Better Bible Study

Session 4: A Hermeneutical Approach

HAPPY

4th of July

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Assignment:

Think of the Biblical themes

of a "love story" ?

of "giving" ?

What is the Bible?

A library!

Themes and narratives

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Hermeneutic

You can make better sense of the parts of the Bible by understanding the major themes and storylines of the whole Bible

We are probing major storylines and themes in the Bible

1 The love story narrative

2 The theme of God as a giver

3 Points for Home

1 The love story narrative

What is love?

We have plenty of Greek words for love

Agape
ἀγάπη
decisive,
high regard,
actioning love

Philia
φιλία
fondness,
affection,
attachment

Eros
ἔρως
romance,
passion

One main Hebrew word for love

ahev
אָהֵב
English “love”

The Love Story

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them Gen. 1:27

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Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

Gen. 2:24

Shavuot – the day God and his people wed

God proposes – "Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine" (Ex. 19:5)

The people accept – "All the people answered together and said, 'All that the LORD has spoken we will do.'" (Ex. 19:8)

The people clean themselves – "So Moses went down from the mountain to the people and consecrated the people; and they washed their garments." (Ex. 19:14)

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God and the people join under a chuppah – "Then Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God, and they took their stand at the foot of the mountain. Now Mount Sinai was wrapped in smoke because the LORD had descended on it in fire. The smoke of it went up like the smoke of a kiln, and the whole mountain trembled greatly." (Ex. 19:17-18)

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The ketubah (marriage contract) – "The LORD said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain and wait there, that I may give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." (Ex. 24:12)

For your Maker is your husband, the LORD of hosts is his name; and the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer, the God of the whole earth he is called. (Isa 54:5)

The story of Hosea, especially Hos. 2:15-17

But Ruth said, “Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. (Ruth 1:16-17)

The Song of Songs

Jesus and the wedding at Cana (John 2)

“Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her…. ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.’ This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.” (Eph. 5:31-32)

Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready. (Rev. 19:6-7)

Themes and narratives

You shall not commit adultery (Ex. 20:14)

Wedding parables like Mt. 22:2-12; Mt 25

And Jesus said to them, ”Can the wedding guests mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast.” Mt. 9:15

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends (Jn. 15:12-13)

Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”

(Mt. 26:26-29)

Pentecost is *shavuot*

And the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.” And he said to me, “These are the true words of God.” (Rev. 19:9)

1 The love story narrative

2 The theme of God as a giver

God the giver:

Garden of Eden

Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. And as I gave you the green plants, I give you everything. (Gn. 9:15)

Eve

Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land. (Gn. 12:7)

God the giver:

The law as a tutor (Gal. 3:24)

The Law (Ex. 24:12)

Peace (Num. 6:26)

Strength (Ps. 29:11)

And he said, “My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.” (Ex. 33:14)

Attention (Ps. 5:1)

God the giver:

Deliverance (Ps. 72:4)

Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart (Ps. 37:4)

Children (Ps. 127:3)

Scripture (Rm. 3:2)

Understanding (Ps. 119:34)

"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (Mt.11:28)

God the giver:

"the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."
(Mt. 20:28)

God the giver:

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."
(Jn. 3:16)

God the giver:

"I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh." (Jn. 6:51)

God the giver:

"I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand." (Jn. 10:28)

God the giver:

"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever..." (Jn. 14:16)

God the giver:

"I wish that all were as I myself am. But each has his own gift from God, one of one kind and one of another." (1 Cor. 7:7)

God the giver:

"Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed." (1 Cor. 12:1)

God the giver:

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change." (Jms. 1:17)

Points For Home

Find yourself
pursued in love

See your value

"For God so loved the world,
that he gave his only Son, that whoever
believes in him should not perish but
have eternal life." Jn 3:16

Be a giver

"So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them." Gn 1:27

HOMEWORK!!!

Assignment:

What of the Biblical themes

of "sacrifice" ?

of "time" ?