

**I JOHN 4:7-21**

**AUGUST 20, '17**

**SECULAR SONGS THAT SPEAK TO THE SOUL  
"LOVE'S IN NEED OF LOVE TODAY"**

**THERE ARE A NUMBER OF PLACES I'D LIKE TO BE  
THIS MORNING & I'D LIKE TO BE AT ALL OF THEM AT  
THE SAME TIME – IN THEIR WORSHIP THIS MORNING.**

**I'D LIKE TO BE AT THE WHITESTONE BAPTIST  
CHURCH IN DOWNTOWN DETROIT.**

**I'D LIKE TO BE AT THE DEXTER AVENUE BAPTIST  
CHURCH IN MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA WHERE  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. ORGANIZED THE  
MONTGOMERY BUS BOYCOTT FROM HIS BASEMENT  
OFFICE.**

**I'D LIKE TO BE AT THE ST. MATTHIAS CHURCH IN  
BERLIN WHERE DIETRICH BONHOEFFER WAS  
ORDAINED SHORTLY AFTER HE DELIVERED A RADIO**

**ADDRESS CRITICIZING ADOLF HITLER – AN ADDRESS THAT WAS CUT OFF THE AIR AS HE DELIVERED IT.**

**I'D LIKE TO BE AT THE BAPTIST CHURCH IN LINDEN, ALABAMA WHERE MY FATHER-IN-LAW, THE REVEREND EMMETT OWENSBY, INVITED AN AFRICAN-AMERICAN PREACHER TO LEAD A REVIVAL TO HIS ALL-WHITE CONGREGATION IN THE MID-1940'S.**

**I'D LIKE TO BE IN THOSE CHURCHES THIS MORNING BECAUSE THE MEMBERS OF THOSE CONGREGATIONS WOULD BE ALL-TOO-FAMILIAR WITH RACISM, ANTI-SEMITISM & THE OUTRIGHT HATRED & VIOLENCE OF WHITE SUPREMACISTS & NEO-NAZIS.**

**I THINK IT'S SAFE TO SAY THAT FROM THOSE PULPITS, THERE WOULD BE POWERFUL MESSAGES PROCLAIMED, ADDRESSING THE EVENTS THAT HAVE**

**RECENTLY TAKEN PLACE IN CHARLOTTESVILLE,  
VIRGINIA & ALL ACROSS THE COUNTRY.**

**MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., DIETRICH  
BONHOEFFER AND EVEN MY FATHER-IN-LAW RISKED  
A GREAT DEAL TO STAND UP IN DEFENSE OF THE  
GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST.**

**BONHOEFFER & KING SACRIFICED THEIR VERY  
LIVES IN DEFENSE OF THE GOSPEL & IN OPPOSITION  
TO HATE.**

**YES, I'D *LIKE* TO BE AT THOSE CHURCHES TODAY  
– BUT I'M NOT - AND NEITHER ARE YOU.**

**WE'RE AT EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
IN EVANSVILLE, INDIANA AND WE'RE CURRENTLY  
ENGAGED IN A SECTION OF A SERMON SERIES THAT  
TAKES A LOOK AT “*SECULAR SONGS THAT SPEAK TO  
THE SOUL.*”**

**I'VE DECIDED NOT TO ALTER THE SERIES &  
WHETHER THIS SERMON HAS RELEVANCY TO THINGS  
THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE RECENTLY IN OUR NATION,  
I'LL LEAVE TO YOU TO DECIDE.**

**WE'VE READ A FAIRLY FAMILIAR PASSAGE THIS  
MORNING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF JOHN.**

**I DON'T THINK THERE'S A BOOK IN THE BIBLE  
THAT LENDS ITSELF AS EASILY TO A ONE-WORD  
SYNOPSIS AS DOES FIRST JOHN.**

**IF YOU'RE AT ALL FAMILIAR WITH IT, YOU KNOW  
THAT FIRST JOHN HAS A SINGLE-WORD THEME  
WHICH RUNS THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE LETTER.**

**THAT ONE WORD IS "LOVE."**

**IN THIS PASSAGE ITSELF, THE WORD OCCURS 27  
TIMES!**

**OVER & OVER AGAIN, THROUGHOUT THESE  
VERSES, JOHN TELLS US OF THE IMPORTANCE OF  
LOVE.**

**IT IS HERE IN THIS PASSAGE THAT WE FIND WHAT  
IS PROBABLY THE GREATEST STATEMENT ABOUT  
GOD IN THE ENTIRE BIBLE - THE STATEMENT THAT  
“GOD IS LOVE.”**

**THIS IS AN INCREDIBLY REVOLUTIONARY &  
SHOCKING STATEMENT – ONE THAT LOSES ITS  
REVOLUTIONARY NATURE PRECISELY BECAUSE WE  
*ARE* SO FAMILIAR WITH IT.**

**BUT MAKE NO MISTAKE ABOUT IT – IN THE  
HISTORY OF THE WORLD’S UNDERSTANDING OF GOD -  
TO SAY THAT “GOD IS LOVE” IS SHOCKING &  
REVOLUTIONARY.**

**ONE CAN'T HELP BUT WONDER HOW IT IS THAT JOHN CAME TO THIS REVOLUTIONARY CONCLUSION.**

**GO BACK TO THE OPENING OF THE *GOSPEL OF JOHN*.**

***“IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD & THE WORD WAS WITH GOD AND THE WORD WAS GOD.”***

**THE APOSTLE LOOKED AT THE LIFE & MINISTRY OF JESUS AND HE SAW NOTHING BUT LOVE – LOVE FOR HIS FRIENDS & LOVE FOR HIS ENEMIES, LOVE FOR THE LEPERS, THE POOR, THE BLIND, THE LAME.**

**IF JESUS IS GOD & JESUS IS LOVE, THEN IT STANDS TO REASON THAT *GOD IS LOVE*.**

**ALAN CULPEPPER, IN HIS COMMENTARY ON FIRST JOHN SAYS, *“THERE IS NO MORE SIMPLE, SUFFICIENT OR PROFOUND STATEMENT IN THE WHOLE BIBLE THAN ‘GOD IS LOVE.’”***

**THE VERY FIRST VERSE THAT THE YOUNGEST CHILDREN IN OUR MEMORY WORK CONTEST LEARN IS “*GOD IS LOVE.*”**

**EVERYTHING ELSE COMES AFTER THAT.**

**IT’S THE FIRST THING WE MUST LEARN ABOUT GOD.**

**BUT, IRONICALLY, THERE IS NO THEOLOGIAN IN THE WORLD WHO CAN FULLY GRASP ITS SIGNIFICANCE.**

**IT IS BEYOND OUR COMPREHENSION.**

**BUT WHAT JOHN TELLS US IN THIS PASSAGE IS THAT IF WE ARE EVER GOING TO BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND WHO GOD IS, IT WILL BE THROUGH LOVE.**

**“*NO ONE HAS EVER SEEN GOD*” HE TELLS US.**

**BUT THEN HE GOES ON TO SAY, “...*IF WE LOVE ONE ANOTHER, GOD LIVES IN US, AND GOD’S LOVE IS PERFECTED IN US.*”**

**IN OTHER WORDS, IF WE WISH TO SEE GOD, WE MUST LOVE.**

**THAT’S HOW *WE* SEE GOD & THAT’S HOW *OTHERS* SEE GOD IN *US*.**

**A LEADER IN THE SECOND CENTURY CHURCH, CLEMENT OF ALEXANDRIA, MADE THE STARTLING STATEMENT THAT “*THE REAL CHRISTIAN PRACTICES BEING GOD.*”**

**WHAT A SEEMINGLY BIZARRE THING TO SAY!**

**IT APPEARS TO BORDER ON BLASPHEMY.**

**BUT THAT’S PRECISELY WHAT JOHN IS TELLING US IN THIS PASSAGE.**



**HE'S TELLING US THAT THE ONLY WAY TO TRULY  
SEE GOD IS TO SEE & EXPRESS LOVE.**

**NOW WE DON'T ACTUALLY *SEE* GOD.**

**WHAT WE SEE IS THE *EFFECT* OF GOD.**

**IT'S HARD TO UNDERSTAND THIS, BUT THINK OF  
IT WITH SOMETHING LIKE WIND.**

**WE DON'T ACTUALLY *SEE* THE WIND.**

**WHAT WE SEE ARE THE EFFECTS OF THE WIND.**

**WE FEEL IT IN OUR HAIR & BLOWING AGAINST  
OUR BODY.**

**WE SEE IT IN THE RUSTLING LEAVES ON TREES.**

**WE HEAR IT FLAPPING AGAINST A FLAG.**

**IN THE SAME WAY, WE SEE GOD WHEN WE CAN  
SEE THE EFFECT OF GOD.**

**AND WE SEE THE EFFECT OF GOD WHEN WE SEE  
LOVE.**

**WE WANT TO KNOW WHAT GOD IS LIKE & THAT'S  
HOW WE KNOW – BY SEEING LOVE IN ACTION.**

**AND WE ENABLE OTHERS TO SEE IT AS WELL, AS  
WE EMBODY THAT LOVE IN OUR OWN LIFE &  
ACTIONS.**

**THAT LEADS NICELY INTO TODAY'S "*SECULAR  
SONG THAT SPEAKS TO THE SOUL.*"**

**IN LOOKING AT THE SONG WE'VE CHOSEN FOR  
TODAY & THE REASON IT WAS CHOSEN, I HAVE TO  
TELL YOU A STORY.**

**IT'S A STORY OF TWO BABY BOYS BORN THE SAME  
DAY - MAY 13, 1950 - IN HOSPITALS JUST NORTH OF  
DETROIT, MICHIGAN.**

**ONE BOY WENT TO HIS HOME ON HASTINGS ST. IN  
DETROIT & THE OTHER WENT TO HIS HOME ON**

**JEFFERSON AVENUE IN ST. CLAIR SHORES, ABOUT 15 MINUTES AWAY FROM HASTINGS ST.**

**THE BOYS NEVER KNEW ONE ANOTHER & THE ONE IN DETROIT NEVER EVEN KNEW OF THE EXISTENCE OF THE OTHER.**

**THE ONE IN ST. CLAIR SHORES, THOUGH, IDOLIZED THE BOY WHO GREW UP IN DETROIT.**

**THE BOY WHO GREW UP ON HASTINGS STREET WAS NAMED STEVLAND MORRIS & THE ONE WHO GREW UP 15 MINUTES AWAY WAS ME.**

**AT THE AGE OF 11 – AND FOREVER ON – STEVLAND MORRIS BECAME KNOWN AS STEVIE WONDER.**

**AND IT WAS JUST ABOUT THAT TIME THAT I FOUND MYSELF CAPTIVATED BY HIS MUSIC & I HAVE BEEN EVER SINCE.**

**HE'S A 25-TIME GRAMMY WINNER.**

**YOU KNOW THE LYRICS TO SO MANY OF HIS  
SONGS –**

***“FOR ONCE IN MY LIFE I HAVE SOMEONE WHO  
NEEDS ME...”***

***“HERE I AM – SIGNED, SEALED, DELIVERED, I’M  
YOURS.”***

***“YOU ARE THE SUNSHINE OF MY LIFE, THAT’S WHY  
I’LL ALWAYS BE AROUND.”***

***“MY CHERIE AMOUR, PRETTY LITTLE ONE THAT I  
ADORE.”***

***“I JUST CALLED TO SAY I LOVE YOU. I JUST CALLED  
TO SAY HOW MUCH I CARE.”***

**AND WORDS THAT COULD SERVE AS OUR THEME  
FOR THIS SECTION OF OUR SUMMER SERIES –**

***“MUSIC IS A WORLD WITHIN ITSELF  
WITH A LANGUAGE WE ALL UNDERSTAND,***

*WITH AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY,*

*FOR ALL TO SING, DANCE AND CLAP THEIR HANDS.”*

**A LOT OF THOSE LYRICS CAME CLOSE TO NEVER BEING WRITTEN.**

**IN 1973, STEVIE WAS INVOLVED IN A NEAR-FATAL AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT.**

**THE CAR IN WHICH HE WAS RIDING RAN INTO THE BACK OF A LOGGING TRUCK & LEGEND HAS IT THAT A LOG CAME CRASHING THROUGH THE WINDSHIELD INTO STEVIE’S FOREHEAD.**

**IT WASN’T A LOG BUT – PERHAPS EVEN WORSE – THE BED OF THE TRUCK THAT SMASHED THROUGH THE WINDSHIELD.**

**HE SPENT FOUR DAYS IN A COMA & IT WAS TOUCH-AND-GO AS TO WHETHER HE WOULD EVER COME OUT OF IT.**

**FRIENDS & FAMILY WOULD GENTLY TALK TO HIM, ASKING “*STEVIE, ARE YOU THERE? CAN YOU HEAR ME?*”**

**IT WASN'T UNTIL A CLOSE FRIEND, IRA TUCKER, CAME UP WITH THE IDEA OF SINGING ONE OF STEVIE'S MOST RECENT SONGS THAT THERE WAS A RESPONSE.**

**IT WAS THE SONG “HIGHER GROUND” AND STEVIE SAID IT WAS A SONG THAT HAD COME TO HIM MORE QUICKLY THAN ANY SONG BEFORE OR SINCE AND HE FELT THERE WAS SOMETHING PROVIDENTIAL ABOUT IT.**

**IRA SANG THESE WORDS WHILE STEVIE WAS IN A COMA:**

***“I'M SO DARN GLAD HE LET ME TRY IT AGAIN,***

***‘CAUSE MY LAST TIME ON EARTH I LIVED A WHOLE  
WORLD OF SIN,  
I’M SO GLAD THAT I KNOW MORE THAN I KNEW  
THEN,  
GONNA KEEP ON TRYING UNTIL I REACH MY  
HIGHEST GROUND.’***

**OVER & OVER IRA SANG IT & WHEN HE WAS  
NEARLY READY TO GIVE UP, HE LOOKED DOWN & HE  
SAW STEVIE MOVING HIS FINGERS AS IF HE WAS  
PLAYING THE SONG ON THE PIANO.**

**IT WAS THEN THAT THEY KNEW HE WOULD  
SURVIVE.**

**STEVIE LATER SAID, *“THE ONLY THING I KNOW IS  
THAT I WAS UNCONSCIOUS, AND THAT FOR A FEW DAYS,  
I WAS DEFINITELY IN A MUCH BETTER SPIRITUAL  
PLACE THAT MADE ME AWARE OF A LOT OF THINGS***

***THAT CONCERN MY LIFE AND MY FUTURE, AND WHAT I HAVE TO DO TO REACH ANOTHER HIGHER GROUND.”***

**STEVIE ALWAYS HAD A DEEP SPIRITUAL SIDE & HIS NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCE SIMPLY DEEPENED IT.**

**WHEN I SAY THAT I’VE ALWAYS BEEN CAPTIVATED BY HIS MUSIC, IT’S THAT SPIRITUAL DIMENSION TO THE THINGS HE WRITES THAT I FIND VERY INTRIGUING.**

**ONE OF THE CHURCHES THAT I MENTIONED AT THE OUTSET – ONE OF THE PLACES I’D LIKE TO BE THIS MORNING - IS THE WHITESTONE BAPTIST CHURCH IN DOWNTOWN DETROIT.**

**THAT’S THE CHURCH OF STEVIE WONDER’S CHILDHOOD.**

**HIS FAITH CAN PROBABLY BEST BE CHARACTERIZED AS EVANGELICAL FOR JUSTICE.**



**HE HAS A PASSION FOR JESUS CHRIST AND A  
PASSION FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE.**

**HIS PASSION FOR JESUS CHRIST IS EVIDENT IN  
SOMETHING HE SAID WHEN HE WAS INVITED TO  
SHARE HIS TESTIMONY IN WORSHIP ONE SUNDAY  
MORNING.**

**HE SAID, “*GOD BLESSED ME WITH THE  
OPPORTUNITY OF MOVING FROM STEVLAND MORRIS TO  
BECOMING STEVIE WONDER.*”**

***MY QUESTION IS ALWAYS ‘WHAT CAN I DO TO JUST  
DO ONE PERCENT IN MY LIFETIME IN APPRECIATION OF  
WHAT GOD HAS DONE FOR ME IN ONE SECOND?’***

***I HAVE COMMITTED MYSELF TO USING MY VOICE &  
MY MUSIC TO GIVE HOPE TO PEOPLE THROUGHOUT  
THE WORLD, FOR THIS IS WHAT I BELIEVE GOD WANTS  
ME TO DO.***

***WHETHER IT BE SINGING A LOVE SONG ABOUT THE LOVE OF TWO PEOPLE FOR EACH OTHER, OR WHETHER IT BE SINGING A SONG ABOUT THE LOVE I HAVE FOR MY GOD AND HIS SON JESUS CHRIST...”***

**HIS PASSION FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE IS EVIDENT IN HIS ACTIONS.**

**HE WORKED TIRELESSLY FOR YEARS TO PROMOTE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MARTIN LUTHER KING NATIONAL HOLIDAY.**

**HE MADE STATEMENTS SUPPORTIVE OF NELSON MANDELA DURING THE YEARS OF APARTHEID IN SOUTH AFRICA & HIS MUSIC WAS BANNED FROM RADIO STATIONS THERE BECAUSE OF THAT SUPPORT.**

**YES, I THINK GROWING UP IN THE WHITESTONE BAPTIST CHURCH HELPED FORM HIS PASSION FOR JESUS & HIS PASSION FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE & I**

**IMAGINE THE EVENTS OF THIS PAST WEEK WOULD BE CLEARLY ADDRESSED THIS MORNING IN THEIR WORSHIP.**

**WHEN WE LOOK AT THOSE EVENTS, I REMEMBER THE GUIDANCE OF MR. ROGERS WHO SAID THE BEST WAY TO HELP CALM CHILDREN'S FEARS IN A TIME OF EVIL OR TRAGEDY IS TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO LOOK FOR THE HELPERS.**

**IN THIS SITUATION, WE DON'T HAVE TO LOOK VERY FAR.**

**THE HELPERS CAN BE FOUND IN THOSE CHURCHES I MENTIONED & THOUSANDS UPON THOUSANDS OF OTHER CHURCHES AROUND THE NATION.**

**THEY CAN BE FOUND IN THE COURAGEOUS  
WORDS OF A MOTHER GRIEVING THE DEATH OF HER  
DAUGHTER.**

**THE HELPERS CAN BE FOUND IN THE COUNTLESS  
INDIVIDUALS WHO GATHERED IN CHARLOTTESVILLE  
THIS WEEK RAISING CANDLES INSTEAD OF WIELDING  
TORCHES.**

**THOSE HELPERS CAN BE FOUND IN THE  
SENTIMENTS OF BUSINESS, POLITICAL & RELIGIOUS  
LEADERS WHO HAVE SPOKEN OUT CLEARLY AGAINST  
THE FORCES OF HATE.**

**THE HELPERS INCLUDED THREE FORMER  
PRESIDENTS - BUSH, BUSH & OBAMA - AND TWO  
FORMER PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES – McCAIN &  
ROMNEY.**

**ALL FIVE OF THEM OFFERED POWERFUL,  
UNEQUIVOCAL WORDS – WORDS OF HOPE & PEACE,  
REMINDING US OF THE KIND OF MORAL CHARACTER  
WE, AS AMERICANS, SHOULD EXPECT OF THE  
INDIVIDUAL WHO HOLDS THE HIGHEST OFFICE IN  
OUR LAND.**

**THE HELPERS INCLUDE SOMEONE WHO SAID,  
*“WHEN I WATCHED THE NEWS OF WHAT HAPPENED IN  
CHARLOTTESVILLE, I SAID, ‘OH NO, GOD, NOT AGAIN!  
PLEASE NO, IT CAN’T BE HAPPENING.’ BECAUSE I KNOW  
WHAT HATE DID.”***

**THAT HELPER IS SONIA – A JEWISH SURVIVOR OF  
4 NAZI CONCENTRATION CAMPS.**

**I THINK IT’S SAFE TO ASSUME THAT STEVIE  
WONDER – AS A PASSIONATE FOLLOWER OF JESUS**

**CHRIST & A PASSIONATE PROPONENT OF SOCIAL JUSTICE – HAS SPOKEN OUT IN THE PAST WEEK.**

**BUT EVEN IF HE HASN'T, HE DID MANY YEARS AGO WHEN HE RELEASED, ARGUABLY, ONE OF THE GREATEST ALBUMS EVER RECORDED – “*SONGS IN THE KEY OF LIFE.*”**

**I REMEMBER THE EXCITEMENT I FIRST FELT WHEN I SLIT THE PLASTIC FROM ITS COVER & OPENED IT FOR THE FIRST TIME & PUT IT ON MY TURNTABLE.**

**THE FIRST WORDS OF THE FIRST TRACK OF THE DOUBLE-DISC ALBUM WERE A SET-UP – AN INTRODUCTION OF SORTS - FOR EVERYTHING THAT WOULD FOLLOW.**

**THAT FIRST SONG JUST SEEMED TO GO ON & ON WITH ENDLESS REPITITIONS.**

**BUT THE MORE I LISTENED TO IT, THE MORE I REALIZED HOW VITAL THAT REPETITION WAS BECAUSE IT ENABLED ME TO TRULY REFLECT ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SONG'S SIMPLY, YET DEEPLY PROFOUND MESSAGE.**

**AND I ALSO NOTICED THAT THE LAYOUT OF THE LYRICS IN THE ALBUM BOOKLET ENABLED ME TO FOLLOW ALONG WITH EVERY SINGLE WORD – ESPECIALLY OF THAT FIRST SONG.**

**I REMEMBER CHUCKLING AT HIS HUMOROUS DIG AT TELEVANGELISTS WHO ASK VIEWERS TO SEND THEIR MONEY IN RIGHT AWAY.**

**STEVIE SUGGESTED SENDING SOMETHING ELSE.**

**IT WAS A SONG THAT WAS SO PERFECT FOR THE TIME IN WHICH HE WROTE IT – AND IT'S A SONG THAT IS PERHAPS EVEN MORE PERFECT FOR OURS.**

**WHEN YOU THINK OF THOSE REVOLUTIONARY  
WORDS OF JOHN THAT “GOD IS LOVE,” IT MAY ALTER  
THE WAY YOU HEAR THIS SONG.**

**THINK ABOUT THAT AS YOU LISTEN.**

**(PLAY SONG – “LOVE’S IN NEED OF LOVE TODAY”)**

**TOMORROW IS THE DAY OF THE SOLAR ECLIPSE.**

**PEOPLE HAVE BECOME ABSOLUTELY GIDDY  
OVER IT.**

**THE SOLAR ECLIPSE WILL PUT US IN DARKNESS.**

**IT WILL LAST LESS THAN 3 ½ MINUTES.**

**BUT WHAT IF THE DARKNESS WAS GOING TO LAST  
LONGER THAN THAT?**

**WHAT IF IT WAS GOING TO LAST 3 ½ DAYS OR 3 ½  
WEEKS?**

**WHAT ABOUT 3 ½ MONTHS OR 3 ½ YEARS?**



**WE WOULDN'T BE QUITE AS GIDDY, WOULD WE?  
BUT HOWEVER LONG THAT ECLIPSE & THE  
DARKNESS IT BRINGS LASTS, WE KNOW IT WILL END.  
RECENT EVENTS IN OUR NATION HAVE PUT US IN  
A *MORAL* ECLIPSE OF SORTS.**

**THEY HAVE BROUGHT DARKNESS TO OUR LAND.  
BUT AS FOLLOWERS OF JESUS CHRIST, WE KNOW  
THAT MORAL ECLIPSE & THE DARKNESS IT BRINGS  
WITH IT, WILL END.**

**WE HAVE NO CONTROL OVER TOMORROW'S  
*SOLAR* ECLIPSE.**

**WE CAN'T MAKE IT ANY LONGER OR SHORTER  
THAN IT WILL BE.**

**BUT WE CAN CONTROL THE *MORAL* ECLIPSE IN  
OUR NATION.**

***GOD IS LOVE. LOVE'S IN NEED OF LOVE TODAY.***

***BELOVED, LET US LOVE ONE ANOTHER, BECAUSE  
LOVE IS FROM GOD.***

***DON'T LET THE FORCE OF EVIL MAKE YOU ITS  
POSSESSION, BECAUSE IT WILL DESTROY EVERYBODY.***

***THE COMMANDMENT WE HAVE IS THIS: THOSE  
WHO LOVE GOD MUST LOVE THEIR BROTHERS &  
SISTERS ALSO.***

***IF LOVE & PEACE YOU TREASURE THEN YOU'LL  
HEAR ME WHEN I SAY THAT LOVE'S IN NEED OF LOVE  
TODAY.***

***IT'S HARD TO KNOW WHERE JOHN ENDS & STEVIE  
BEGINS.***

***THAT'S BECAUSE THE BIBLICAL MESSAGE OF  
LOVE SPANS ALL THE CENTURIES. AMEN.***

***The Reverend Dr. Dennis R. Davenport  
Eastminster Presbyterian Church  
Evansville, Indiana***

# Love's in Need of Love Today – Stevie Wonder

Good morn or evening friends  
Here's your friendly announcer  
I have serious news to pass on to everybody  
What I'm about to say  
Could mean the world's disaster  
Could change your joy and laughter to tears and pain

It's that  
Love's in need of love today  
Don't delay  
Send yours in right away  
Hate's goin' round  
Breaking many hearts  
Stop it please  
Before it's gone too far

The force of evil plans  
To make you its possession  
And it will if we let it  
Destroy ev-er-y-body  
We all must take  
Precautionary measures  
If love and please you treasure  
Then you'll hear me when I say

Oh that  
Love's in need of love today  
Don't delay  
Send yours in right away  
Hate's goin' round  
Breaking many hearts  
Stop it please  
Before it's gone too far  
Gone too far

People you know that  
Love's in need of love today  
Love's in need of love today  
Don't delay  
Don't de-lay  
Send yours in right away  
Right a-way  
You know that hate's  
Hate's  
Hate's goin' round  
Hate's goin' round  
Breaking many hearts  
Break-ing hearts  
Stop stop it please  
Before it's gone too far  
Gone too far

It's up to you cause  
Love's in need of love today  
Love's in need of love today  
Don't delay  
Don't de-lay  
Send yours in right away  
Right a-way  
You know that hate's  
Hate's  
Hate's goin' round  
Hate's goin' round  
Breaking hate's tried to break my heart many times  
Break-ing hearts  
Don't, you've got to stop it please  
Stop it please  
Before before before  
Gone too far

Love's in need of love today  
Love's in need of love today  
Don't delay  
Don't de-lay  
Send yours in right away  
Right a-way  
You know that hate's goin' around  
Hate's goin'  
Hate's going around  
Hate's going around  
Round break-ing hearts  
And it tried to break up many hearts  
You've got to I've got to They've got to  
Stop it please  
We've got to They've got to We've got to

Stop it before it's gone too far  
Too far  
Love's love's in need of love  
Love's in need of love  
Did you ever think that love would be in need of love today  
To-day don't  
Don't delay  
De-lay  
Send yours in right away  
Right a-way

Hate's hate's  
Hate's goin' round  
Bring it down a little love is very peaceful  
So bring it down a little  
Stop it please  
Gone too far  
Love's in need  
Of love today  
Don't delay  
Right away awaaaay  
Love's in need

Of love today  
Don't delay  
Right away awaaaay  
Hate's goin round  
Breaking hearts  
Well, please stop it  
Uw L-O-V-E love Oh, L-O-V-E love  
Love's in need  
Of love today  
Don't delay  
Right away  
Just give the world love