

# **Rev. Michael Curry Delivered a Powerful Royal Wedding Sermon. May 19, 2018**

*Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your  
arm;  
for love is strong as death, passion fierce as the grave.  
Its flashes are flashes of fire,  
a raging flame.  
Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods  
drown it.*

## ***Song of Songs 8:6-7***

*The late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, and I  
quote:  
"We must discover the power of love,  
the redemptive power of love.  
And when we discover that, we will be able to make of  
this old world  
a new world.  
Love is the only way."  
There's power in love. Do not underestimate it. Don't  
even over-sentimentalize it.*

*There's power in love. If you don't believe me, think  
about a time when you first fell in love. The whole world  
seemed to center around you and your beloved.*

*Oh, there's power, there's power in love.*

*Not just in its romantic forms, but any form, any shape of love. There's a certain sense in which when you are loved and you know it, when someone cares for you and you know it, when you love and you show it, it actually feels right. There's something right about it.*

*And there's a reason for it. The reason has to do with the source.*

*We were made by a power of love. Our lives were and are meant to be lived in that love. That is why we are here.*

*Ultimately the source of love is God himself. The source of all of our lives.*

*An old medieval poem says it:*

*"Where true love is found, God himself is there."*

*The Bible, 1 John 4 says it this way. "Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; Everyone who loves is born of God*

*Whoever does not love does not know God For God is love." (1John 4:4-8)*

*There's power in love.*

*Love can help and heal when nothing else can.*

*Love can lift up and liberate for living when nothing else will.*

*There's power in love to show us the way to live. Set me as a seal on your heart, for love is as strong as death.*

*And the love that brings two people together is the same love that can bind them together, Whether on mountaintops of happiness and through valleys of hardship.*

*Love is strong as death  
It's flashes are flashes of fire. Many waters cannot quench love*

*Love can see you through! There's power in love.*

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*But the love of which we speak is not only for couples getting married or just for interpersonal relationships.*

*Jesus of Nazareth taught us that the way of love is the way to a real relationship with the God who created all of us,  
and the way to true relationship with each other as children of that one God, as brothers and sisters in God's human family.*

*One scholar said it this way:*

*"Jesus had founded the most revolutionary movement in human history: a movement built on the unconditional*

*love of God for the world and the mandate to live that love.” (Charles Marsh’s The Beloved Community)*

*I’m talking about power. Real power — power to change the world.*

*If you don’t believe me, well, there were some old slaves in America’s antebellum South who explained the dynamic power of love and why it has the power to transform.*

*They explained it this way — they sang a spiritual, even in the midst of their captivity, it’s one that says:*

*“There is a balm in **Gilead**  
To make the wounded whole*

*There is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin sick soul.  
If you cannot preach like Peter, And you cannot pray like Paul,  
You can tell the love of Jesus, How he died to save us all.*

*That’s the balm in Gilead.”*

*This way of love is the way of life.*

*They got it — he died to save us all.*

*He didn’t die for anything he could get out of it.*

*Jesus did not get an honorary doctorate out of it.*

*He wasn't getting anything out of it —  
He did it for others, for the other, for the good and well  
being of others. That's what love is*

*Love is not selfish and self-centered.*

*Love can be sacrificial.*

*And in so doing, becomes redemptive.*

*And that way of unselfish, sacrificial, redemptive love can  
change lives*

*and it can change this world.*

*If you don't believe me, just stop and think and imagine  
a world where love is the way.*

*Imagine our homes and families when this way of love is  
the way. Imagine our neighborhoods and communities  
when love is the way. Imagine our governments and  
nations when love is the way. Imagine business and  
commerce when this love is the way. Imagine this third  
old world when love is the way.*

*No child would go to bed hungry in such a world as that.  
When love is the way, we will let justice roll down like a  
mighty stream and righteousness like an ever-flowing  
book.*

*When love is the way, poverty will become history. When love is the way, the earth will be a sanctuary. When love is the way, we will lay down our swords and shields down by the riverside to study war no more.*

*When love is the way, there's plenty good room — plenty good room — for all of God's children. When love is the way, we actually treat each other like we are actually family. When love is the way, we know that God is the source of us all. We are brothers and sisters, children of God.*

*Brothers and sisters: that's a new heaven, a new earth, a new world, a new human family.*

*Let me tell you something: Old Solomon was right in the Old Testament — that's fire.*

*And with this, I will sit down: we got to get you all married.*

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*The late French Jesuit, Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, was at once a scientist, a Roman Catholic priest, a theologian, a true mystic. His was one of the great minds and spirits of the 20th century.*

*He suggested that the discovery and harnessing of fire was one of the great scientific and technological discoveries of human history.*

*Fire, to a great extent, made human civilization possible. Fire made it possible to cook food, thereby reducing the spread of disease. Fire made it possible to stay warm in cold climates, thereby marking human migration around the world a possibility.*

*Fire made the Bronze Age, the Iron Age, the Industrial Revolution possible. The advances of science and technology are greatly dependent on the human capacity to take fire and use it for human good.*

*Anybody get here in a car today? Nod your heads if you did. I know there were some carriages.*

*If you drove here this morning, you did so in part because of harnessed fire. I know that the Bible says I believe that Jesus walked on water, but I have to tell you, I didn't walk across the Atlantic Ocean to get here.*

*Controlled fire in that plane got me here.*

*Fire makes it possible for us to text, tweet, email, Instagram and **Facebook** and socially be dysfunctional with each other. Fire makes all of that possible. de Chardin said that fire is one of the greatest discoveries in all of human histories.*

*He then went on to say that if humanity ever harnesses the energy of fire again, if humanity ever captures the energy of love, then for the second time in the history of the world, we will have discovered fire.*

*Love is the very fire and energy of real life! Dr. King was right:*

*We must discover love.*

*The redemptive power of love.*

*When we do that, we will make of this old world a new world.*

*"My brother, my sister,  
God love you, God bless you.*

*My brothers, my sisters,  
God love you, God bless you.*

*And may God hold us all  
In those almighty hands of love. Amen."*