

Revelation 3:14-22

Message to Laodicea

“To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God, says this: ‘I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot. So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth. Because you say, “I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing,” and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked, I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself, and that the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see. Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; therefore be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me. He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

I don't think I ever thought of this scripture as a love story before.

On Friday we celebrated Valentine's day.

Valentine's day is the day the whole world celebrates love.

As Christian, our day of love should be Easter Friday - when Jesus laid down His life to save us.

John 15:13

Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.

We have all been in love and we all have experienced love.

Jesus is the best love story ever told!

John 3:16

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”

Let me tell you the second-best story:

I met Mary-Lou through a friend, Jaco, that was in the same school and class as her. I had finished my 1st-year military training after school and started working already. Jaco and Mary-Lou were in their matric year, class of 1995. I was a rugby player with no hockey skills, but joined Jaco at a social hockey game on the school premises. Mary-Lou was playing in the game and received the ball. Me, being an awesome rugby player, went for the ball and ran Mary-Lou off her feet.

Love at first impact 😊

Unfortunately, not the case! I then learnt that Mary-Lou had a twin brother, Louis-John. We invited him to go out with us. The invitation was open to bring his sister along. It was evident that Mary-Lou did not really like me.

Weeks later Jaco invited Mary-Lou and Louis-John to church and she happened to sit next to me. I know I heard the Spirit speak to me saying, “Your wife is sitting next to you”. I asked her on a date about 5 times that evening, till she finally said yes.

Besides the fact that I got her hand stuck in my car door we had an awesome first date. We started going out and we were very much in love. About a month later, Mary-Lou went on a 'skool verlaters camp' and decided that I was a bit possessive. Thinking back, I wasn't that possessive, I just wanted to hit every guy that looked at her.

I was heartbroken. God told me that this woman is my wife and now she breaks up with me. I irritated my friends, because I just couldn't let go of this girl. I met up with a lady at church that became my spiritual mom at that stage. I fasted every Wednesday and attended gym the rest of the week days. By this time, Mary-Lou had been dating another guy for 9 months.

I decided to be her best friend, despite the boyfriend. The more upset the boyfriend got, the happier I was. By then, Mom Louwna and I had become close and had frequent telephone conversation. It took 3 months before Mary-Lou broke up with the other guy and another 3 months before we started dating again. We were apart for 2 years. We got engaged after 9 months and married a year later.

This morning, I'm not here to tell you about my love story, but to use it as an example.

When Love is Hot

The person you love is priority in your life.

You want to capture the person's attention and you want to give them all your attention. You think about them day and night. When you are together you have butterflies.

I remember that besides being at work, we spent most of our time together. Mary-Lou was still at Technikon whilst I was working.

I would leave her house between 00h00 and 02h00 in the morning and then still pop in before work to say good morning. After work I would be back at her place.

We would frequently go out for milkshakes and to different places.

My dad called us Velcro because we were inseparable.

I loved to spoil her and make her happy. Being with her and making her happy made me happy. I wanted to spend the rest of my life with her.

Galatians 5:22-25

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

Love is not weak, love is Power - against all odds, circumstances and the natural.

Love has the power to give and to overcome all.

Give is at the centre of forgiveness and cannot be done without love.

It is great to receive a gift, but it is even greater to give and experience the joy it brings to others.

Love is so comprehensive. it contains all the fruit of the Spirit.

Love is so complete the Word refers to God as Love.

1 John 4:8

The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

Love can be felt, given but never touched or taken.

Love is a giver!

When you marry, you give all of yourself to the other person.

By giving your life, you are also receiving your spouse's life.

You now hold each other's interest first.

Give your all to me

I'll give my all to you

You're my end and my beginnin'

Even when I lose, I'm winnin' - (John Legend)

God gave His all for you and He expect all from you.

When there are too many other distractions, the love is not so hot anymore.

The other person is not priority anymore.

Priority

I learnt this word, 'priority', from an old work colleague. When he was addressed about projects that were not complete, his answer would be: "there were other priorities that needed more urgent attention."

Whatever you place as priority will be where you time and energy will be.

Coming back to Revelation 3.

God says to the church that our love was hot, but now you are lukewarm.

If I was a priority, you would be hot, or if we had no relationship, you would be cold.

Rather you be hot or cold, but now you are lukewarm.

Lukewarm means we are in a relationship, but I'm no longer a priority.

You have given some of yourself to others.

Other things have become priority.

You don't need me anymore; you find satisfaction in other things.

Lukewarm is like being in a relationship and not feeling loved or appreciated.

You are not giving yourself to the other person.

He stands at the door and knocks. He is pleading for you to come back into the relationship.

If you can overcome the distractions, the other flirtations; He says that if you open to Him and receive Him, He wants to have intimacy with you.

To Him who is Hot and has Intimacy with Him, he will sit down next to Him on a throne.

He is King and sitting with Him on the throne, you receive access to His kingdom.

I have been working for 27 years and have been married for just over 20 years. Mary-Lou has access to everything I have, and I have access to everything she has.

It is our house, our car, our furniture.

Hot Love

You want to spend time with Him (talking/praying). You even go sleep late or wake up early just to be with Him.

He is always on your mind.

He is always a priority.