

“Let’s Go There”: An Honest Journey Into Advent | Wk 4

12/06/2020 | A Seattle Church: [@ASeattleChurch](#)

“Our Romances” by [Pastor Tyler Gorsline](#)

SERMON NOTES:

Pastor Tyler Asked us to Look Inward to consider:

1. Who are we becoming, to realize that romance is all about who we are becoming.
2. To discern what we look upon and behold Christ in worship, and where do we seek belonging elsewhere.
3. To acknowledge the realities that:
 - a. 1. Marriage is the second hardest thing you will do besides following Jesus.
 - b. 2. Sex is great, but an unsustainable source of hope.
 - c. 3. Romance is fun, but fleeting.
 - d. 4. Love is about radical self-giving sacrifice.
4. Instead, God is calling us to be more rooted in “agape” (Greek: “unconditional love of God” than “Eros” the gods of love (Greek), desire (Roman), sexual love (Freud) by participating in the “Tov (Hebrew in Genesis 1) of God’s “Good” kingdom design.

Our Moment/Struggle can be described as:

- We battle the temptation to be people who “draw strength from mere flesh and whose heart turns away from the LORD.” as Jeremiah 17:5 notes.
- Trying to find another person to “complete us.”
- Finding our sexuality getting misaligned with God's desires for flourishing because our hearts are in the wrong place. This leads to Porneia (Greek for "Sexual Immorality") that makes us "houses divided from Holy Spirit within us" (1 Corinthians 6).
- As a result, we keep putting ourselves in position to devour or be devoured by others
- Believing the cultural myth that we must have sex or be married to find fulfillment that ultimately, only God is fully capable of providing.

Impact/Key Points (Invitations from Christ):

- David and Bathsheba's story reveals that we are either becoming someone who can be healthy romantically, or are using others for our means of becoming less like Christ.
- We can tell who we are becoming by observing what we behold (worship).
- In 1 Corinthians 6, Paul invites us to be one with the Spirit within us, by not uniting our heart to other lovers through our romance, pursuit of love, and sexuality.
- To do so, he taught us in Romans 12:1 —offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God — this is your true and proper worship.
- Furthermore, the author of Hebrews, invites us to fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12:2)

REFLECTION QUESTIONS (Small Group & Personal):

WARM-UP: “Together”

1. What is a fun winter tradition or activity you do/ have done?
2. Would you rather read, watch a movie, listen to music or talk?

WORD: “Truth”

***Leader:** Questions below should allow for quick responses, evident by close reading of the text. Choose to use some or all of them (pending pace), as reading of the passage(s) will answer them as well.*

- **Sermon Recap (if helpful):** Pastor Tyler challenged us to examine if we are more defined by being people of “agape” (God’s unconditional love) or people of “eros” (incapable gods of desire, romance, and sexual intimacy). To consider who we are **becoming** as a result of what we are most **beholding** in worship, and where we are seeking **belonging** in relationship with God and others. He led us to look closely at the ways that David became less a “man after God’s own heart” and how Uriah exhibited becoming someone growing in becoming more intimate with Christ above all other offers for human intimacy. This story is emblematic of our romantic lives in 2020. Ultimately, the sermon challenged us to consider where we are cultivating “Tov” (the “good” of God as designed in Genesis 1) or have traded our worship of the “creator for the created” (as described in Romans 1). Whether single, dating, or married...Tyler challenged us to consider where we are in sin (missing the mark), by not waiting for God’s arrival in our romantic longings.

Read 2 Samuel 11:1-27

Read in 8 chunks if helpful 11:1, 11:2-5, 11:6-8, 11:9-11, 11:12-13, 11:14-17, 11:18-25, 11:26-27

Read 2 Samuel 11:1

- a. What is happening and what is David doing?

Read 2 Samuel 11:2-5

- b. What did David see, do, and what was the outcome?

Read 2 Samuel 11:6-8

- c. What was David’s plan?

Read 2 Samuel 11:9-11

- d. What did Uriah do?
- e. How were his actions in contrast with David’s?

Read 2 Samuel 11:12-13

- f. What did David do in these verses?

Read 2 Samuel 11:14-17

- g. After David's plan did not work, how did it escalate?

Read 2 Samuel 11:18-25

- h. What was communicated to David?
- i. How did David respond to the news?

Read 2 Samuel 11:26-27

- j. What did David do after he knew Uriah died?
- k. How does David exemplify making a selfish choice and continuing to make that choice in different ways, over and over again?

SUPPLEMENTARY STUDY MATERIAL

1. Read Matthew 12:25 and 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 (zeroing in on vs 18-20). Ask yourself where your current romantic desires, pursuit of love, and sexual practices are aligned with the Holy Spirit or causing you to feel like "a house divided." Examine this quote by Tim Keller in light of who you are becoming and what you are beholding and pursuing for belonging in Christ and in your intimate pursuit of romance with others: "Sex, as prescribed in the Bible, is a way of saying, I see all of your imperfections and I am still completely, exclusively, and permanently committed to you. You are naked to me in all ways, and I still accept you forever." Do you feel like you can be this type of honest, unashamed, naked, and in God's peace with yourself and those who you are intimate with. Why or why not? How can you pursue that type of reality otherwise?
2. Great resources for further learning on this topic include:
 - a. Untamed by Jay Stringer
 - b. The War of Loves by David Bennett
 - c. Swipe Right by Levi Lusko
 - d. The Meaning of Marriage by Tim and Kathy Keller
 - e. Loveology by John Mark Comer

APPLICATION: "Life":

1. We can tell who we are becoming by observing what we behold (worship). What are you focussing on, what are you worshipping?
2. David and Bathsheba's story reveals that we are either becoming someone who can be healthy romantically, or are using others for our means of becoming less like Christ. Taking an honest inventory, how are you doing?

PRAYER "Way"

1. How can we pray for romance in your life? (looking for a partner, marriage, singleness)
2. How can we pray for agape to grow?
3. Do you have any other specific prayer requests?

COMMUNION “Together”

Lead your group in communion in a way that feels right.

- If needed, 1 Corinthians 11:23-27
 - **23** ...that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, **24** and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” **25** In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” **26** For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS at ASC:

1. Read our **ASC End-Of-Year Report** [HERE](#) to see how God has moved in and through our church in the past year!
2. **Awesome:** ASC has begun giving away 10% of all donations we receive to help support church-planting, biblical justice, and other non-profits serving our city & world!
3. Consider supporting ASC's Year-End, “**Big-Give Goal**” to raise \$60,000 [HERE](#) . You can do so via one-time or recurring gifts, donating appreciated stock, business matching programs, or covering your Subsplash fees for the gifts you are already giving.
4. **Watch this video** for our latest [COVID-19 Pastoral Update](#) from Pastor Tyler
5. **Mark Your Calendars:**
 - a. **Dec 16: Prayer Night @ Collective Seattle.** Limited Space. Sign up in newsletter
 - b. **Christmas Eve Service:** Details forthcoming
6. **All-Church Prayer Call** on Wednesday's from 1230-1pm each week. 1-253-215-8782, 86546382360#
7. **Invite a Friend** to join us online next week as we look at “Our Families” in Wk 5 of our “Let's Go There: An Honest Journey into Advent” series.
8. **Share testimony** of how God is moving in your life/your group in this season? [HERE](#)
9. How can we **come alongside you** in more specific ways as a church? [Let us know.](#)
10. Have you been **baptized?** If that is your next step in repentance and faith, [let us know.](#)