

Longing for Love

LONGING & LIGHT | WEEK 3 | SCOTT STEVENS

Eternal Ache

- It whispers, “Something is missing; there must be more to life than this.”
- A pain from an old wound.
- A twinge in your heart that is far more powerful than a nostalgic memory.
- A place where you ache to go to again.
- The longing for a place where we know we are loved.

The first Christmas was a unique moment in history when heaven opened up and touched earth. Jesus connected heaven and earth together during His life, revealing what love is.

John 1:1-13

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

John 1:14

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

→ God’s response to our longing for love.

Imago dei: we are born in the image of God, with a longing to love and be loved.

Question: Have I had a disruptive encounter with God?

In the inconvenient moments our longing for love can be completely transformed. Whenever God steps into human history, it's always disruptive.

Matthew 1:18

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.

→ Encounters with God move us into new directions.

Matthew 1:19

And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.

Question: Was there a time in my life when God was being disruptive and wanted to have an encounter with me, but instead of saying “yes” I “tapped out?”

Matthew 1:20

But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 1:21-23

“She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).

Matthew 1:24-25

When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

The story begins with what God did in human history, and ends with Joseph's response.

Question: Is everything in my life right now is smooth and convenient and filled with comfort?

→ Maybe I need to start praying for some disruption.

→ Maybe, like Joseph, I need to wake up.

“He did as the angel of the Lord commanded him”

Joseph could have decided it was too much or too inconvenient and missed the birth of Christ.

TO ENCOUNTER GOD:

→ **EMBRACE HUMILITY**

James 4:6

God opposes the proud, and gives grace to the humble.

→ **EMBRACE OBEDIENCE**

John 14:15

If you love me you will keep my commandments.

→ **EMBRACE THE MYSTERY**

Deuteronomy 29:29

The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.

His plans for you are unimaginable and marvelous, and when you embrace humility, obedience, and mystery, and invite a little disruption into your life, it's then you can discover all He has planned for you.

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