

Hosea 3/John 3 Love Recklessly
Delivered at Hope Community Aug 30 2009

First Reading	Hosea 3:1, 11:1-4
Second Reading	Hebrews 1:1-4, 5:7-9
Gospel Reading	John 1:1-14, 3:16-17

SERMON for BAPTISM

(Share about cute/romantic ATT mobile phone commercial using phone pictures– “hi from Paris” “hi from London”... “Hi from...across the park” romantic, ingenious, a bit reckless for love...)

Me – 47yrs old. Rather calm, pretty predictable
rather boring. I don’t suspect anyone would call me reckless.
?Reckless? I’m not sure I was EVER “reckless”
But looking back, I suspect that there was a time I was a bit more playful,
imaginative, less predictable.

Kim... unexpected things, like leaving little gifts – in her desk. Locked desk.
At work, so she would find them later...
Or making a custom songs mix, with my own DJ commentary, and leaving it in her
car. Locked car. So it would start playing when she got in the next day.
Just a few of the little things. Why did I do it? I cared for her. loved her. Wanted her to
know.

I’m sad to say I think I’ve lost most of that. I think I’d like to get some of it back.
I’m a bit too call, predictable. And boring.
I think I need to be just a bit more adventurous. A bit more ... reckless.

Of course, being “reckless” may appear – or be - foolish/stupid, and sometimes both.
As a wise young man expressed it, “Reckless love” blinds you to reason
Of course, that’s all a matter of opinion

When was the last time you did something a bit “reckless” for someone you love?
Something unpredictable. Something that was, perhaps, a bit risky.
Maybe even LOTS risky – because you loved them.
Maybe you were even trying to help them, or save them.
Maybe they needed you, and you needed to be risky.
The late mad-dash speeding to the hospital?
Bailing them out of some trouble when your head says no and your heart says
yes?
Even allowing them to make their own fool decision, and still loving them
anyway?

There are lots of ways of being a bit reckless when you love someone.
All because you love them.

TRUE LOVE is RISKY

Are you prepared to set aside the risks, and love anyway? Love a bit recklessly?
It’s a popular theme in books and movies. Take the classic: Princess Bride. 25 year old
movie, but captures the reckless nature of True Love. The Spaniard, the Giant and the
Man in Black “storm the castle” all by themselves – to rescue “Buttercup” – all in the

name of True Love. Three guys. Storm a castle. Foolish. Absurd. Reckless. But they did it anyway...

But its not just in movies and books.

It's also in our scripture. Have you ever noticed how God loves RECKLESSLY?

Almost irrationally, at least as we see it?

Consider two parables about God's love

Prodigal son. lost sheep...

Irrational. Reckless. Foolish. Leave all those sheep behind, endangering them, just to save ONE? Reckless.

But consider this – if you could ask that ONE sheep what he thought of it afterward, what do you think it would say?

thank you. Thank you for caring about me so much, that you would come out here, after me. Even after I went wandering off.

Thank you for loving me – even though.

What does God risk in all this reckless love?

Lots. Rejection. Disappointment. Loss

But that's how God loves.

And he loved us. All of us. Anyway.

John 3/16

KNEW going in, coming down, what would happen.

STILL did it, for me, for you.

God didn't just risk rejection. God risked death.

More than risked it. KNEW it would be the end result of this act of love.

And yet God came anyway.

Jesus: visited and healed people he didn't personally know. Wouldn't see again.

Wasn't selling them something. Wasn't running for political office.

Even said NO, DON'T TELL ANYONE!

We cannot be as reckless in our love as God.

We think about it, weigh pros and cons, run from our fears, worry about what might happen. Judge whether people are worthy of our attention and time

God sets the bar: how do we measure up?

love for God and love for each other? is it calculated? is it conditional?

Is it on our schedule, fit in between our other activities?

Do we limit our love to those that deserve it or earn it,

That's loving SAFELY. It is also loving selfishly.

That's not God's plan.

God loves RECKLESSLY.

Can you imagine loving someone you don't trust, and someone you KNOW will be no end of trouble?

HOSEA passage description...

Psychologist might diagnose that as some form of co-dependency or obsession.

God loves RECKLESSLY. Even though. Anyway.

Taught us that when he said "follow me" it means to try and do the same.

Love – with words: kind, caring - and when necessary challenging.

Love – with ears: listening, being with others

Love – with hands: not just feel, but DO. Love in Action. Love as verb.

Love – with wallet: Giving away, sacrificing, making God and other more important than our prizes and possessions. Not just the money you have "left over" – but your first fruits.

Love – with time: Not just the time you have left over, but with your quality time. your PRECIOUS time.

LOVE A BIT MORE RECKLESSLY!

Loving recklessly – on a mission trip. \$\$, time, risk... FOOLISH.

It's just the kind of thing that Jesus would do...

That's God's call to us. To love. Love someone, everyone.

Love someone a bit more recklessly. Maybe it is your spouse, best friend, co-worker.

It can do wonders for your relationships.

Do something that lets them KNOW that you love them, that you care for them.

Love someone you DON'T know.

Love them in the name of Christ. Let them know that they are special, not because of what they have done for you, or what they will do, but because of what God has done for all of us.

Love someone you don't even like. Love them ANYWAY. Love them EVEN THOUGH.

Love them because it heals your heart, and draws YOU closer to God.

LOVE RECKLESSLY.

Try it. Help ME love more recklessly. Let's help each other.

The rewards are absolutely amazing.

Prayer.... (thank you, lord, for loving us....)