

RADICAL DISCIPLESHIP (LESSON 66)

FIRST PRIORITY (CONTINUED). First love can be restored. Jesus outlined three steps to restore first love in Revelation 2:5. [1] Remember from where you are fallen. The Tyrannus vision was a vision of love. All the church needed was Jesus. Love for the brethren demonstrated their love for Jesus. When we forget to love we are forgetting the main thing. [2] Repent. Turn around. Leave the things that replaced your first love and rediscover your relationship with Jesus. Whatever takes time and energy that used to go to Jesus is useless spending. Get rid of everything that distracts you from Jesus. [3] Do the first works. Do what works. The Ephesian church stopped doing what works. They neglected all or part of the first works: teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer (Acts 2:41). Those are the nuts and bolts of discipleship. They inspire and sustain first love. Without them love goes out. There is no church in Ephesus today. Their lampstand has been removed (Revelation 2:5). The Tyrannus plan didn't fail. It suffered from neglect. It lost its power. Without love discipleship ceases to be radical. The power of the Tyrannus vision comes from love, the Spirit, and prayer. When they are present Jesus is demonstrated in the lives of radical disciples. When people see love in Christ's followers, they want Him. When love is missing, no one cares who Jesus is. First love is the fundamental difference between a radical disciple and a not-so-radical Christian. Without love the light goes out. Unfortunately, the Ephesian church ceased without a Tyrannus vision. The Tyrannus vision is radical. When the vision ceases, Christ's disciples cease to be radical.