

When Love Becomes Muddy

POINTS TO PONDER:

- Why do you think God would ever complain?
- It seems if God were love, He would never have a complaint.
- What could be so important to God that He would complain?
- It's possible that love can become muddy over time.
- Other things we have to deal with in life can cause us to 'justifiably neglect' the love that is so necessary in any relationship.

SCRIPTURE READING Revelation. 2:1 – 5

- Jesus has one complaint. Imagine that - God is complaining.
- His registered complaint: **You don't love Me like you did at first.**
- Jesus is not complaining about all your issues.
- He's not picking on you and nit-picking over all your issues.
- He just wants you to love Him like you once did.

Why do you think Jesus registered this complaint?

What do you think Jesus was looking for?

SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 22:36 – 38

- Jesus said this is the "most important commandment of them all."
- Love God first and most (with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength)
- The Heart = all your core being
- The Soul = all your decisions and will
- The Mind = all your thoughts
- Strength = all your energy.

How do we fall out of love with Him?

- It starts in your mind, your thoughts. Your thinking begins to change.
- Next, your decisions change. You begin to live selfishly.
- Finally, the core of you love is affected. You and your needs have pushed God aside.

Can you think of ways your thoughts have changed about Jesus through the years?

What are some ways we think that could hinder that love?

How do our decisions reflect the depth of our love for Jesus?

Why is it so easy to 'justify neglecting' God? Other things just become too necessary in the moment.

JUSTIFIABLE NEGLECT = The needful things I must deal with in life that soon take precedence over God in my life. **Can you name some?**

SCRIPTURE READING: Acts 19:1 – 27

What does it look like to "Love Jesus like you once did"?

This passage of Scripture is concerning the Church at Ephesus. This is the church Jesus was addressing above. Jesus had registered a complaint against them that they didn't love Him like they did at first. This passage of Scripture gives us insight into how they loved Jesus at when they first became believers.

- They were FILLED with His Spirit. (1-6)
- They HUNGERED for God's Word. (10)
- God's POWER was demonstrated often. (11-12)
- Jesus' name was GREATLY HONORED. (17)
- They CONFESSED sinful practices. (18)
- Jesus held more VALUE than their stuff. (19)
- Their faith IMPACTED their community. (23-41)

Look at the CAP WORDS again. Take long note of them:
FILLED, HUNGRY, POWER, HONOR, CONFESSION, VALUE, IMPACT.

Could this be a sign of FIRST LOVE?

How do these words demonstrate the depth and sincerity of our love?