

ULC Sermon Study Resource
Summer Wisdom: Wisdom for Love
Pastor Marcus
August 2, 2020

Prayer: Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

Icebreaker: What is a guilty pleasure of yours? OR What is something unique that you love to do?

Reading: Proverbs 4:23-26, 13:19, 20:5, 23:17-18 27:19

Outline:

- I. What we love shapes our actions. (4:23-26)
 - a. Pay attention to your desires; your heart directs your actions.
 - b. Be wary of prosperity and comfort as it can breed pride and a love of self.
Q: How do we guard our hearts while also living a genuine, loving life?
- II. Discern what is worth loving. (13:19, 20:5, 23:17-18)
 - a. We sin when we love wrongly, when good things become our ultimate love. Resist the cultural idea of “free love” (that there’s freedom in loving whatever you want).
 - b. Willingness to discern what’s worth loving takes patience, curiosity, and humility.
Q: How do we “draw out” the purpose in our hearts?
- III. Find ultimate love in God.
 - a. When you discover what God and His kingdom are really like, everything else pales in comparison. No other love has loved you like Jesus has through His sacrifice for you.
 - b. Love and pursue God. Let Him begin the process of reordering your desires and actions around the ultimate love of Jesus.

Reflection/Application Questions:

- 1) What do you prioritize above God? How does that shape your actions?
- 2) Do you trust in your own might/ love yourself first?
- 3) Do you buy into the idea of “free love?” Do you think you do a good job of guarding your heart?
- 4) How are you loving God in your life right now, and how can you better love Him?
- 5) What other love is God calling you to surrender to Him?

Suggestions for further study:

- *Matthew 12:33-37 Q: Since all sin, is it possible for us to be “good?” How can we improve?*
- *Ephesians 3:14-21Q: What are we comprehending, and why do we need strength for it?*
- *Matthew 13: 44-46 Q: What’s the (lack of) logic of those in the story? How can we apply it?*

Closing Prayer: *Gracious God, we have allowed so many things to steal our affections and be our ultimate love, but they all pale in comparison to Your goodness. You’ve made that perfectly clear by showing how good You are: You sent Your Son Jesus, to lay down His life to rescue us from our bondage to sin. We ask that You daily teach us by the power of Your Spirit to love You and treasure You above all else. May we never forget that we are the thing that You treasure more than anything else. We pray this all in Jesus’ name, Amen.*

