

parables today

lessons in the word

The Gift

There was a man very much in love with his wife. Everyone who knew them could see his devotion to her; they were madly in love from the very start.

Every year on this very day, the man wakes up early with excitement and anticipation. This is the day he gets to select a special gift for his wife's birthday. At the store, he carefully considers beautiful things on offer, patiently pondering before selecting just the right gift. Next, he scours the greeting cards until he finds the perfect expression of gratitude and laud within lines of heart-felt prose.

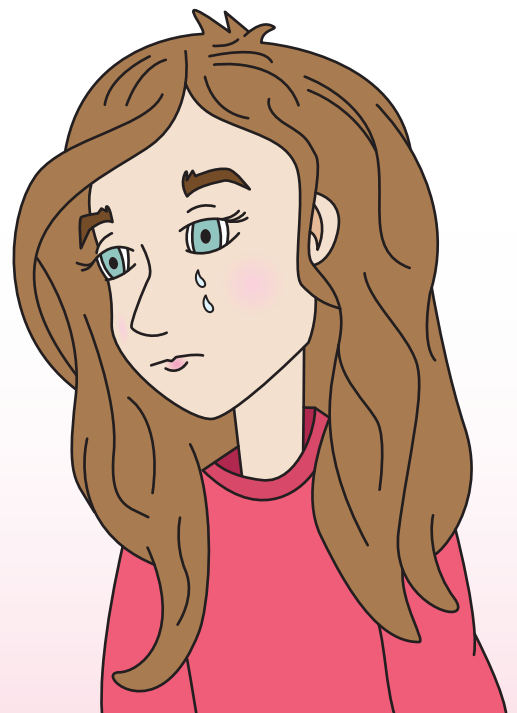
At home, he eagerly wraps her gift with ultimate precision and sharpest corners. He meticulously ties the ribbon into the most envious of bows. He signs and seals the card - *everything is exactly as he wants.*

While she is away, he sets her card and gift on her placemat on the dining room table. When his wife returns home, he eagerly ushers her to her spot at the table and leaves her to open her gift.

Quietly she takes her seat, opens the card and reads her husband's sentiments inside. Gently untying the ribbon she lovingly removes the paper being sure not to tear it. Inside the box is a beautiful faceted crystal heart. Engraved on it was three simple words..."I love you." She recognizes her husband's effort he put into her gift and a tear runs down her cheek and she lets out a delicate sigh.

From behind, her husband watches her, but can not see her tears and is too far off to hear her sigh. Nevertheless, he is pleased with himself and the effort he put into his wife's gift because he loves her so much.

As his wife sat, the crystal ornament painting the room with radiant rainbows, she was once again heartbroken. She lovingly explained to him when her birthday was many years ago. However, he continues celebrating her birth on his ex-girlfriend's birthday, thus revealing where his heart actually is...still with another.



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Consider This

Many times, we are eager to do sweet things for the ones we love, but how many times do we stop and ask, "Is this what my loved one wants?" or "Am I doing this for them, or for myself?"

Scripture is full of examples of how God's chosen people, His bride Israel, turned aside to worship other gods, and even gave worship to Yahweh through customs pagans used to worship their false gods. When, in our zeal, we offer up unholy, pagan and sometimes seemingly harmless, yet unauthorized (think Nadab and Abihu), forms of worship to the One True God, then what does that indicate about the condition of our hearts? When we seek to honor Yahweh in our own ways, are we more focused on earnestly pleasing Yahweh or being pleased with ourselves for our efforts?

In our desire to lavish on Messiah Yeshua in response to the greatest gift ever given, His blood and life as our ransom, do we ever stop to learn what He says in scripture about His love language? The entire Word is filled with our Creator's heart, what pleases Him, what angers Him, what grieves Him, what ravishes Him. He has literally put His heart on His proverbial sleeve and laid out everything before us. He desires for us to seek Him and know Him intimately.

When we are distracted with doing things our own way, we forfeit the deepening of our relationship with Yeshua. Take the time to learn His love language in the living, unchanging Word of God. It is good, it is life. It is the ultimate love letter to the bride of the One true bridegroom, the One true God of Israel.

Examine your heart today. Do you offer things to Yeshua of your own determination, or are you eager to love your Lord as He says He wants to be loved?

Yeshua gave the world the most precious, ultimate gift of love through His death on the cross and resurrection three days later. He was beaten, spat on, whipped, mocked, and hung to bear our sins and pay the penalty each of us deserve for those sins. He took upon Himself our filthy rags so that He may redeem His bride (us) by His blood and join to all who accept Him as their bridegroom. Doesn't our matchless, holy God and savior deserve appropriate glory, honor, worship, praise, and love as He defines it?

Consider the verses below a starting point; there are many more to discover in His wholly inspired, Yah-breathed Word. Ask Adonai to teach you more about His character and how He wants to be loved, worshipped, celebrated, honored and glorified.

Challenge yourself to find additional supportive verses. There are many more in His Word, so as you study, search out other verses that are connected to the worship of Yahweh and what He says defines love for Him. See the next page for verses to help get you started with your further study.

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Further Study

BIBLE VERSES TO STUDY

Examine these verses to begin learning what Adonai says about loving Him. Use this brief study to further search out what else He says about loving Him in His Word. **Verses are quoted in part, please read them from scripture for full verse and context.**

- Lev. 20:23** *"You are not to walk in the ways of the nation which I am casting out before you, for they did all these things and therefore I abhorred them."*
- Deut. 12:2-4** *"You are not to act like this towards Adonai your God."*
- Deut. 12:29-31** *"How do these nations serve their gods? I will do the same.' You are not to act like this toward Adonai your God!"*
- Deut. 13:1-4** *"You must not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams - for Adonai your God is testing you to find out whether you love Adonai your God with all your heart and all your soul."*
- Prov. 4:13** *"Hold on tightly to instruction, do not let it go - guard it, for it is your life."*
- Prov. 8:17** *"I love those who love me (Wisdom). Those who earnestly seek me find me."*
- John 14:15** *"If you love Me, you will keep my commandments."*
- John 14:24** *"He who does not love Me does not keep My words. And the word you hear is not Mine, but the Father's who sent Me."*
- 1 John 2:5** *"But whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God is truly made perfect."*

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