

Love & Hate Part 11: "Living by Grace with Gratitude" (8-6-2017)

Series Review

- **Love & Hate defined:** (Story of the Loving Father) (What & How does God hate)
- **Walking in Church Unity:** Maintaining Relational Unity & Resolving Conflict
- **Next 3 weeks:** Culture & Community – Money, Sex, and Power

1) Busy

Luke 10:38-42 (ESV)

(38) Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. (39) And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. (40) But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me." (41) But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, (42) but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her."

Notes: Lies we believe about being busy – it equals being hardworking and successful

Busyness is often just a distraction from what's really important, and it's about competition (you may not think you are competitive, but you are regularly comparing) – (vs. 40)

Busyness – produces a lack of peace, & usually leads to being angry at others, they aren't pulling their weight (Busy leads to Blame)

Do you control your calendar or does it control you? Know what's necessary (vs. 42)

2) Anxious

Matthew 6:25-34 (ESV)

(25) "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? (26) Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? (27) And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? (28) And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, (29) yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. (30) But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? (31) Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' (32) For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. (33) But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. (34) Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

Notes: Comfort vs. Provision (26), Control vs. Trust (27), and Image vs. Character (28-29)

Our Culture is obsessed with Comfort, Control, & Appearance (or how we are perceived) – we worship it!

How do I know? Photography & the framing of life via Instagram, Facebook, etc.

We miss moments because we want to frame the moment and create the narrative of our life!

Jesus is saying that Self-absorbed living leads to anxiety (vs. 30-31) and it's the culture we are surrounded by (vs. 32)

And then thankfully He offers a cure (vs. 32-34)

3) Greedy

Luke 12:13-21 (ESV)

(13) Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." (14) But he said to him, "Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?" (15) And he said to them, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." (16) And he told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man produced plentifully, (17) and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' (18) And he said, 'I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. (19) And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.'" (20) But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' (21) So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."

Note: Coveting is a form of greed, we tend to think of the rich as being greedy, but some of the greediest people have little. It's about something deeper than money . . .

Matthew 6:24 (ESV)

No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money (mammon).

Note: Mammon – that in which one trusts (possession, wealth, money)

Proverbs 11:28 (ESV)

Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will flourish like a green leaf.

2 Fatherly Warnings on Greed . . . (Ecclesiastes 5 & 1 Timothy 6)

Ecclesiastes 5:10, 18-20 (ESV)

(10) He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income; this also is vanity . . . (18) Behold, what I have seen to be good and fitting is to eat and drink and find enjoyment in all the toil with which one toils under the sun the few days of his life that God has given him, for this is his lot. (19) Everyone also to whom God has given wealth and possessions and power to enjoy them, and to accept his lot and rejoice in his toil—this is the gift of God. (20) For he will not much remember the days of his life because God keeps him occupied with joy in his heart.

Note: Gratitude & Joy, not the pursuit of happiness, which is fleeting!

1 Timothy 6:6-10, 17-19 (ESV)

(6) But godliness with contentment is great gain, (7) for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. (8) But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. (9) But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. (10) For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs (sorrows) . . . (17) As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. (18) They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, (19) thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life. (or lay hold on eternal life)

Note: The cure for Greed? Be Grateful & Generous!

Conclusion: We live in a self-obsessed culture – starving for control, comfort, acceptance, & success. And it leads to a severe lack of peace. But we can choose the one thing that is necessary, and let Him be in control!

Let's rest in His **Grace** and live with **Gratitude & Generosity!**