

# Warming Your Heart in the Love of God

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*Matthew 24:1-14*

## I. How the people of our culture are becoming increasingly scandalized (offended) (Matthew 24:10)

- A. The word translated “turn away” is “*skandalizo*” in Matthew 24:10.
  - 1. To put a stumbling block in the way—to offend
  - 2. To cause a person to distrust and desert one whom he ought to trust and obey
  - 3. Taking the bait stick (“*skandalon*”) of unfulfilled expectations (Proverbs 13:12)
- B. We live in an unprecedented atmosphere of unfulfilled expectations.
  - 1. Betrayal (Matthew 24:10) (divorce, child molestation, slander, money schemes)
  - 2. False prophets and abusive spiritual authority (Matthew 24:11)
  - 3. Wickedness, lawlessness, and love grown cold (Matthew 24:12-13)
  - 4. At the same time, the Gospel will be preached. This is happening in our time (Matthew 24:14).

## II. Taking offense cools love. “Guard your heart” (Proverbs 4:23)!

- A. It cuts us off from the source of all love, God Himself.
  - 1. The heart can be trapped in a jail of unforgiveness and demons (Matthew 6:12-15; 18:21-35).
  - 2. Don’t let your heart be trapped in a jail of judgment (Matthew 7:1-2).
- B. Taking offense can cut us off from blessing (Psalm 66:17-20; I Peter 3:7-17).
- C. Taking offense can cut us off from the joy of our salvation (Psalm 51:10-12).

## III. How to find the tenderness of love again

- A. Forgive God; forgive others; and step out from under the box.
  - 1. Forgiveness means to stop waiting for others to make things right.
  - 2. Forgiveness means to stop judging others for what they have done to you.
- B. Let God heal you of inner brokenness. We are to be intimately involved with each other’s freedom and healing (Isaiah 61:1-3; James 5:13-20).
  - 1. Agree with God about your stuff.
  - 2. Change bad attitudes.
  - 3. Verbally renounce demonic power off your life in Jesus’ name.
- C. Receive first love all over again; stand firm to the end (Matthew 24:12-13).
  - 1. Receiving God’s supernatural love to refire your heart—rest for your soul (I John 4:19-20; Romans 5:5; Ephesians 3:14-21; Matthew 11:28-30).
  - 2. It takes God to love God. He will show you what He is doing (John 5:19-20).
    - a. The joy of heaven (Luke 15:1-7)
    - b. Taking part in the great drama of the ages (Matthew 24:14)

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