

SERMON OUTLINE 3

AUDACIOUS LOVE

NOTE: It is recommended that you read chapter 3, “Ryan in Love,” in *Love Does* before the sermon so you will be well acquainted with the stories from Bob Goff.

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Bob Goff heard these words from a young man who serendipitously walked past his backyard: “Hi, I’m Ryan, and I’m in love.” Bob says the love-glazed kid asked if it was okay to ask his girlfriend to marry him in Bob’s backyard. Bob said yes.
- B. Ryan’s requests of Bob multiplied like rabbits as this “wonderfully goofy, glazed-over, *I’m-in-love*” grinning kid planned out a great surprise for the love of his life. Ryan not only asked to marry her in Bob’s backyard, but asked to have dinner for two on Bob’s back porch—served by twenty of Ryan’s friends, and music and dancing after the dinner—and then he asked, “Do you have a boat?” Bob did and offered to take Ryan and his girl out on the bay so Ryan could pop the question. Ryan expressed an audacious love.
- C. When love does, love does big.

II. TEACHING

Ryan’s love for his girl is a reflection of Jesus’ love for His bride, the church.

- A. Love is strategic and focused.
 - 1. Bob told Ryan, “Go get that girl!” Ryan had big plans.
 - 2. God told Jesus, “Go save that world!” (John 3:16–17).
 - 3. Jesus is winning His bride! (see Ephesians 5:25–27; Revelation 19:7).
- B. Love is audacious and makes us “all in.”
 - 1. Love made Ryan ask for outrageous things: “Do you have a boat?”
 - 2. Jesus, too, was all in (see Mark 10:45).

- C. Love is whimsical and creative.
 - 1. Ryan saw everyone as “coconspirators” in winning his bride.
 - 2. Jesus invited others to spread His world-changing message (see Luke 9:1–2; Acts 1:8).
- D. Love is tenacious.
 - 1. Ryan kept coming back to Bob with bigger dreams.
 - 2. Jesus was resolute to finish His work of salvation (see Luke 9:51). “Yet not my will, but yours be done” (Luke 22:42).
- E. Love is contagious.
 - 1. Ryan’s “beautiful ridiculousness” magnetized Bob and set Bob in motion to help Ryan. Bob even got a Coast Guard officer to lend a Coast Guard firefighting boat to make the night more festive for Ryan.
 - 2. Jesus’ love is contagious, too. “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another” (John 13:35; see also 12:32). Tertullian, an Early Church Father, wrote that the pagan Romans hated each other and killed one another. Of the Christians he said, “See how they love one another; and they will die for one another.”

III. APPLICATION

- A. Bob writes, “Ryan’s audacious love is some of the best evidence I’ve found of the kind of love Jesus talks about, a love that never grows tired or is completely finished finding ways to fully express itself.”
- B. Love is not depleted but actually energized by loving more. How do we heed Jesus’ exhortation to renew “our first love” (Revelation 2:4)?
 - 1. Ask the Spirit to renew your love for God and others (see Romans 5:5).
 - 2. Contemplate God’s audacious love for you.
 - 3. Commit to the “beautiful ridiculousness” of being in love with Jesus. Let love allow you to never meet a stranger.