

*Living Waters Chapel*  
1900 Jay St., Lebanon, PA 17046

~ *SERMON NOTES* ~

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October 19, 2008

**SERMON SERIES:** *“Running on Empty: There’s Gotta be More to Life Than This!” Part 6*

**SERMON TITLE:** *“Looking for Love in All the Wrong Places”*

**SCRIPTURE:** Malachi 1:1-5

**THEME:** Christianity is not based on rules and rituals but instead it’s based on an intimate relationship with God as your Loving Heavenly Father!

**INTRODUCTION:** How would you define love? One child defined love this way: *“Love is when you tell someone something bad about yourself and you’re scared they won’t love you anymore. But then you get surprised because not only do they still love you, they love you even more.”*

Historical Background:

1. Israel was a nation in a backslidden condition.
2. Israel's economy was in decline and facing some difficulties. This may explain some of their failure to give their tithes (3:6).
3. Their worship had degenerated into rituals. There was no life to their worship. Most of the people in the nation were religious, but not spiritual.
4. They were bored with life, and worse, bored with God.
5. Their carefree lifestyle had produced apathy and discontentment.

***I. THE IMPORTANCE OF KNOWING GOD’S LOVE (v. 2a)***

A. *The word “love” is in the perfect tense, indicating that God not only loved in the past but loves in the present as well. It could be read this way: “I have loved and do love you and I will continue to love you.” And the word He chooses for “love” is not the typical Old Testament term that describes “tough love” or “covenant love.” The word God uses here is more relational in meaning.*

B. *Isaiah 43:4; Jeremiah 31:3; Zephaniah 3:17*

C. *God loves you just as you are, but He loves you too much to let you stay the way you are.*

***II. THE STRUGGLE TO ACCEPT GOD’S LOVE (v. 2b)***

A. *Circumstances keep us from accepting God’s love.*

B. *You can’t live for God until you’ve learned to trust Him.*

***III. THE PROOF OF GOD’S LOVE (vv. 2-5)***

A. *God’s love is sovereign (2 Thessalonians 2:13)*

B. *God’s love is personal*

C. *God’s love is strong (Romans 5:8)*

D. *God’s love is faithful.*

E. *God’s love is seeking*

**CONCLUSION**

If we’re going to be able to trust God in life, especially when things aren’t going well, we will first need to be sure of God’s love and God’s love for you is one thing you can count on.

