

# The Unrequited Love of the Lord

“I’ll Be Home For Christmas” Part 2

Matthew 2:1-23, Luke 15:1-32

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## I. Introduction

A. Recap from last week — “The Savior of Sinners”

B. Unrequited love...

## II. The Unrequited Love of Jesus (Matt 2 and Lk.15)

A. Jesus was rejected from His birth (Matt. 2:1-23)

B. Jesus showed us that sin lures us to reject God (Lk.15)

## III. Conclusion

A. The things of this world still lead those Jesus loves away from Him.

B. No one wants to admit they are a sinner, so they rationalize it.

C. While sin may lead us to run and rationalize, God is reasonable and waiting.

D. Christmas is all about God coming into a crazy world of Herods to rescue sinful prodigals.

## Home Fellowship Questions

Icebreaker: Share a story from your single days of your most funny or awkward experience with unrequited love.

1. In the sermon, Pastor Matt quoted some bad love advice from ehow.com. What was the worst love advice you ever received?

2. Read Luke 9:23-25 together. In what ways was this a challenge to the original audience that Jesus spoke to and what things might Jesus have been challenging them to give up? In your own context, how does this passage challenge you? What things did you have to deny in coming to Christ? How is your life marked by this “daily” cross carrying “follow[ing]” metaphor?

3. Jesus spoke of those who gain the world and yet lose their soul (Mt.16:26, Lk.9:25). We live in a world where people are not concerned about the soul (cf. Matt 10:28). Many deny that there is a soul and reduce humans and their behavior to the human brain. In this world of radical physicalism and consumerist materialism, how do you fight the temptation to give up reaching out or perhaps to succumb to trying to gain the world? What things do you find to be particularly tempting when it comes to gaining the world and why?

4. Reread the passage we studied on Sunday, specifically Matthew 2. Read verses 1 thru 23. Think about the scene. In what ways did God manage the events of history to get Joseph and Mary where He wanted them at the appropriate time? Discuss the fulfilled prophecies mentioned and how prophesy reassures us that God is in control. What area of your life would you say is in need of reassurance that God is in control? As you close HF, spend some time praying for each other’s burdens, seeking God to reassure each one by the power of His Spirit in us that He’s got it all under control.