**THE VOW | THE VOW OF PURSUIT**

**WAVE CHURCH SD | FEB. 17, 2019**

BY NATURE, WE PURSUE WHAT WE DO NOT HAVE

THE VOW OF PURSUIT

I PROMISE TO ALWAYS PURSUE MY TWO

**Genesis 2:22-25 (ESV)** *22And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. 23Then the man said, “This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.” 24Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. 25And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.*

דָּבֵק **dabeq |** To cling, adhere, to catch by pursuit, to pursue

 hard with affection or devotion**.**

**Psalm 63:8 (ESV) 8***My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.*

**Job 41:17 (NIV)** *17They are joined fast to one another; they cling together and cannot be parted.*

**Genesis 29:16-30 (ESV)** *16Now Laban had two daughters. The name of the older was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. 17Leah’s eyes were weak, but Rachel was beautiful in form and appearance. 18Jacob loved Rachel. And he said, “I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel.” 19Laban said, “It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me.” 20So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her. 21Then Jacob said to Laban, “Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed.” 22So Laban gathered together all the people of the place and made a feast. 23But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob, and he went in to her…. 27Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years.” 28Jacob did so, and completed her week. Then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel to be his wife. 29(Laban gave his female servant Bilhah to his daughter Rachel to be her servant.) 30So Jacob went in to Rachel also, and he loved Rachel more than Leah, and served Laban for another seven years.*

**CLOSING THE GAP BETWEEN GOOD INTENTIONS AND ACTIONS**

WHEN YOU THINK SOMETHING GOOD, SAY IT!

**Proverbs 3:27 (ESV)** *Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it.*

**Hebrews 3:13 (ESV)** *But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called “Today,” so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.*

* PURSUE HER WITH WORDS OF AFFECTION

SHE WANTS TO KNOW: DO YOU LOVE ME TODAY?

* PURSUE HIM WITH WORDS OF AFFIRMATION

HE WANTS TO KNOW: DO YOU BELIEVE IN ME TODAY?

WHEN YOU THINK SOMETHING SPECIAL, DO IT!

**James 4:17 (ESV)** *If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn’t do it, it is sin for them.*

WHEN YOU WANT SOMETHING DIFFERENT, BE IT!

**Revelation 2:5 (ESV)** *Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first.*

* IF YOU DON'T LIKE WHAT YOU ARE GETTING, LOOK AT WHAT YOU ARE GIVING!
* TO GET WHAT YOU ONCE HAD, YOU MUST DO WHAT YOU ONCE DID
* TO GET WHAT YOU’VE NEVER HAD, YOU MUST DO WHAT YOU HAVE NEVER DONE

**Life Group Study Guide: Loved what you heard on Sunday? Want to go deeper? The life group study guide will help you unpack what you heard on Sunday, while diving deeper into God's word.**

* *What is something crazy or ridiculous that you have done for love?*
* *What insight, observation, or principle from this weekend’s message did you find most helpful, insightful, or troubling? Explain.*

**In Genesis 29, we find a beautiful demonstration of Jacob doing something crazy and ridiculous because of his love for Rachel.**

* **Read Genesis 29:1-30.** *List some of the challenges that Jacob and Rachel faced in their marriage. Can you relate to any of their challenges?*
* *If you were Jacob and Rachel, what would you do? What would be the cost of Jacob taking a short cut in timed served for his wife? What did he gain in waiting and working for his wife?*
* *Jacob pursued his wife through many challenges in their dating and early years in marriage. What are some of the challenges that have tested your good intentions in marriage or dating relationship?*
* *In most relationships our good intentions are often far greater than our actions. Why do you think it is so hard to turn our good intentions into actions? Read James 4:17. What does it say about making our good intentions actionable?*
* *What makes you feel pursued? How does this impact the way you pursue others? How do you cope in a relationship when your significant other likes to be pursued differently than you do?*
* *Most relationships tend to start out hot, and slowly simmer over time. What relationships do you currently have that have stood the test of time? What made these relationships last?*
* *Read Proverbs 18:21, James 3:5-8, and 1 Thessalonians 5:11. What do these passages of scripture say about our words and how we use them in our relationships?*
* *Words can have a powerful effect on our relationships. An encouraging word can strengthen the relationship, while a negative word can weaken it. How have you seen this personally in your relationships?*
* *On Sunday, Pastor Jason made the point, “When you don't tell them something good, they generally assume something bad.” Have you ever experienced this truth in your own relationships?*

**Digging Deeper**

*Pastor Jason presented three principles to re-flame the fire of any relationship (see notes). Of the three opportunities we discussed on Sunday, what do you need to apply?  Do you need to “say it,” “do it,” or “be it?” Discuss and give specifics.*

* *Is there something that God has placed on your heart that you need to say?*
* *Is there something special that you have thought of doing that you need to do?*
* *Is there someplace in your life where you want to be different, that you need to start being different?*