



THE CHURCH AT ELLERSLIE

SUNDAY SERMON NOTES

ERIC LUDY

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DAVIDIC LOVE-SPRINTING

A Study in the Manly Pursuit of Heaven-Bred Intimacy



David

The Gentle Harp Playing Lad with a Bloody Sword in his Scabbard

The Meaning of the Name “David”

The Shepherdly Affection

Loving affection begets loving affection

David’s Sprinting = Sprinting Sheep

Intimacy

The word that makes grown men tremble

So, What Exactly is Intimacy?

Intimacy

Drawing near with perfect confidence

1. Nearness; closeness; admission into the sacred, and otherwise prohibited, territory.
2. Affectionate friendship; the healing of all hurts; the removal of all impediment; the complete restoration of all trust. No barrier. No restriction. No wall of separation.
3. Sharing the inmost; revealing that which is inward; innermost.

Celebrating the Work of the Cross

For it has brought us near unto our God

Jesus Brought Us Near, into His Most Intimate Affections, and Shared with us His Inmost

When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and **gave up His Spirit.**

John 19:30

Paradidōmi - Para-did-oh-may

to give into the hands (of another); to give over into (one's) power or use; to deliver to one something to keep, use, take care of, manage

But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.

John 19:34

Jesus Is Really Good at this Intimacy Stuff

We, on the other hand . . . not so much

Saddling the Fire-Snorting Stallion

I Can't - But I Must!

The Holy Tension of the Schoolmaster

How Much Do You Want it?

Enough to Humble Yourself?

The Gold of the Gospel

There is an Answer to Your Agony

The Land of Havilah

The land of shimmering golden beauty

And a river went out of Eden to water the garden; and from thence it was parted, and became into four heads. The name of the first is Pison: that is it which compasses the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold; And the gold of that land is good: there is bdellium and the onyx stone.

Genesis 2:10-12

The Deed

The Deed is Yours . . . so, what are you doing with it?

Having a Deed, But not having the Gold

The Plight of Many a Modern Christian

- I can know my father has given me a deed
- I can believe the deed is authentic
- I can believe that the deed my father bequeathed me is, in fact, the only deed that can authorize my access to His great fortune
- I can receive the deed from my father and actually hold it in my hand
- I can fold it and stick it in my pocket, and keep it on my person always
- I could have legal right to all my father's gold and not actually ever have any gold in actual possession

A Proper Response to a Deed

- I must know about the deed
- I must reckon the deed, in fact, mine
- I must open it, read it, know it's contents, and have a full confidence that the writer of those contents has spoken truth
- I must present my life and body unto the adventure of mining gold and sign up as miner in pursuit of the promise of which the deed speaks
- I must exert, and take real world steps, enter the mine, pick up the tools left me, and start searching for gold - the whole while knowing that if I heed my father's instructions, I will find gold in abundance. I must do the work of a miner.
- I must obey the instructions of my father implicitly. What he says, goes. When he says "observe," I must observe. When it says "wait," I must wait. When he says "dig," I must dig.
- If I do the work of a gold miner and I implicitly heed my father's instruction - I will find the treasure.

Opening the Deed

the gift, the promise, and the commission

My Son, Eric,

Herein lies the deed to the Havilah Gold Mine. It's yours. 100% yours.

This mine is guaranteed to yield. Though at times it may appear to have run dry, I promise you that there will always be a fresh vein of gold to follow. You must look for it. Study it. Get to know it. And, never, and I mean never, will you go without. If you seek gold, you shall find gold. This mine will certainly reward you if you diligently seek it's riches.

You are penniless and unable to support the high calling you have received on your own earthly salary. I understand this, and therefore, have bequeathed you this mine as the means of financially supporting the gargantuan assignment I have given you. As your Father, I heartily exhort you, even command you, to not take this mine for granted, nor to forsake its great wealth. Mining is difficult work, and no doubt there will be times in which you desire to see if your own measly paycheck can sustain you. I assure you now, that it will not, and never will be able to. So, quit yourself like a man, Eric, and go to work. If you heed my directive and embrace this high calling, you will have riches to spare.

I'm eager to witness how you steward this grand gift I've entrusted you!

Your beloved Father,

Abba

Heavenly Doing

Not the insufficient work of the Flesh (the labor of law), but the labor of the Spirit, the labor of Love

1. Time Dedicated inside the Mine
2. Finding the Veins of Gold
3. Mining the Gold, gleaning the Riches from the Mine
4. Bringing the Beauty into the open air
5. Wielding its Power in the Marketplace

Sacred Results

The outcome is real and tangible, not theoretical

The Dangers of Picking and Choosing our Labors

If you throw out the inconvenient duties requisite for mining Havilah gold, then you end up only with glorious possibilities and never with heavenly realities

The Golden Reward

Intimacy. That which is gained through the labor of Heavenly Love

Wanting Nearness Without the Cross

Desiring Sacred Results from Fleshly Actions

The Epicenter of a Man's Life

1. God
2. Wife
3. Kids

The Five Arts of Intimacy

First a Man Must Be Great with His God

Then he will, by course, be great with his wife and children

The Jesus Edition

5 Tools that Keep the Spiritual Fires Burning

1. The Art of Solitude and Stillness (*The Art of Solitude and Stillness*)

Time Dedicated. Time given, time spent, time purposely directed is the principal attribute of a working, growing, and ever-maturing relationship with the King. This time doesn't have to be filled with noise, with action, or with activity. This time doesn't need to be marked by some gain, some benefit, or some calculable benefit - it is time that is fully offered and made available without need of even the slightest compensation, that truly yields the greatest yield in intimacy.

2. The Art of Biblical Study (*The Art of Intentional Study*)

Affectionate Observation and Pursuit. Great love for Christ is a result of great observation and pursuit of Jesus Christ in His Revealed Word. But there is two ways to observe His Word. One way is to observe with a critical eye, seeking fault, weakness, and frailty. The God way, however, is to observe with an eye for all that is lovely and lovable. When a Christian studies the King of Kings with a desire to truly know Him, understand Him, appreciate Him, and more effectively serve Him, then the Christian will

find that intimacy with Christ will find them. As it says in Jeremiah 29:13, “And ye shall seek (Him), and find (Him), when you shall search for (Him) with all your heart.”

3. The Art of Biblical Meditation (*The Art of Loving Meditation*)

Purposeful Remembrance. Thoughtfulness is the spark plug of a great Christian life. It is so easy to get distracted and forget the things that matter most, but when a Christian labors to remember all that is lovely and lovable about Jesus Christ throughout the day, the stage is set for spiritual intimacy to thrive. When a Christian thinks on the Word of God throughout the day, then the Person of Jesus Christ will be paramount in their life. Things that are lovely, noble, pure, and of good report will be the substance of their thoughts and closeness to Christ will be a natural bi-product.

4. The Art of Heartfelt Worship (*The Art of Affectionate Expression*)

Words of Adoration. When a Christian studies Jesus Christ and meditates daily upon His preciousness, words of adoration and praise come naturally. When a Christian beholds Christ’s beauty, strength, and grandeur, there is never arm-twisting required in order to get them to shout, “Wow!” A Christianity that continually proclaims, “Wow!” is a Christianity that will always thrive.

5. The Art of Prayer (*The Art of Vulnerable Communication*)

Trusting Openness. Faith and unshakable confidence is the bulwark of a working relationship with God. A Christianity built on the first four of these five arts is one in which true faith can flourish. And this “faith” is a soil in which the depths of honesty, openness, and vulnerability can grow. It is in this soil that the most precious communications can take place, the most precious prayer-life can prosper - heart to heart, deep unto deep, spirit to spirit. And this is intimacy . . . heavenly intimacy.

The Wedding Edition

5 Tools that Make a Marriage Beautiful

1. The Art of Solitude and Stillness

Time Dedicated. Time given, time spent, time purposely directed is the principal attribute of a working, growing, and ever-maturing love story. This time doesn’t have to be filled with noise, with action, or with activity. This time doesn’t need to be marked by some gain, some benefit, or some calculable benefit - it is time that is fully offered and made available without need of even the slightest compensation, that truly yields the greatest yield in intimacy.

2. The Art of Intentional Study

Affectionate Observation. Great love is a result of great observation. But there is two ways to observe. One way is to observe with a critical eye, seeking fault, weakness, and frailty. The God way, however, is to observe with an eye for all that is lovely and lovable. When a spouse studies their spouse with a desire to truly know them, understand

them, appreciate them, and more effectively serve them, then that spouse will find that intimacy will find them. A spouse that feels known, understood, and appreciated is a spouse that is open to closeness and to receiving expressions of affection.

3. The Art of Loving Meditation

Purposeful Remembrance. Thoughtfulness is the spark plug of a great marriage. It is so easy to get distracted and forget the things that matter most, but when a spouse labors to remember all that is lovely and lovable about his/her spouse throughout the day, the stage is set for intimacy to thrive. A spouse that feels remembered, thought-about, and considered, is a deeply happy spouse.

4. The Art of Affectionate Expression

Words of Adoration. When a spouse studies the one they love to discern everything lovely and lovable about them, and then they meditate and daily remember these precious qualities, words of adoration come naturally. When one beholds beauty, strength, and grandeur, there is never arm-twisting required in order to get them to say, “Wow!” A marriage that continually states, “Wow!” is a marriage that will always thrive.

5. The Art of Vulnerable Communication

Trusting Openness. It takes a great deal for true trust to be established. But a marriage built on the first four of these five arts is one in which true trust can flourish. And this “trust” is a soil in which the depths of honesty, openness, and vulnerability can grow. It is in this soil that the most precious communications can take place - heart to heart, deep unto deep, spirit to spirit. And this is intimacy . . . heavenly intimacy.

The Heavenly Pattern for the Husband

Responding to the Impossible Commission

Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it.

Ephesians 5:25

Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth . . . and be thou ravished always with her love.

Proverbs 5:18-19

Surveying the Land of Promise

11 Attributes of the Heavenly Groom

1. The Advocate (The Defender)
2. The Fan (the biased)

3. The Boaster (the talker-upper)
4. The Partner (the Helper)
5. The Student (the expert, the Phd.)
6. The Friend (the loyal no matter what)
7. The Counselor (the bringer of Truth and perspective)
8. The Encourager (the one who always sees the silver lining)
9. The Thoughtful (the considerate, the gift-giver)
10. The Affectionate/ The Intimate (the lover)
11. The Empathizer (the Sharer of Sufferings)

The Impossible Commission

And the one that every single Christian husband ought to carry out in the Grace of the Almighty

1. **The Advocate** (The Defender) - My wife needs to know that I will stand for her, protect her - physically, spiritually, and emotionally. I will be the first-sufferer. As Jesus stood in the gap for me, it is my great privilege to give up my life for my beloved. Nothing touches my Bride!
2. **The Fan** (the biased) - I am incurably biased in favor of my wife. She is the most precious, most beautiful, most talented, most virtuous, most everything-else-that-matters woman that ever existed. I am her biggest fan! And I can't help but brag about her marvelousness! You go girl!
3. **The Boaster** (the talker-upper) - I am blind to my wife's weaknesses. As far as I'm concerned, she doesn't have weaknesses. In fact, I can only see that which ought to be praised. I'm her self-appointed bragger. I'm her built-in P/R department. Have you seen my wife? She's simply amazing!
4. **The Partner** (the helper) - If my wife needs a hand, look no further than my own. In fact, take my hand, my other hand, my right and left legs, my back, and my two shoulders too. Put your burdens on me, dear wife. I'm built strong so that I can serve you. If a baby is crying let me go help them. If a room needs to be picked up, you stay seated and let me get it cleaned up. If a dish needs to be scrubbed, I'm on it. We are in this thing together.
5. **The Student** (the expert, the Phd.) - If there is something to know about my wife, then I'm going to make sure I know it. I desire to be Earth's resident expert on my wife. I must know her longings, her dreams, her fears,

and her insecurities. And I don't just know my wife for the sake of gaining random trivial data, but for the sake of serving her better as a husband.

6. The Friend (the loyal no matter what) - If hard times come, I will still be here. If accusations come against you, I know the truth. If you lose your health, I'll remain by your side. If you lose your physical beauty, my devotion to you will not wane in the least. I am here, always and forever, and I consider it a great privilege to call you my dearest friend.

7. The Counselor (the bringer of Truth and perspective) - When my wife is struggling to see straight, it is my privilege to be one ready to supply God's Word. When shadow sweeps across our living room, it is my opportunity to turn on the light of Scripture. When anxiety knocks, I must hit it in the teeth. When foreboding baits, I must strike hard and fast with the sword of Truth. When false accusation, mockery, and lies fill the airwaves, it is my privilege to trump them with the power of a Heavenly Perspective.

8. The Encourager (the one who always sees the silver lining) - No matter what, I have words of life for my wife. I must never be the source of anxiety or depression, but rather the source of life. Even in the darkest hour, I must see the victory of Jesus. And I must labor to fill her mind with thoughts that are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, virtuous, praiseworthy, and of good report.

9. The Thoughtful (the considerate, the gift-giver) - I must labor to keep my wife always in my mind's eye. I must think about how she can be strengthened, encouraged, blessed, and built-stronger. I must think of special, meaningful ways to express my adoration, my respect, and my love. And I mustn't skimp on these expressions.

10. The Affectionate / The Intimate (the lover) - I must be the sort of husband that is trustworthy with my wife's innermost feelings, thoughts, and concerns. I must be trustworthy up-close - to handle her heart with the utmost care, to handle her inmost person with the heavenly delicacy and softness. I must be the man she wants to love and be near, not the man she is just supposed to love and be near.

11. The Empathizer (the Sharer of Sufferings) - When my wife is hit with any difficulty, tribulation, or trial - I will carry it with her, and if at all possible, for her. I feel her pain, because her pain is my pain. Her heartache is my heartache. Her concerns are my concerns. And her sufferings are my sufferings.

The Impossibility of Intimacy

Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.

Psalm 24:3-4

The Passion for Intimacy

And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.

Luke 15:20

The Provision for Intimacy

For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw near unto God.

Hebrews 7:19

The Secret to Intimacy with God: *Jesus*

The Method by which He offered Intimacy: *The Cross*

The Secret to Intimacy with your Spouse: *Jesus*

The Method by which He offered Intimacy: *The Cross*

The Impossible Has Been Made Possible

But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.

Matthew 19:26

He Sprinted with Love to the Cross

That we might also Sprint with Love