



WHEN LOVE GETS RISKY

An Oro Valley Christmas Pt 2

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BIG IDEA: God's crazy, risky idea was to create people to be in relationship with Him, who could receive His love and share it with others.

God knew that love wasn't truly love unless there is a choice to not love. Obedience isn't truly obedience unless it is possible to be disobedient. So God took a risk on us and lavished His love on us, hoping we would love Him in return. Instead, we rejected God, over and over again.

Pastor Dave's abridged version of God's love story, over 4000+ years:

1. God creates humans and gives them a perfect setting in which to live, with God right in their midst. (*Genesis 1-2*)
2. They reject God; God removes them from that setting. After repeated sin and rejection, God regrets having made them. (*Genesis 3-6*)
3. God starts over with Noah's family, and soon they are so far from God that God creates languages to split them up. (*Genesis 7-11*)
4. God chooses a person (Abram) to lavish His love on and make a new, blessed nation of people as an example for everyone else to see. They reject God, and end up as slaves in Egypt. (*Genesis 12 – Exodus 1*)
5. God delivers them from Egypt miraculously, promises them their own land as a home, and gives them clear expectations to live by (the Law). They choose to reject God again and make up their own gods to worship. (*Exodus – Joshua*)
6. God gives them judges to guide them to love God and follow the Law; they reject all that and demand a king instead. (*Judges, 1 Samuel 8*)
7. God gives them prophets, people who love God and have a relationship with Him, to plead with them to love God. They reject every one, and even kill some of them. (*2 Chronicles, Isaiah – Haggai*)

8. God releases His blessing from the Israelites and they again fall into bondage, now in Babylon. They turn back to God, God delivers them, and soon they reject God again. (*Ezra – Esther, Zechariah – Malachi*)
9. God makes good on His ultimate promise to love humanity, despite all its flaws and ongoing rejection. (*Matthew – John*)

“This is the story of God: He pursues you with His love. Even if you reject his love, He pursues you ever still. If the message that God wants to get across to us is just about getting our beliefs right, then He didn’t need to come Himself. If God’s entire intent was to clarify right from wrong, no personal visitation was necessary. If the ultimate end was simply to overwhelm us with the miraculous so that we would finally believe, then even God taking on flesh and blood and walking among was far from necessary. There is only one reason for God to come Himself, because in issues of love, you just can’t have someone else stand in for you.” — Pastor Erwin McManus, *Soul Cravings*

How do we respond to the relentless love of God?

1. **We receive it.** (*1 John 4:9-10, John 3:16-17*)
2. **We share it with others.** (*1 John 4:11-21*)