

On April 15, 2012

Stir Up!

Key Texts:

- Deut. 30:6
- II Thess. 3:5
- I Jn. 4:16, 19
- Eph. 3:14-21
- Is. 55

Scriptural examples of God's love:

1. Who hardens and softens the heart of man? (see Ps. 33:15; Rom. 9:1-24)

In Ps. 33:15 the word "fashion" or "shape" is **H3335 יָצַר** *yāšar*: A verb meaning to form, to fashion, to shape, to devise. The primary meaning of the word is derived from the idea of cutting or framing. It is used of God's fashioning man from the dust of the ground.

and the word **hearts** is **H3820 לֵב** *lēb*: A masculine noun usually rendered as heart but whose range of meaning is extensive. It can denote the heart as a human physical organ (Exod._28:29; 1Sam._25:37; 2Kg._9:24); or an animal (Job_41:24 [16]). However, it usually refers to some aspect of the immaterial inner self or being since the heart is considered to be the seat of one's inner nature as well as one of its components. It can be used in a general sense (1Kg._8:23; Psa._84:2 [3]; Jer._3:10); or it can be used of a specific aspect of personality: the mind (Gen._6:5; Deut._29:4 [3]; Neh._6:8); the will (Exod._35:5; 2Chrn._12:14; Job_11:13); the emotions (Gen._6:6 [Note that God is the subject]; 1Sam._24:5 [6]; 1Sam._25:31). In addition, the word can also allude to the inside or middle (Exod._15:8; Deut._4:11).

2. We connected I Jn. 4: 16 with what Paul said to the Ephesian church in Eph. 3:14-21. Re-read these passages and write down the thought you have concerning Love and how it comes.

3. David loved the law and made it his meditation all the day (Ps. 119:86-**97**-107), but Romans affirmed that the law was a ministry of death and condemnation II Cor. 3:7-9. This fact was compared to the two sons in the prodigal son parable. Discuss this and why two people can see the same law, but interpret it in two different ways.

4. In King David's day, no one was allowed to go into the holy place nor partake of the

Showbread except for ritually purified Levites, yet David entered and ate as a non-ritually purified Judean and lived Matthew 12:1-4. While II Sam. 6:3-8 Uzzah was struck dead for breaking a "holy law" regarding the Ark of the Covenant. Why the apparent respecting of persons"?

5. Think through and discuss I Jn. 4:19 and all it means.
6. We went from I Jn. 4:19 to Isa. 55 and read the chapter there. At the end of the chapter in verses 10 & 11 we saw a connection between then and I Jn. 4:19. What were some of the thoughts we discussed? How does this effect the way we view our love relationship to the Father. (THIS IS A REALLY KEY POINT, PERHAPS THE GREATEST POINT OF THIS SERIES SO BE CAREFUL TO SPEND SOME REAL TIME WITH THESE VERSES.)
6. The rest of Isa. 55 deals with the nature of our need for God, the type of relationship He has offered to us, and some of the simple but necessary requirements we have in that relationship. Work through that passage and see how it connects with your life, and what God is working us through as a church right now.