
The Removal of Love (Don't Lose Your Light)

First Love

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Sermon: First Love: The Removal of Love (Don't Lose Your Light)

Lesson Text

Revelation 2:4–5 (KJV) ⁴ Nevertheless I have *somewhat* against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. ⁵ Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

Matthew 21:18–22 (KJV)¹⁸ Now in the morning as he returned into the city, he hungered. ¹⁹ And when he saw a fig tree in the way, he came to it, and found nothing thereon, but leaves only, and said unto it, **Let no fruit grow on thee henceforward for ever.** And presently the fig tree withered away. ²⁰ And when the disciples saw *it*, they marvelled, saying, How soon is the fig tree withered away! ²¹ Jesus answered and said unto them, **Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this *which is done* to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done.** ²² And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

Introduction

We all experience failures in relationships because of the loss of love. The failure of a marriage, family members, close friendship, job or career, and even ministry in church.

And the usual suspects for these failures that I hear during counseling are things like the failure to meet our needs, changes in life, betrayal of disappointment, cares of this world, and so on.

But these things are common and happen to all of us!

1 Corinthians 10: ¹³ There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God *is* faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear *it*.

The key lesson text of this series gives us two instructions on what to do when we've left our first love:

- ***Remember* from when thou are fallen** (Passion, Purpose, Promise)
- ***Repent* and do the first works** (Joy, Calling, Word)

But then we are given a warning of what happens when we fail to remember and repent:

- **I will come unto thee quickly, and will ***Remove*** thy candlestick** (Fruit, Faith, Light).

Our failures in relationships are not because of the myriad of reasons previously stated, but because we fail to remember and repent; and as a result, our candlestick is removed.

In our lesson text,⁷ we see a hungry Jesus who sees a fig tree afar off that represents that it has fruit to satisfy his hunger. But when he gets there all it has is leaves, and he removes it from its candlestick: Matthew 21:¹⁹ ... **Let no fruit grow on thee henceforward for ever.**

The candlestick served also as a symbol of the church being a light to a dark and dying world.

Matthew 5: ¹⁴ **Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.**

Our light is to be identified by our Love: John 13:35 (KJV)³⁵ **By this shall all *men* know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.**

But if when they get to us, we have not fruit, our candlestick is removed: John 15: ² **Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away:**

Life will happen, pain will happen, betrayal will happen, disappointment will happen, but we have a responsibility to remember and repent so that our love is not removed.

Series and Sermon: First Love: The Removal of Love (Don't Lose Your Light)

(Don't Lose Your Fruit of Love, Don't Lose Your Faith in Love, Don't Lose Your Light from Love)

I. Don't Lose Your Fruit of Love (Produce It)

Matthew 21:¹⁹ And when he saw a fig tree in the way, he came to it, and found nothing thereon, but leaves only, and said unto it, **Let no fruit grow on thee henceforward for ever.** And presently the fig tree withered away.

The first thing we lose when we fail to remember and repent is our ability to produce the fruit of love.

We get stuck in our present struggles, frustrations, and disappointments and we start living in our emotions of anger and bitterness. Instead of experiencing anger and moving on, we become angry, eventually losing our ability to produce and grow love.

We are so frustrated about what we are not receiving, that we stop producing what we were called to give.

Luke 12:⁴⁸ ... **For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required:**

When it comes to love, our world is filled with people who are hungry, famished, and starving – they are on empty! And like Jesus, they are coming to get the fruit of love.

Matthew 21:¹⁸ Now in the morning as he returned into the city, he hungered.

Matthew 24:¹² **And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.**

And so, God has called us to the world to be his emissaries and missionaries to bring them love.

But if when they come to us, to the church, all they find is leaves, they will lose confidence in us. So, God eventually removes our ability to produce.

John 15:¹ **I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.** ² **Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away:**

Don't Lose it, Produce It!

So how can we give what we don't have? We can't! Therefore, we must produce it.

We all want to be loved, but God called us to produce love so that we can give it.

Galatians 5:22–23 (AV)²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, ²³ Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

John 15: ² ... and every *branch* that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

“Don't Lose Your Fruit of Love, Produce It!”

II. Don't Lose Your Faith in Love (Shift It)

Matthew 21: ²¹ Jesus answered and said unto them, **Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ... ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done.**

The next thing we lose when we fail to remember and repent is our ability to believe in love.

Why do we marry and agree to live with that person for the rest of our lives? Why do we work for a company although we have never received a paycheck or promotion? Why do we develop friendships, join churches, or work in ministries?

It is because the Love in us creates a Faith to believe something that we don't see.

2 Corinthians 5: ⁷ (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)

But if we don't eventually see what we believed – don't see the happily ever after, don't get the promotions, don't grow the ministry, or don't develop life-long relationships we will begin to lose our faith!

And if by chance, we experience betrayal, infidelity, loss of trust, or no loyalty, our faith will all but disappear.

The reason why we lose faith is because we've placed our faith in the object of our love rather than in love itself. Our faith was in people rather than in God!

Don't Lose It, Shift it!

Psalms 146: ³ Put not your trust in princes, *nor* in the son of man, in whom *there is* no help.

Mark 11: ²² And Jesus answering saith unto them, **Have faith in God.** ²³ For verily I say unto you, **That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.**

Proverbs 3: ²⁶ For the LORD shall be thy confidence, and shall keep thy foot from being taken.

Love people but have faith in God!

Proverbs 3: ⁵ Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

⁶ In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

“Don't Lose Your Faith in Love, Shift it”

III. Don't Lose Your Light from Love (Turn It)

Matthew 21: ²⁰ And when the disciples saw *it*, they marvelled, saying, How soon is the fig tree withered away!

- Don't lose your fruit of love, produce it
- Don't lose your faith in love, shift it
- Don't lose your light from love, turn it

The final thing we lose when we fail to remember and repent is our light from love.

Life has failed us, people have let us down, things have not worked out the way we expected, we feel forsaken, and we find ourselves losing our way.

Psalm 22: ¹ My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? *why art thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring?* ² O my God, I cry in the daytime, but thou hearest not; and in the night season, and am not silent.

Don't Lose It, Turn It Up!

Don't give up on love, love even harder, love even more, turn it up to 11!

John 13: ³⁵ **By this shall all *men* know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.**

John 8: ¹² Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, **I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.**

Matthew 5: ¹⁴ **Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.**

Matthew 5: ¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

1 Peter 2: ⁹ But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

“This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine. Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!”

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Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: The Removal of Love (Don't Lose Your Light))

Lesson Text

- Revelation 2:4–5, Matthew 21:18–22

Sermon Outline

- I. *Don't Lose Your Fruit of Love (Produce It)*
- II. *Don't Lose Your Faith in Love (Shift It)*
- III. *Don't Lose Your Light from Love (Turn It)*

Questions: (What was your main takeaway from this message?)

I. Getting to Know “Me”

1. What shows have you binge watched?
2. Name your favorite: a. color b. flavor c. pattern

II. Into The Bible

1. Based on John 13:34-35, why did Jesus select mutual love rather than performance as the primary way to identify his disciples?
2. Jesus stated in John 15:5-8 about producing more fruit. Is this “fruit” primarily character development (Galatians 5:22-23) or external actions like evangelism? Reference scriptures.

II. Life Application

1. It is not the true Christians job to try harder to produce fruit, that is God, the Father's, job. The true Christian's responsibility is to stay joined to [abide in] Jesus. When you look at your life, can you see the fruit... the evidence of His life flowing through you?
2. It is also not the true Christian's responsibility to determine who is truly abiding in Christ and who is merely outwardly connected to Him. So, how can believers continue to abide in love when they do not see fruit in the lives of those around them? What can you do this week to continue to let your light shine in their lives?