

## *“The Power of Love”*

*Micah 2:2-5a; Philippians 2:1-11*

December 19, 2021

### Introduction

- Love songs
  - o First Album – “I’m all Out of Love” by Air Supply
  - o Thankfully, grew out of that phase but my love for love songs remained
    - Layla – Eric Clapton, written about George Harrison’s wife
    - Wild Horses by the Rolling Stones
    - Althea by the Grateful Dead
- But I think one of my favorite ones is actually quite simple
  - o Marshall Tucker Bands – “Heard it in a Love Song”
    - Great rhyme, “heard it in a love song...can’t be wrong.”
- But love songs aren’t always right, are they?
  - o Not always
  - o Tell us to put everything on the line and it will all work out. Divorcees know that isn’t always the case
    - Sometimes the best efforts still don’t work out
- The truth of the matter is
  - o Love songs can disappoint us, set our expectations high, only to disappoint us, leave us feeling bitter.
- The World LIES TO US
  - o **John 14:25-27** – *“These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.*

### The Ways the World Lies to Us

- We know this world is jacked up
  - o Wars
  - o Arguments
  - o Leah’s Love Box destroyed
    - In a way, a metaphor for the lack of love within our society.
- Why?
  - o WE’VE BEEN LIED TO.
    - Friends, we’ve been getting lied to for a long, long time.
      - Garden of Eden, Genesis 3 – “He [THE SERPENT] said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden’
- We’ve been bombarded with the message that to love the world, we’ve got to love ourselves FIRST which is as opposite a message to the Bible as the world has ever known.
  - o Live in a. World filled with self-aggrandizement
    - People are **BRANDING AND MARKETING THEMSELVES** on bases big and small.
- The Rhyme as the reason
  - o Hack, rhyming makes us inclined to believe the material contained in the rhyme.
    - Roses are red, violets are blue. If you buy our product, the one who will be happy is you.
      - You believe it.
- Hacks into our system
  - o Milgram effect – if we think someone is an expert, we will injure ourselves and others following their instructions.

- The primary means by which we are manipulated by others is through the belief that we have to earn whatever love we receive.
  - o Think about the many, many ways that lie gets told
    - Buy this, or no one will ask you out
    - Do this, or you won't be successful
    - Act this way, or you won't be accepted
- We live in meritocracy, I wouldn't want it any other way, BUT we can't come at God's love as something we earn.
  - o It is, instead, given and given through one person, and one person alone

#### Jesus Christ

- Tell the Gospel
- Adam and Eve
- Abraham
- Moses
- Joshua
- Judges
- Kings
- EXILE
- God's people cried OUT. Even though they were causing their own troubles.

#### God had a plan

- **Genesis 3:14-15** – *“The Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”*
  - o Right here, at the beginning of the story, God tells us what he's going to do!
- Telling us about a savior
  - o **Genesis 49:10** – *“The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until he to whom it belongs shall come and the obedience of the nations shall be his.”*
  - o **Micah 5:2** – *“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are From of old, from ancient times.”*
  - o **Isaiah 9:6** – *“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”*

#### Philippians

- The JOY epistle
  - o He's not mad at them!
  - o Dear to his heart
- An ancient hymn
- Kenosis
  - o Self-emptying
- Agape
  - o Other-directed love

**Philippians 2:1-11** – *“So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming*

*obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore, God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”*

Heard it in a love song. Can't be wrong!

In the Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.