***Luke 11: 37 – 54 “While Jesus was speaking, a Pharisee asked him to dine with him, so he went in and reclined at table.  The Pharisee was astonished to see that he did not first wash before dinner.  And the Lord said to him, “Now you Pharisees cleanse the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness.  You fools!  Did not he who made the outside make the inside also? But give as alms those things that are within, and behold, everything is clean for you. “But woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe mint and rue and every herb, and neglect justice and the love of God.  These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others. Woe to you Pharisees! For you love the best seat in the synagogues and greetings in the marketplaces. Woe to you!  For you are like unmarked graves, and people walk over them without knowing it.” One of the lawyers answered him, “Teacher, in saying these things you insult us also.” And he said, “Woe to you lawyers also! For you load people with burdens hard to bear, and you yourselves do not touch the burdens with one of your fingers. Woe to you! For you build the tombs of the prophets whom your fathers killed.  So you are witnesses and you consent to the deeds of your fathers, for they killed them, and you build their tombs. Therefore also the Wisdom of God said, ‘I will send them prophets and apostles, some of whom they will kill and persecute,’ so that the blood of all the prophets, shed from the foundation of the world, may be charged against this generation, from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who perished between the altar and the sanctuary. Yes, I tell you, it will be required of this generation. Woe to you lawyers!  For you have taken away the key of knowledge. You did not enter yourselves, and you hindered those who were entering.” As he went away from there, the scribes and the Pharisees began to press him hard and to provoke him to speak about many things, lying in wait for him,  to catch him in something he might say.”***

**Simmer Down Luke 11:37 - 54**

**This political season we are easily pulled into to debates/squabbles/fights of the election process.**

**This is a time of hyperbole**

**This is a time of passion**

**This is a time of hard absolutes**

**OUR candidate is the best and your is ROTTEN**

**Any words/posts are open game to immediate and harsh attacks.**

**Often without really listening to what was being said.**

**We need to simmer down**

1. We get so caught up in the stuff we think is so critical
	1. We forget the more important issues
	2. The Pharisees focused on what people saw – APPEARANCE
		1. They looked the part
			1. But they didn’t really LIVE the part
		2. The needed to SIMMER DOWN and LOVE
	3. The lawyers focused on the nit picky points of the law
		1. Particularly the areas they could use to control
		2. Particularly the areas that did not effect their lives
			1. They put a heavy burden on people
				1. The needed to SIMMER DOWN and LOVE
2. We are so quick to point out problems or issues with others
	1. But slow to look inside our own lives.
3. We like to MAJOR in the stuff we feel we can control
	1. We usually MINOR in the stuff of real importance.
	2. Having the best seat in the house can still leave us dead
		1. Inside and eternal
4. Jesus wants us to know:
	1. Giving is good
		1. Love is greater
		2. Greed is destructive
	2. Give the tithe of your heart
		1. Faith, Hope, Love
		2. Obedience
		3. Righteousness
	3. God is Lord of ALL
		1. Inside and outside
	4. Love is greater
	5. Knowledge of God and His Word is greater

**We need to refocus our hearts on the things we should truly be passionate about.**

 **Family**

 **Church Family**

 **God**

 **God’s Word**