

THE NAKED TRUTH

THE AUTHOR OF ROMANCE

FEBRUARY 2ND & 4TH

Introduction

- Relationships are awkward! And there's not a whole lot you can do about the awkwardness, but we can simplify it so that maybe it feels a bit less complex.
- To bring some clarity to romance we want to start at the very beginning.
- Romance was not humankind idea, or Shakespeare's, or St. Valentines, or Hollywood's or Hallmarks. God is the original author of romance.

Scripture

- Excerpts from Genesis 2 and 3

The Original Romance Story

- God created Adam and Eve and brought them together to be in relationship with each other as husband and wife. It was great, and they felt no shame.
- Romance is a beautiful part of life created by God. It's not something to be ashamed of. It's not something to run away from. When the time is right romance can be a beautiful gift from God.
- If we were to stop at Genesis 2:24, it would seem like Adam and Eve had a "happily ever after" type story. Unfortunately, there's a sequel.

The Sequel

- While God set up a beautiful life for Adam and Eve, one without shame and with so much freedom, the enemy convinces Adam and Eve that God just wants to constrain them and doesn't actually want them to be happy.

- Adam and Eve fall for this lie, and disobeying God changes their entire story.

Strong Desires vs. Deep Desires

- There's two types of desires that drive our actions: our strongest desires and our deepest desires.
- Adam and Eve gave into their strongest desires to have freedom and control, while their deepest desire was to feel freedom from shame and be in perfect relationship with God. Unfortunately, they gave into their strongest desires.
- Our strongest desires (such as to have a relationship now, to gain approval from people, to watch whatever we want), often sabotages our deepest desires (such as one day having a beautiful and healthy relationship with mutual love and care, to have deep and strong rooted healthy friendships, to honour God)
- Allowing God to write our stories means trusting that he wants to give us our deepest desires.

The Greatest Love Story of all Time.

- The greatest love story of all time is the one that God wrote about the love that Jesus has for His people.
- Jesus is called the groom and the church (God's people) is called the bride. It's the greatest love story where the groom sacrifices himself because of the love he has for his bride.
- Ephesians 5:25 compares the love of Jesus to how romantic love should be.

Conclusion

Romance is everywhere, that's not going away. And one day you may decide that it's important to you to have your own romantic story, while others of you may decide that you don't care for it. Both are great. Ultimately, God wants the biggest story of your life to be the one of you and Him, and every other story comes secondary to that one. And no matter what the other stories are, whether it be a story of love, a story of adventure, a story of pursuing family and friendships, God wants in on writing your story and this whole month we are going to continue to learn how have him do just that.