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The First Wedding Genesis 2: 18—25



KICK OFF

Most people today marry for happiness. True or not true?



KEY VERSE

Genesis 2:24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.



BIG IDEA

God's plan for marriage.



INVESTIGATE

A GOOD MARRIAGE FOLLOWS GOD'S PLAN FOR MARRIAGE Read Genesis 2: 18—25

1. Verse 24 is the most quoted verse in the Bible on marriage. Why isn't marriage just a piece of paper? What is the essence of marriage?
2. What evidence is there in verses 18—25 that Eve is a 'helper fit for Adam' (vs 18, 20)?
3. Is it going too far to say that marriage is your primary earthly relationship if you are married?
4. John Newton says 'a good marriage can be distraction from your relationship with God.' Discuss
5. How can you keep your love for God central to your marriage?



DIG DEEPER

The Meaning of Marriage
by
Timothy and Kathy Keller p 121-122

'Within this Christian vision of marriage, here's what it means to fall in love. It is to look at another person and get a glimpse of the person God is creating, and to say, 'I see who God is making you, and it excites me! I want to be a part of that. I want to partner with you and God in the journey you are taking to his throne. And when we get there, I will look at your magnificence and say, 'I always knew you could be like this. I got glimpses of it on earth, but now look at you!' Each spouse should see the great thing that Jesus is doing in the life of their mate through the Word, the gospel. Each spouse then should give him or herself to be a vehicle for that work and envision the day that you will stand together before God, seeing each other presented in spotless beauty and glory.

My wife, Kathy, often says that most people, when they are looking for a spouse, are looking for a finished statue when they should be looking for a wonderful block of marble. Not so you can create the kind of person you want, but rather because you see what kind of person Jesus is making. When Michelangelo was asked how he carved his magnificent David, his reply is reputed to have been, 'I looked inside the marble and just took away the bits that weren't David.' cont'd



THINK THROUGH FURTHER

- 6. What does the word ‘helper’ mean in verse 18?
- 7. What does ‘one flesh’ mean?
- 8. Is there such a person who is ‘just right’ for you to marry?
- 9. How is Jesus’ love for the Church a pattern for marriage? (Ephesians 5: 21—33; Revelation 19: 6—10)
- 10. One of your friends wants to know if they should marry ‘such-n-such a person’ and they’ve been given the following advice.

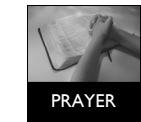
‘We never know whom we marry, we just think we do. Or even if we marry the right person, just give it a while and he or she will change. For marriage, being [the enormous thing it is] means we are not the same person after we have entered it. The primary problem is....learning how to love and care for the stranger to whom you find yourself married.’ (Hauerwas)

How can you tell whether you’ve got a friendship on which you can base a marriage?

When you see the problems in each other, do you just want to run away, or do you find a desire to work on them together?

Do you obsess over their shortcomings, or do you see the beauty within?

Is this this wise advice?



Praise God for the challenges raised by God’s word through this study

PRAYER

Pray for others in your group



How do we apply this passage in our daily life?

FAMILY DISCUSSION

When looking for a marriage partner, each must be able to look inside the other and see what God is doing and be excited about being part of the process of liberating the emerging ‘new you.’

‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.’
Genesis 2:24

PRAISE GOD for his immanence—that He is intimately involved in our individual, married and family life.

CONFESS our ‘blindspots’ in not seeing God at work in our lives.

ASK GOD for the wisdom to apply the teaching of this passage.

PRAY ALSO for those who have been abused in their marriages.



READ AHEAD

Next week’s topic is the Garden of God. Read: Genesis 3: 1—9