

“LOVE’S ULTIMATE STORY”

Date: April 4, 2021

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“Easter is a celebration of Love’s Ultimate Story.”

From our perspective, today celebrates a day above all days...

- (Vs) Luke 24:1-12, 36-49 – I have risen... I have overcome!
- This is why so many gather - To remember the Risen Lord and Lover of My Life!

Today I want to spend some time looking at Easter from a different perspective... Instead of seeing from our human eyes... What must it have looked like from God’s eyes?

- Here’s what I know...

“From God’s perspective, all people have a love story with Him.”

- Like all Love Stories, some end in Beauty and some end in Brokenness... But either way, we all have one.

(Vs) Isaiah 61:10 – I will greatly rejoice in the Lord; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

This is how God views me...

- God sees as us as His Bride...
- It seems to perfectly illustrate His perspective of our mutual Love Story!

So, let’s try and sit inside this imagery, picturing our Love Story with God like a Wedding Ceremony...

- When first meeting God... *(there’s a romantic atmosphere)*
- Someone tells you about Jesus... *(the flower girl enters)*
- There’s Encouragement from Others... *(the Bridal Party stands in support)*
- Something Big is about to Happen... *(the Bridal Music starts and the crowd stands)*
- Then – You Present your life to God...*(the Bride enters)*

It’s at this point, God tells you about all the love He is going to share with you...

- (Vs.) 1st Cor. 13:1-8 – *“Love never ends...”*

- He asks, "Do you accept me into your life?" – You answer, "I Do."
- There's nothing like when people first meet Jesus... (*the Bride is Glowing!!!*)

This is how God sees me! This is how He Loves Me!

- I remember the first time I realized this, that God was more than some distant power to be reckoned with.
- I remember how at peace I felt – Fully accepted as *BEAUTIFUL!*

Along the way, like in so many relationships, we get distracted...

- We bring and allow things into our lives that shouldn't really be there...
 - The way we live our lives
 - We lose our footing
 - The way we treat ourselves
 - The way we treat each other
 - We fall in love with the world, choosing to reject God's love

It's around this point, many of us realize something has gone terribly wrong...

- ... And so, it's here that the enemy comes, whispering, "Look at you, at what you have done, you can never undo this!"
- This is what has come of our Love Story... "Stained and Empty."
- ...But God, from His perfect perspective can clearly see all of this.

So, on Easter Morning, He Entered the Room!

- First, with forgiveness: He cleans away our stains .

(Vs) Isaiah 1:18 – "Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool."

- And then, with the strength of Grace and Love, He holds us as we are.

(Vs) Psalm 18:30-32 – "This God - His way is perfect; the word of the Lord proves true; He is a shield for all those who take refuge in Him. For who is God, but the Lord? And who is a rock, except our God? – the God who equipped me with strength and made my way blameless."

- We are hope-filled and full of incredible love!
- Now maybe you can appreciate a refreshed Easter perspective, realizing once and for all,

"That the greatest Love Story ever told was told about You and God."