

If God So Loved Us...
“Relentless Love”

Introduction: Today we begin a new series (Advent)

Advent-“coming” or “arrival”

- ✓ Focus is the celebration of Christ’s birth
- ✓ Anticipation of His Second Coming
- ✓ Marked by a spirit of expectation, preparation, longing for His coming
- ✓ The candles represent hope, peace, love, and joy

Possibly one of the great Advent texts of all time...

In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. 10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 1 John 4:9-11 NKJV

NOTE: *The sending of God’s son in the incarnation was the manifestation of God’s love (reminiscent of John 3:16-“For God so Loved...”)*

Manifested-“phaneroo” (revealed)

- ✓ Disclosure of things formally hidden
- ✓ Christ was the unveiling of God’s heart
- ✓ In His coming, the love of God was displayed to the world
- ✓ This the focus of the next 4 weeks

If God So Loved...

(What is Thy love?)

Next week: Selfless Love

December 11: Messy Love

December 18: Conquering Love

Today: Relentless Love

NOTE: *All 4 aspects of this revelation are clearly unfolded in Paul’s description-1 Corinthians 13*

Take as our text-today (Relentless Love)

“Love suffers long and is kind” (Patient and kind)

G.K. Chesterton-“The furious love of God”
(The only God that loves sinners)

What does the relentless love of God look like?

Four aspects

I. God's Relentless Love Never Grows Weary

A. Human love will wear thin after a while

NOTE: Peter's question-“how many times must I forgive?” (Matthew 18:21)

✓ A limit is clearly identified

B. Not so with Divine Love

C.S. Lewis “...though our feelings come and go, His love for us does not. It is not wearied by our sins, or our indifferences, and therefore, it is quite relentless in its determination that we shall be cured of those sins, at whatever cost to Him.”

Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, The Creator of the ends of the earth, Neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable. Isaiah 40:28 NKJV

C. Storied history of Israel as a people

1. Wilderness wandering/rebellion
2. Kingdom/Divided
3. Idolatry/Fall of the North/South

"At the same time," says the LORD, "I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be My people." 2 Thus says the LORD: "The people who survived the sword Found grace in the wilderness — Israel, when I went to give him rest." 3 The LORD has appeared of old to me, saying: "Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you. Jeremiah 31:1-3 NKJV

But Zion said, "The LORD has forsaken me, And my Lord has forgotten me." 15 "Can a woman forget her nursing child, And not have compassion on the son of her womb? Surely they may forget, Yet I will not forget you. 16 See, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands; Your walls are continually before Me. Isaiah 49:14-16 NKJV

(I have continued to draw you-“chesed”-steadfast love!) Compare to our temperamental love.

Three truths

- ✓ We should exercise our own memory of the Lord's faithfulness rather than accusing the Lord of losing His!
- ✓ The love of God transcends in permanence, the best this world can offer (mother and child)!
- ✓ The value of our lives is not determined by what others say, but by the place we occupy in the heart of God!

HIS RELENTLESS LOVE NEVER GROWS WEARY!

II. God's Relentless Love is Never Deterred by Obstacles

But He needed to go through Samaria. John 4:4 NKJV

To meet this one lady!

- A. Obstacle of her worldly value
- B. Obstacle of his personal reputation
- C. Obstacle of religious criticism
- D. Obstacle of her past

NONE COULD DETER THE RELENTLESS LOVE OF GOD!

III. God's Relentless Love Never Stops Pursuing

A. Hosea-prophet-God describes his love for His people as marital love

1. God tells Hosea to take a harlot (Gomer) for his wife

When the LORD began to speak by Hosea, the LORD said to Hosea: "Go, take yourself a wife of harlotry And children of harlotry, For the land has committed great harlotry

By departing from the LORD." Hosea 1:2 NKJV

(Some he knew would be unfaithful)

2. It was to show Israel how unfaithful they had been
3. How unfaithful had Israel become?
 - a. No faithfulness, kindness, or knowledge of Him (4:1)
 - b. Swearing, deception, murder, stealing, sexual vice (4:2)
 - c. Prophets and priests were corrupt (4:4)
 - d. Priests no longer taught the knowledge of God (4:6)
 - e. Religious leaders had become greedy opportunists (4:7)

- f. Harlotry and drunkenness (4:11)
- g. Idol worshippers (4:12)
- h. Human Sacrifices (2 Kings 17)

B. Early part of marriage

So he went and took Gomer the daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son. 4 Then the LORD said to him: "Call his name Jezreel, For in a little while I will avenge the bloodshed of Jezreel on the house of Jehu, And bring an end to the kingdom of the house of Israel. 5 It shall come to pass in that day That I will break the bow of Israel in the Valley of Jezreel." 6 And she conceived again and bore a daughter. Then God said to him: "Call her name Lo-Ruhamah, For I will no longer have mercy on the house of Israel, But I will utterly take them away. 7 Yet I will have mercy on the house of Judah, Will save them by the LORD their God, And will not save them by bow, Nor by sword or battle, By horses or horsemen." 8 Now when she had weaned Lo-Ruhamah, she conceived and bore a son. 9 Then God said: "Call his name Lo-Ammi, For you are not My people, And I will not be your God. Hosea 1:3-9 NKJV

- 1. Married and 3 children-each name represented some aspect of God's relationship with Israel

C. After three children-Gomer returns to harlotry

For their mother has played the harlot; She who conceived them has behaved shamefully. For she said, 'I will go after my lovers, Who give me my bread and my water, My wool and my linen, My oil and my drink.' Hosea 2:5 NKJV

- D. Eventually her love would send her into slavery (used up, worn out, wasted by her lifestyle)
- E. God's comment to Hosea-buy her back

Then the LORD said to me, "Go again, love a woman who is loved by a lover and is committing adultery, just like the love of the LORD for the children of Israel, who look to other gods and love the raisin cakes of the pagans." 2 So I bought her for myself for fifteen shekels of silver, and one and one-half homers of barley. 3 And I said to her, "You shall stay with me many days; you shall not play the harlot, nor shall you have a man — so, too, will I be toward you." Hosea 3:1-3 NKJV

F. Personal Lessons

- 1. Some have walked close to the Lord—took your eyes off Him for a while—then hours, then days, months, years
- 2. You used to hear His voice—but the silence is now deafening
- 3. But God has never stopped loving you. NEVER-NEVER STOPPED pursuing you

HIS RELENTLESS LOVE NEVER STOPS! PURSUING!

IV. God's Relentless Love Never Gives Up

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? 33 Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." 37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. 38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:31-39 NKJV

Conclusion: How relentless His love is...

In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 1 John 4:10 NKJV

Patient and kind (never grows weary, obstacles don't deter, never stops pursuing, never quits)

(ILL) Carrots, eggs, coffee beans in boiling water

Adversity, pain, struggle, failure, self-inflicted

- ✓ Carrots hard-now soft
- ✓ Egg fragile, shell protected, liquid inside-boiling water the inside hardened
- ✓ Coffee beans changed the water

His Relentless love wants you not to give up!

- ✓ Not get soft or beaten
- ✓ Not get hardened
- ✓ But change your world

Jesus-His Relentless Love-Crucified, but changed the world