

# Psalm 78

Author: Asaph

If we aren't careful, we can easily read Psalm 78 as yet another "remember" psalm written by Asaph. In Psalm 77, Asaph encourages us to remember so we might trust Him. In Psalm 78 we are encouraged to remember God's faithfulness so we can encourage others to trust in Him.

## The Truth Hurts

It's difficult to hear our loving God describe His children using such harsh adjectives as stubborn, rebellious, disloyal, and unfaithful. Were they really all that bad? Yeah, they were. Sad indeed, but true.

## Read Psalm 78:37.

What was the heart of the problem? \_\_\_\_\_

The heart of the problem was their heart. God gave the 10 commandments and the Levitical as well as the Ceremonial Law for His people by which to live. One might consider all of the above overwhelmingly impossible to keep and they were. In an attempt to sum up the law, God gave Moses 19 additional words.

## Read Deuteronomy 6:5. Write the 19 words in the space below.

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## Peruse Psalm 78. List a few examples of where they went wrong.

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## A Family Resemblance

It's hard to understand how God's children could be stubborn, rebellious, disloyal, and unfaithful when they had experienced God in such miraculous ways. For most of my life I threw figurative stones at the Israelites, judging them for the rebellious and idolatry. The words "He who is without sin cast the first stone," quickly brings this rebellious, idol worshipping, disloyal, and unfaithful child of God to her knees. (John 8:7)

## Read Matthew 22:36-40.

What does Jesus have to say to the New Testament Believer about our heart?

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Oh, I *want to* love the Lord God with all my heart, my soul, strength, and mind. My "want to" needs some adjusting by gaining a deeper understanding of the greatest commandment God ever gave.

How can we experience God in such miraculous ways and not love him with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind? Can you see the error of my ways? I had no business being judge and jury against the Israelites. I experience God in miraculous ways, and yet fail to fully love Him the way He has commanded me to love Him. There are two questions begging to be answered. The first: *What does a Matthew 22:37 love look like?* And the second...stay tuned.

### **Love Like This**

We must understand, apart from the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit in Matthew 22:37, love is impossible. The flesh can't love like this, but the Spirit can. Since God has commanded us to love like this, we should understand what kind of love this is. The Hebrew transliteration for *love* is *agapao* (ag-ap-ah-o). And it means to welcome, to entertain, to be fond of, to love dearly. Wow. Now that is powerful and a great lead to the second question: *Do I love Him that much?*

### **Read John 14:15.**

How do we demonstrate a Matthew 22:37 love God?

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We demonstrate we have a love like this for God by obeying Him. On the flip-side we demonstrate that we do not have a love like this for God by disobeying God. Our response is to obey without delay. No compromises or clauses. Just love. Just obey.

### **Spend some time in prayer and respond to the second question.**

A love like this involves more than our heart. God commands us to also love Him with *all* our soul and *all* our mind. Our soul is the seat of our feelings and desires. Our soul is our center of understanding and way of thinking. Before we allow ourselves to be overwhelmed by this single verse, let's remember we are not alone.

### **Read John 14:16-17.**

Who will help us love like this? \_\_\_\_\_

What will He do? \_\_\_\_\_

Girls, the truth does hurt, but it also heals. Our healing frees us to love God with a Matthew 22:37 love. When we love God like this, we can fully and without reservation embrace the truth of Matthew 22:39. Check it out. That, my friend, is a whole other lesson.