

- I. It's almost Valentine's Day; a day dedicated to "love"
 - a. Childhood memories of giving everyone in class a valentine
 - b. Big difference between giving a valentine because you have to and because you want to
- II. Today's reading is filled with Law, which Jesus only intensifies
 - a. He says that the problem is not just an outward action, but an inner reality
 - b. Jesus didn't come to throw away the Law, but fulfill it
 - c. He's the only person to live it completely because He wanted to
- III. We react to the Law like schoolkids forced to give everyone a valentine
 - a. This is because our "loves" are disordered
 - b. If we are against God's ways, it is largely because:
 - i. We love something more than our neighbor
 - ii. We love something more than the One who gave the Law
 - iii. That "something" is ourselves
 - c. This can be applied to all Jesus mentions in this passage.
 - i. We 'murder' people with thoughts and words because we love looking better than other people
 - ii. Lust is loving self-centered pleasure more than spouse
 - iii. Marriage becomes divorce when my love for self is greatest
 - iv. A person swears oaths because they love looking important
- IV. The 'Right Order'
 - a. Love the Lord with all your heart...love neighbor as yourself
 - b. How do you move over from "I've got to" to "I want to"?
- V. Turn your eyes on Jesus
 - a. He lived a perfectly ordered life because He loved his Father
 - b. He made that perfectly ordered life into a sacrifice because He loves you
 - c. Hebrews 12: 2
 - i. The 'joy set before him' was the joy of redeeming you
 - d. Dwelling on his love and joy causes it to spill over into our lives, so we
 - i. Want to attempt reconciliation with others
 - ii. Want to cultivate faithfulness to our spouses
 - iii. Want to live lives of integrity, because we see the wisdom in it
 - e. You can love God and accept his ways, knowing he loves and accepts you