Valentine's Day

Ephesians 5:31-33

Valentine's Day

- St. Valentine – priest of Rome – imprisoned for helping persecuted Christians.
- In a later writing, reported to have a discussion with Roman Emperor Claudius II, when each tried to convert the other.
- "Healed daughter of jailer and wrote her a letter"

Valentine's Day

- The first recorded association of Valentine's Day with romantic love is attributed to a poem from Geoffrey Chaucer in 1382 – "For this was on St. Valentine's Day, when every bird cometh there to choose his mate."

Valentine's Day

- Since 19th century, hand written notes replaced with mass-produced cards.
- 1950's exchanging cards extended to all manner of gifts. 1980's jewelry.
- 190 million valentines given each year – 1billion when schools are included.
- 2013 - $131 per person spent

What are we missing?

- Genesis 24
  - What's the difference?
- Ephesians 5:22-33
  - God and marriage
  - Why do we find this passage so hard?

Two quotes:

- "By all means marry. If you get a good wife, you'll become happy. If you get a bad one, you'll become a philosopher." –Socrates

Two quotes:

- "Like everything which is not the involuntary result of fleeting emotion but the creation of time and will, any marriage, happy or unhappy, is infinitely more interesting than any romance, however passionate." – W.H. Auden

Marriage is hard work:

- "What if God designed marriage to make us holy more than to make us happy?" ("Sacred Marriage", Gary Thomas)
- Perseverance
- Becoming a servant
- Forgiveness
- Learning to love

Marriage is hard work:

- Two images of God
  - "Is this the loving thing to do?"
  - "Is the way to respect and honor?"
- "A man and a woman, walking side by side, facing toward God, helping each other be what God would have them to be."