- Some respond with ACCEPTANCE.

Romans 5:6-8 (NCV) “When we were unable to help ourselves, at the moment of our need, Christ died for us, although we were living against God. ⁷ Very few people will die to save the life of someone else... ⁸ But God shows His great love for us in this way: Christ died for us while we were still sinners.”

Jude 1:21 (NIV) “Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.”