

# DESERT LOVE

## Key Points:

1. Love looks different in the desert.
2. Love is a spring not a mirage.
3. Sexuality needs to be rooted in love.
4. Don't awaken love before its time.

## OPENING QUESTIONS

How do you define love?

## DEFEND OR OPPOSE

Since I am a sexual person, therefore I can use my sexuality in any way that gives personal satisfaction.

## QUESTION

How does the following passage portrait love?

ORPHAN > ROYALTY > PROSTITUTE

## VERSE

The LORD's message came to me: **2** "Son of man, confront Jerusalem with her abominable practices **3** and say, "This is what the Sovereign LORD says to Jerusalem: Your origin and your birth were in the land of the Canaanites; your father was an Amorite and your mother a Hittite. **4** As for your birth, on the day you were born your umbilical cord was not cut, nor were you washed in water; you were certainly not rubbed down with salt, nor wrapped with blankets. **5** No eye took pity on you to do even one of these things for you to spare you; you were thrown out into the open field because you were detested on the day you were born. **6** "I passed by you and saw you kicking around helplessly in your blood. I said to you as you lay there in your blood, "Live!" I said to you as you lay there in your blood, "Live!" **7** I made you plentiful like sprouts in a field; you grew tall and came of age so that you could wear jewelry. Your breasts had formed and your hair had grown, but you were still naked and bare.

**8** “Then I passed by you and watched you, noticing that you had reached the age for love. I spread my cloak over you and covered your nakedness. I swore a solemn oath to you and entered into a marriage covenant with you, declares the Sovereign LORD, and you became mine.

**9** “Then I bathed you in water, washed the blood off you, and anointed you with fragrant oil. **10** I dressed you in embroidered clothing and put fine leather sandals on your feet. I wrapped you with fine linen and covered you with silk. **11** I adorned you with jewelry. I put bracelets on your hands and a necklace around your neck. **12** I put a ring in your nose, earrings on your ears, and a beautiful crown on your head. **13** You were adorned with gold and silver, while your clothing was of fine linen, silk, and embroidery. You ate the finest flour, honey, and olive oil. You became extremely beautiful and attained the position of royalty. **14** Your fame spread among the nations because of your beauty; your beauty was perfect because of the splendor that I bestowed on you, declares the Sovereign LORD.

**15** “But you trusted in your beauty and capitalized on your fame by becoming a prostitute. You offered your sexual favors to every man who passed by so that your beauty became his. **16** You took some of your clothing and made for yourself decorated high places; you engaged in prostitution on them. You went to him to become his. **17** You also took your beautiful jewelry, made of my gold and my silver I had given to you, and made for yourself male images and engaged in prostitution with them. **18** You took your embroidered clothing and used it to cover them; you offered my olive oil and my incense to them. **19** As for my food that I gave you—the fine flour, olive oil, and honey I fed you—you placed it before them as a soothing aroma. That is exactly what happened, declares the Sovereign LORD. **20** “You took your sons and your daughters whom you bore to me and you sacrificed them as food for the idols to eat. As if your prostitution was not enough, **21** you slaughtered my children and sacrificed them to the idols. **22** And with all your abominable practices and prostitution you did not remember the days of your youth when you were naked and bare, kicking around in your blood.

### **Ezekiel 16:1-22**

#### **QUESTION**

Who were the characters in the allegory above?

LORD (v.1)

Jerusalem (v.2)

The Nations (v.14)

God's children (v.21)

How does the following passage portrait love?

Compassion (v.6), Hopeful (v.6), Care (v.7), Lover (v.8), Protector (v.8), Commitment (v.8), Jealous (v.8), Generous & Extravagant (v.9), Sanctified (v.9), Purposeful (v.13), Flourishing (v.14).

What type of love is viewed negatively?

Prostitution (v.15), Spiritual nymphomania (v.15)

**\*\*READ THE REST OF THE PASSAGE\*\***

## NOTES

Love has become a junk drawer word that we use for everything. "I love Chic-Fil-A" & "I love God".

Do you see the problem? Do we even understand what love truly is? If so why do we flippantly use it?

To some people tolerance is love.

Have you ever heard someone say, "rather than judge people we should love people?"

What they typically mean is that we shouldn't call something out as wrong. As long as it isn't hurting anybody, who are we to judge? While this sounds nice, and forward, progressive and woke it doesn't work for me.

The opposite of love isn't hate. It's apathy. And there is a fine line between tolerance and apathy.

To many of us love is a passion for things. It conjures up emotions of affection. I love hiking, I love discovering the newest music that no one else has heard of.

We also aim this word at people. When we say we love someone we mean the same thing. They conjure up deep feelings of affection.<sup>1</sup>

The problem with this is that love becomes pure unfiltered emotion. The role of love for us becomes passive. It's something that happens to you.

"Falling in love". It just happened to me like stumbling on rock or curb. The problem is that love as a passive idea means that just as we fell in love we can fall out of love.

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<sup>1</sup> Comer, J. M. (2016). In *Loveology* (p. 31-33). essay, Zondervan.

But what happens when love fades and disappears. It seems that as long as you're dating its fine. You must not have actually loved them. It's fine you break up and move on.

But what happens when you are engaged or married? Do you stay together even though you aren't in love anymore?

Think about the vows a bride and groom say to each other on the wedding day.

“will you have this woman to be your wife; to live together in the covenant of marriage? Will you love her, comfort her, honor and keep her, in sickness and in health; forsaking all others, be faithful to her as long as you both shall live?”

Love is defined by that word we have come to dread: commitment.

Love is committed when it's good, when it's bad, when it's blah...

“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast. It is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil, but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.”

1 Cor. 13:4-8

Love like this has been distorted. Sin has altered our relationship with God which has altered the way we view love.

Point 1:

Love looks different in the desert.

QUESTION

How do we know what love is?

**\*\*God is love & God demonstrates love. ( Ezekiel 16:5-14, 60-63, and 1 John 4:7-21)**

VERSE

Dear friends, let us love one another, because love is from God, and everyone who loves has been fathered by God and knows God. **8** The person who does not love does not know God because God is love. **9** By this the love of God is revealed in us: that God has sent his one and only Son into the world so that we may live through him. **10** In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. **11** Dear friends, if God so loved us, then we also ought to love one

another. **12** No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God resides in us, and his love is perfected in us. **13** By this we know that we reside in God and he in us: in that he has given us of his Spirit. **14** And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.

**15** If anyone confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God resides in him and he in God. **16** And we have come to know and to believe the love that God has in us. God is love, and the one who resides in love resides in God, and God resides in him. **17** By this love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment, because just as Jesus is, so also are we in this world. **18** There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears punishment has not been perfected in love. **19** We love because he loved us first.

**20** If anyone says “I love God” and yet hates his fellow Christian, he is a liar because the one who does not love his fellow Christian whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. **21** And the commandment we have from him is this: that the one who loves God should love his fellow Christian too.

### **1 John 4:7-21**

We know what love is because we know who God is. Love is at its core demonstrated by Jesus on the cross and is defined by one phrase—self-giving.

#### **Why should I not date a non-Christian?**

Because they don't truly know love. They understand a worldly love and not a godly love. Their love revolves around self when God's love revolves around others.

#### **Why does love need to be rooted in covenant?**

Because love isn't easy, and it requires great commitment. Love shouldn't rush in. Love has to be a deep conviction and not a passing feeling.

#### **Why does sex need to be rooted in love?**

Because sex seeks to give and not to take.

God is love but love cannot be God. We cannot make love an idol.

Love has to be rooted in God. Only then will it produce life. If it is not rooted in God it is simply a mirage. It has the form of life but is only a bad imitation of the real thing

#### **Point 2:**

Love is a spring not a mirage.

## DEFEND OR OPPOSE

Love is love.

Since God is love and has created sexuality our sexuality needs to be rooted in love. It needs to be rooted in God.

Sexuality rooted in self is self-oriented and self-seeking.  
Sexuality rooted in God is God-oriented and others-oriented.

My sexuality is not mine to do with it what I please. It is God's creation and is his to define. My sexuality needs to be rooted in his love.

Sexuality not rooted in God looks like: pornography, sex slavery, sexual abuse, rape, molestation, prostitution, and sexual openness.

Love takes work and courage.

**Point 3:**

**Sexuality needs to be rooted in love.**

**Point 4:**

**Don't awaken love before it's time.**

I admonish you, O maidens of Jerusalem:  
"Do not arouse or awaken love until it pleases!"

### **Song of Songs 8:4**

"Don't excite love, don't stir it up, until the time is ripe—and you're ready. Song of Solomon 8:3-4 MSG. ... It is not referring to unconditional love that God has towards humanity. It's referring to a more passionate, romantic or sexual type of love that can exist between two people (also known as eros – in Greek).

**Trust God with your sexuality. Trust him in the pain, loneliness, anxiety, stress, fear, and doubt. To know love is to know Jesus.**