VALENTINE’S: STRUGGLE FOR LOVE

Connect Outline
14 February 2016

Time to Fellowship
• What has been your greatest struggle with love and when have you felt most loved in your life?

Time to Follow
Discuss the Bible

Genesis 29:18-20/24-25/35 ESV
18 Jacob loved Rachel. And he said, “I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel.” 19 Laban said, “It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me.” 20 So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.
24 (Laban gave his female servant Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her servant.) 25 And in the morning, behold, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, “What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?”
35 And she conceived again and bore a son, and said, “This time I will praise the LORD.” Therefore she called his name Judah. Then she ceased bearing.

• Q: What can we learn from Jacob regarding love and commitment?
  Read: Gen 29:18-20
  Love is not just a feeling but a resolute commitment to another.

• Q: When you have been disappointed by love, how do you react, what do you do?
  Read: Gen 29:25 (Jacob)/ Gen 29:31-32 (Leah)
  Disappointment tends to bring up feelings of bitterness, shame, blame shifting and even anger. Prayer allows us to protect our hearts and approach the issue with a soft heart.

• Q: in the midst of struggling with love, how did she eventually get to the place of peace and fulfillment?
  Read: Genesis 29:35
  Our hearts greatest desire is the love of God that we get from intimacy with him. From this place we can be patient with man’s weakness and generous with our affections.

Time to Fish
Who can you express love to or forgiveness to this week?

DISCIPLESHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS:

FOUNDATIONS DISCUSSION:
Every Sunday at 09:00 in the Conference Room or 16:00 before the Hub, we discuss the essentials of the Christian faith. If you haven’t gone through the One2One book or feel your faith is questioned, join us this Sunday. Email lereko@hispeoplejoburg.org for more info.
Sermon notes:
Blaise Pascal: “There is a god-shaped vacuum in the heart of every person, and it can never be filled by any created thing. It can only be filled by God, made known through Jesus Christ.”

Summary of Tim Keller’s book, The Struggle of love:

One of the first things pointed out is how even though Jacob has begun a relationship with God, it is not an immediate remedy for his inner emptiness, rather it starts a process of transformation through mistakes and disasters. God is at work in his life and those around him anyway, even if he's not finished making mistakes and so on.

People with an inner emptiness give themselves to a hope- the idea of that "one true love".

So Tim Keller divides it into three sections:
1. What is behind that hope in the one true love?
2. There is a disillusionment that always follows.
3. What gives ultimate fulfillment is God.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. BEREAVEMENT COURSE
This 6 week course is for any person who is bereaved, whether recently or dating back a several years. Based on Christian principals, this course is suitable for anyone with or without a Christian faith.
Time: 19h00 – 21h00
Date: Begins 17 February 2016
Venue: Conference Room
Cost: R300, contact lisa@hispeoplejoburg.org

2. WORSHIP NIGHT
Come and enjoy unhurried time in God’s presence.
Time: 19h00 – 21h00
Venue: Auditorium

3. DISCOVER HIS PEOPLE: 27 FEBRAURY AT 18H30 - 20H30.
Join us for an evening of warm interaction with some of our Pastors as we take a closer look at our HP Vision, Values and Culture. Our goal is to help you grow closer to God and to follow Him more effectively. We will also endeavour to connect you into meaningful Christian friendships, and we will talk about what membership at HP involves. Email iain@hispeoplejoburg.org