

POINTS TO PONDER

...a sermon resource

Title: WWJP...about 'Love' in our confused, distorted culture?
Series: What Would Jesus Preach (WWJP)?
Text: I John 4:16-21; Luke 7
Date: April 27, 2008

I. God is Love...THE STANDARD.

The Problem: Love has been so confused or distorted today who knows what it is anymore.

The Solution: "...so we know and rely on the love God has for us..." (I John 4 v 16)

In preaching today Jesus might add the two other "**God is**" statements to clarify what love is:

- God's Love is the universal standard because God is **SPIRIT**. (John 4:24)
- God's Love is the moral standard because God is **LIGHT**. (I John 1:5)

Experiencing God's love the Christian has the standard for defining and practicing love:

- **KNOWABLE:** God's love is the exercise of His goodness, especially His grace and mercy.
- **RELIABLE:** God's love involves identifying and binding His welfare with our welfare.

II. God's Love Gives...THE POWER

The Problem: My love has run dry or run out in crucial relationships.

The Solution: "...but he who has been forgiven little loves little" (Luke 7 v 18)

In preaching today Jesus might share about a dinner party he once attended where he wound up explaining what powers love on or off (Luke 7)

- Two ways to cut off the power to love: **self-righteousness** or **shame**
- Jesus' story shows the power to **love** more is to be **loved** more and the power to **forgive** more is to be **forgiven** more.

III. God's Love Takes...THE INITIATIVE

The Problem: Things are such a mess I wouldn't know where to start.

The Solution: "We love because he first loved us." (I John 4 v19)

In preaching today Jesus might boldly challenge you to act like God and be a first-stepper:

- God's love came to us in the form of **sacrifice** with the objective that we might **enjoy** one another.
- Similarly, in a messed up relationship the first step is for you to take the first step by doing something sacrificial for the other so that you both might experience the joy of **connection**.