

The Tragedy of the Church of Ephesus

by Watchman Nee

The sermon emphasizes the importance of returning to our first love and devotion to the Lord, even if we have strayed.

Scripture: Luke 15:22, Revelation 2:4

Topics: "Returning to First Love", "Restoration in Christ"

Description

Watchman Nee addresses the tragedy of the Church of Ephesus, emphasizing that they have left their 'first love' for Christ, which signifies both the initial time and the highest quality of love. He draws a parallel to the prodigal son, illustrating that the best love is what God desires from us. Despite their departure from devotion, there remains hope for restoration, as the Lord invites those who have strayed to return to their first love and rekindle their passion for Him.

Transcript

"But I have this against thee, that thou didst leave thy first love." Revelation 2:4

The expression "first love" refers not only to primacy in time but also in quality. The story of the prodigal son's return home tells us that the father called for "the best robe" to be brought to replace the penitent's rags. This is the same word. The first love is the best love.

The tragedy in this church at Ephesus was that it had left or moved away from that devotion which gave the Lord the first place in their affections. There was, however, a hope. It is not always possible to recover what has been lost, but it is always open to us to return to a position from which we have strayed. The Lord calls each of us who has wandered to come back to the experience of loving him best, to return to our first love.

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/watchman-nee/the-tragedy-of-the-church-of-ephesus/>

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