

Title: The Great Love Story – And You're a Star

Speaker: Associate Pastor Richard Yun

Introduction

True love does not come from Hallmark, Hollywood, or anything else from this world. Romantic love, and every other kind of true love, comes from God who expresses His undying love for us. We serve a God full of passionate love.

The Love Story Begins

Psalm 100:3-5 – “Know that the LORD, He is God. It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people and the sheep of His pasture. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise; Be thankful to Him and bless His name. For the LORD is good and his mercy is everlasting; and His truth endures to all generations.”

From the beginning, God has initiated the Great Romance. He took the first step by putting within us the longing for Himself. We see it in our longing for eternity, our hunger for perfect love, our thirst for joy and peace that this world grants only temporarily and incompletely.

So we are in a story—and it's the grandest, most fascinating, romantic, adventuresome story of all. In fact, all earthly stories are only remakes of portions of this grand story.

God First Spoke Love Not by Words, but by Action

His first love-action was in creating the earth to enjoy...Then the gift of human companionship. And the greatest gift of all was the gift of Himself – invisible to the eye, but real to the soul.

This is the beginning of every human's story. This story started with the first humans being wooed by God. We were made for greatness. We were made for love and to glorify His Name.

The Story We're In

- But sadly, we so easily lose our way in God's story. It moved to heartbreak in the garden of Eden when those first humans chose something they thought was better than God's love.
- But God is the first lover, and he won't be stopped from His pursuit to love. He eventually decides to concentrate His love on one group of people—the descendants of Jacob, or Israel, so that all the world would be blessed through them and know His love.
- God kept His end of the deal, but Israel couldn't. He called their unfaithfulness spiritual adultery and because of His holiness had to judge their rebellion against

Him. But even the judgment was designed to prompt the return of their love for Him:

“Return, backsliding (faithless) Israel,’ says the LORD, ‘I will not cause My anger to fall on you, for I am merciful,’ says the LORD, ‘I will not remain angry forever. Only acknowledge your iniquity (guilt), that have transgressed against the LORD your God, and you have scattered your charms to alien deities (foreign gods) under every green tree, and you have not obeyed My voice,’” says the LORD. ‘Return, O backsliding children (faithless people),’ declares the LORD, ‘for I am married to you (your husband)’” (Jeremiah 3:12-14).

- That’s the great risk God took. The Great Romance required their free choice. Love had to be free. God expresses His undying love for us in terms of betrothal and marriage that weathers all kinds of storms.
- And then, in the fullness of time, His love burst forth in ways no one could have imagined - Jesus. He taught love, lived love, and offered love. His first commandment was to love God with all our being, and the second was to love others. He said every law of his Father was a love of love, and he called both Jew and Gentile to love him in obedience and in trust. He called it the kingdom of God and it was marked by his love for all kinds of sinners, giving them both forgiveness and freedom from their sins. And every person who turned from their sins and loved Jesus was granted life – here on earth and forever.

The Great Romance Spreads

So the story spread. It begins with God’s love for us, our love for God, and our love for others. No adventure can compare to this. No love story is better. No mystery is deeper. No drama is richer. And we are in the middle of it.

There’s nothing more powerful in a person’s life than to be loved. It will lead people to live for it, and even die for it. It’s knowing that the God of all reality is constantly and compassionately acting for our greatest good. If we grasp this simple reality, it will turn our seemingly average and sometimes disappointing lives into an extraordinary and exhilarating tale of love.

“This is how God showed His love among us: He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and His love is made complete in us” (1 John 4:9-12)

Conclusion

- A dying man writing a message of love with blood is a moving one.
- But there is another moving love story written in blood – Jesus expressed His love for a lost world in blood. (Christmas story)
- Invitation to accept His love by accepting Him as your Lord and Saviour.

- For those of us who have tasted and experienced His love, God wants us to demonstrate the love of Christ in our lives? Are there some ways you struggle with showing true Christian love to your parents, family members, spouse or friends. Come to the altar to receive and renew your love so that in return you can demonstrate and share His love with others.