

“God’s Letter To Us”

By Mrs. Sojourner

Recently I’ve noticed a number of Believers that are in a “ho-hum” state of mind, and they seem to believe that things will not ever get better for them.

This is not true! Believers have a love letter from the Creator of the Universe: it is called the Bible. Yes it takes more effort to get through it than most “love letters,” but the result is worth the effort.

Our God, who is love^[a], expressed his love to us in a BIG way. He had numerous authors, over hundreds of years, write 66 books that compile into an exhaustive “love letter” that expresses his love for us in countless ways including the following:

- 1) Explains to us why we, mankind, were created, and how we came into being.^[b]
- 2) Explains to us how and why sin came into the world.^[c]
- 3) Gives us many examples of our Heavenly Father making promises and keeping them.



Notes:

- [a] 1 John 4:8
- [b] Genesis 2
- [c] Genesis 3

- 4) Tells us of the promises God has for us and how he has accomplished them. (Understanding that God has already done everything that is needed to redeem an/or take care of us.
- 5) Instructs us in how to accept God’s salvation through Jesus the Christ.
- 6) Gives us detailed instructions on how to live out the life God has planned for us.
- 7) Gives examples of how those who love and follow our Heavenly Father pursued him, disobeyed him, and repented of their sins.

Daily reading and/or studying portions of God’s “love letter” helps us to never forget his love or forget how to best express our love to him.

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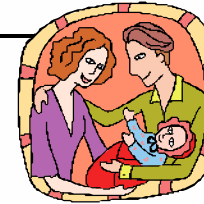
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...with The Sojourner

“Dating Or Mating?” (Teaching Sketch)

Jeremiah 2:32-37



There are times in the lives of each of us we need to seek God to help us understand our relationship to him. I do not mean here to be referring solely to the scriptural descriptions of how to be a Christian, a Believer, but the reality of what the relationship has become either by design or by habit.

How many times in a relationship have you found that the relationship has dramatically changed, but the change occurred in such small increments they were actually not noticeable until they were considered as a whole.

Looking at the contrast between where a relationship started and where it has arrived, once evaluated, can often be quite startling.

Dating

Dating is often seen as a wonderful, exciting, exhilarating time filled with wonder and positive expectation.

Dating is, in short, a time of exploration, evaluation, and mapping. We explore the other

Notes:

person, looking for those aspects of the other which we see as positive. If we find enough of these positive aspects they reinforce our desire to build a greater relationship. Sometimes, if we are not careful, we may attribute to the other person positives which are not there. I call this “filling in the blanks to meet our expectations.” This can be a very destructive practice since a person can be constructed which is not in fact who the other is at all.

The scripture from Jeremiah 2 speaks of a maiden remembering to prepare herself to look her best. The look created can be misleading and actually plant a seed of deception. Remember evaluating and mapping of the relationship is continually happening during the initial stages of a new relationship.

Mating

People, once they have made a commitment to mate, by this I mean marriage—not sex, have to enter into a permanent relationship. During the exploration stage the parties have settled many likes and dislikes to determine compatibility in sharing their lives and expectations.

Scripture:

Jeremiah 2:32-37 (NIV)

³² Does a maiden forget her jewelry,
a bride her wedding ornaments?
Yet my people have forgotten me,
days without number.
³³ How skilled you are at pursuing love!
Even the worst of women can learn from your ways.
³⁴ On your clothes men find
the lifeblood of the innocent poor,
though you did not catch them breaking in.
Yet in spite of all this
³⁵ you say, 'I am innocent;
he is not angry with me.'
But I will pass judgment on you
because you say, 'I have not sinned.'
³⁶ Why do you go about so much,
changing your ways?
You will be disappointed by Egypt
as you were by Assyria.

Notes: ³⁷ You will also leave that place
with your hands on your head,
for the LORD has rejected those you trust;
you will not be helped by them.

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John 3:27-30

²⁷ To this John replied, "A man can receive only what is given him from heaven. ²⁸ You yourselves can testify that I said, 'I am not the Christ but am sent ahead of him.' ²⁹ The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom's voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete. ³⁰ He must become greater; I must become less.

"Dating Or Mating?" (Teaching Sketch)

Jeremiah 2:32-37

One of the major issues may well be the having of offspring. If the Groom wants many children the Bride needs to be accepting of that desire.

Now let me speak of the Groom, in the spiritual, which is Jesus the Christ. Jesus expects his Bride to want to have offspring. How many Believers say they are a Bride of Christ but are happy to remain barren having no offspring?

Jesus, when first met by whatever means by the Believer, was such a breath of fresh air with the promise of salvation, healing, and deliverance. How wonderful, it was thought, it seemed to be all about receiving, but it is a relationship, so there were and are expectations from Jesus, the Groom.

Return To Your First Love!

If your relationship has drifted to the point of accepting all Jesus has offered and given but you have not fulfilled your part, turn around and embrace the Groom with a change of direction and an apology. If you are barren, begin immediately to accept your part as the Bride by becoming pregnant with evangelistic zeal. Give Jesus, the Groom, offspring. Then, don't abandon your spiritual children but raise them in the Lord.

Just so you'll know:

Our service is informal. We look to the Holy Spirit of God to guide us corporately and individually.

Our service usually follows this general pattern:

- **Informal sharing** of what we have seen the Lord do in, through, and around us since we last met.
 - Testimonies are often a part of the conversation.
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Praise & Worship**
- **Words of Prophecy or Knowledge** if they have been given during "Praise & Worship" (other times as the Spirit moves).
- **The Pastoral Message**
- **Prayer Requests**
 - Ministry to those present & intercession.
- **The Blessing**

