

**REAL, REAL WORLD SERIES TWO
DATING AND SEX**

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Ecclesiastes 3:1-8; Song of Songs 1:6-7; 8:8-9; 1 Corinthians 7:25-28, 32-35

Intro

- In our world today there is some heavy confusion on what this book the Bible really is. Most would look at and say that it's perhaps a rule book or a how to for life.
- I would disagree with this. I believe as we read through this book we discover that this book truly is a story. Not that it's all made up but that there is a message and story being passed along here.
- I believe as you read this book you find that the Bible is this beautiful story of God and how he is constantly reaching to connect with his people. I believe that as we read through this we read account after account of how God's creation played a role in that larger story with the message being that this still happens today. Even at this very moment we have the chance to actively participate in the story of God's encounter with his creation.
- Here's something I find fascinating about this.

Read Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 (Slide)-Skip most verses after 2 and go to the end

- Essentially the message of this passage is that in this story of our lives there is a time for everything, meaning that sometimes it's not the right time for some things.
- If we think of life as a bedtime story you wouldn't start in the beginning skip a few chapters, then keep reading, skip a few more and still know what was going on.

Ill- Baby toupee- For example on Saturday Night Live last night I saw this fake commercial they did for baby toupee's. They were talking about how bald babies had a lower self confidence so why not get them fake hair pieces to make them feel better. I thought it would be a good illustration for his morning so I went online to try and download it and bring it in, but I couldn't get it. I did however find something better. A real baby toupee online store. A place that actually sells baby hair pieces. **(Slide)**

- We would all agree that in the story of our lives giving a baby a hair piece is trying to skip ahead a few chapters. We can all agree that Ecclesiastes could easily say there's a time for hair and there's a time for no hair.
- The question I have for us then is if its so easy to recognize when we're trying to skip ahead in God's story with us, why do we so often do it anyways when it comes to things like dating and sex?

t>> Today I'd like to take some time and explore where do things like dating and sex fit into this story of us encountering God and how can we remain patient so as not to rush things and skip chapters.

Dating

- Before we get too far into this whole dating discussion what if we took just a moment to ask ourselves why is it that I really want to be someone's boyfriend or girlfriend anyways?
- I would suggest that perhaps much of our desire to be part of a couple lies in our disappointment with us as an individual.
- Last week when we talked about addictions and how they were rooted in low self esteem and low self image, I had quite a few people come up to me afterwards and half joking and half serious ask "can you be addicted to boys?" or "can you be addicted to girls?"
- Answer is yes. Far too often the motivation for finding a boyfriend or girlfriend is to make ourselves feel better about ourselves.
- This is something that people looking for romantic relationships have struggled with throughout history.

Read Song of Songs 1:6 (Slide)

- Here you have a woman who is struggling with her appearance. In most ancient culture it was desirable to be as creamy and pale as possible. Lots of tanning under the sun was actually unattractive at one time.
- For many of us the response to feeling this way would be to do anything we could to get some one in our lives who would tell us we're wonderful and attractive. We'd do anything to be with the person who would make us feel valuable.

Ill-My Freshman crush- When I started my freshman year in college I was at one of the lowest points in my life. I felt rejected because all the colleges I really wanted to go to wouldn't give me scholarships. I was lonely because most my friends had left town to go to school someplace else and I had little chance to get a new social life as I was working in the kitchen of an Italian restaurant every Thursday, Friday, and Saturday night from 3pm to 1am. Things all changed when I arrived at my English 101 class though. In that class there was girl named Jenny and when I saw her I would get all red and giggled a lot because I knew I had just seen the most amazing girl in the entire universe. Throughout the semester she'd sit next to me now and then and we'd have to be partners on in class projects. Sometimes, not too often, but sometimes she'd think something I said was kind of funny and she laugh a little and touch my arm and sigh, "Oh Steve" and didn't even matter that she could never remember my name was Seth or that I usually did all the work while she texted her friends. At those moments when this angel was validating my existence I would have done all her homework for every class for the rest of my life, I would have shaved my name is Steve into the sides on each side of my head if she asked. If she had asked I would have walked into the football team's locker room and asked them where they kept their skirts at since they played like such a bunch of girls. I would do anything she asked no matter how ridiculous it was simply because she made me feel like at least somebody noticed me a little bit.

- We can want to make these boyfriend/girlfriend relationships happen because the other person makes us feel like we're worth something. Horrible reason to date someone as it

often causes us to lower our standards and values and do stuff that we wouldn't normally do, all in the name of affirmation.

- Look how the woman in this passage handles it.

Read Song of Songs 1:7

- Veiled woman is another way to describe a prostitute in that culture and so we have this woman saying that even though there are parts of her that she could feel bad and self-conscious about she's not going to change who she is or what her values are to find the right person.

t>> low self worth is one of the many bad reasons that are out there that we choose to date or want to date someone. If you're looking at your reasons for wanting to date and they seem to be bad ones allow me to quickly suggest just an idea for your consideration.

Singleness

Read 1 Corinthians 7:25-28, 32-35

*Joy of singleness- people who don't have girlfriends or boyfriends still can have great lives
Singleness allows for a certain level of freedom-List ill

Community

Read Song of Songs 8:8-9

- Family helps decide when time is right
- Family and friends help you make the right decisions because we don't think straight when we're in love. This isn't something that can be done alone. Something in the way we're made that makes it impossible for us to think straight when we're all twitterpated with love.

Ill-Seth was an idiot when he got around pretty girls- Go back with me again to my freshman year in college this time to the second semester. I had moved into an apartment with some friends from high school, I had gotten a job that I could work at during the day so my social life was at least existent, my English class was done and over with and I had completely forgotten about Jenny over Christmas break. I was incredibly excited when the semester began for two reasons. One was that I was getting to take a class I had been looking forward to, Jazz History, which was supposed to be one of the best classes in all the university. This was also my first real lecture style class, meaning it was one of those huge classes where there were 300 other people in it. One of the assignments was that we had to go to local jazz performances in town and bring back a report of what we heard. One night I was at one of these performances at a restaurant and I decided to have a piece of cake while I listened. Girl walked over, I spilled the cake and just mumbled while I ate it out of my lap.

t>> Having people around helps to keep you from making silly or painful or unwise decisions. We'll end today with the biggest of those decisions...

Sex

Read Song of Songs 5:1

- In modern day language this would pretty much mean, “That was awesome.” Sex is always something celebrated in the Bible when it’s had in the right context.
- Bible is pretty clear that context is marriage. Even right here where its saying how great sex is the Bible is putting some guidelines to it.

Read Song of Songs 4:11-12 (Slide)

- Pretty much telling the girl that she is the most beautiful girl alive and everything about her is better than any other woman out there, but we’re not married yet so we’re going to keep this garden locked up tight.
- Even though you may have the best flowers in the world in your garden we’re not married so their not mine to go and enjoy yet.
- Notice that only when the lover enters the garden does he enjoy all these wonderful things for the first time. He’s talked about it a lot but if you read up to now that’s all he’s done. There’s been no tasting or gathering up until this point, not even a little bit. Here the act of entering the garden seems to be a picture for entering into a marriage.

Compare Song of Songs 4:12 to 5:1 (Slides)

- What’s the difference here? All of a sudden the garden isn’t simply a garden but it’s my garden. This is one of the reasons marriage is so important. It is supposed to be a willing, unbreakable, and lifelong agreement that my body now belongs to the person I’ve married and theirs now belongs to me.
- This is a level of trust that can only be found in the promise of marriage. Anybody who is not willing to make this commitment does not deserve have and cannot be trusted with something as precious as another’s body and intimacy.
- Its easy to say I know we’re not married but I love the person I’m with and because I feel all this love in my heart I know we’ll be together forever, so we can go ahead and have sex now.
- God tells us how he feels about the heart.

Read Jeremiah 17:9

- As much as you love one another sex becomes about how much you love. Will you trust his story or will you try and write your own.

Closing

- Allow yourself to be content with the part of the story you're in now. Trust God that you'll get to the next chapter just don't miss what happening now.
- If you've made some poor choices and want to talk we'll be available.