

DAILY DEVOTIONS

Day 1: The Sanctity of Marriage

Reading: Genesis 2:18-25, Malachi 2:14-16

God's design for marriage is sacred and covenantal. As we read about the first marriage in Genesis and God's heart for marital faithfulness in Malachi, let's reflect on the beauty of God's plan. How does viewing marriage as a covenant, witnessed by God Himself, change our perspective on relationships? Consider how you can honor God's design in your own relationships, whether married or single. Pray for God to strengthen marriages in your community and for His wisdom in navigating relationships with integrity.

Day 2: Guarding Your Heart

Reading: Proverbs 4:23-27, Matthew 5:27-30

Our hearts and minds are the battleground for temptation. Today's readings emphasize the importance of guarding our hearts and thoughts. Reflect on areas in your life where you might be vulnerable to temptation. How can you practically apply Proverbs 4:23 to "guard your heart above all else"? Jesus' words in Matthew remind us of the seriousness of mental and emotional purity. Ask God to reveal any areas where you need to make changes, and for the strength to flee from temptation.

Day 3: God's Forgiveness and Grace

Reading: Psalm 51:1-12, 1 John 1:5-9

Even when we fail, God's grace is greater than our sin. David's heartfelt plea for forgiveness in Psalm 51 shows us the path of true repentance. As you read, consider areas in your life where you need God's forgiveness and cleansing. The promise in 1 John reminds us that when we confess, God is faithful to forgive. Take time to confess any sins to God, knowing that His grace is sufficient. Thank Him for His boundless mercy and the fresh start He offers each day.

Day 4: Renewing Commitment

Reading: Ruth 1:16-17, Ephesians 5:21-33

Ruth's pledge to Naomi exemplifies unwavering commitment, mirroring the dedication God desires in marriage. Paul's teaching in Ephesians presents a profound picture of marital love, reflecting Christ's love for the church. Whether married or single, how can you embody this selfless, committed love in your relationships? Reflect on ways you can serve others sacrificially, putting their needs before your own. Pray for God to deepen your capacity to love as Christ loves.

Day 5: Building a Strong Foundation

Reading: Matthew 7:24-27, 1 Corinthians 3:10-15

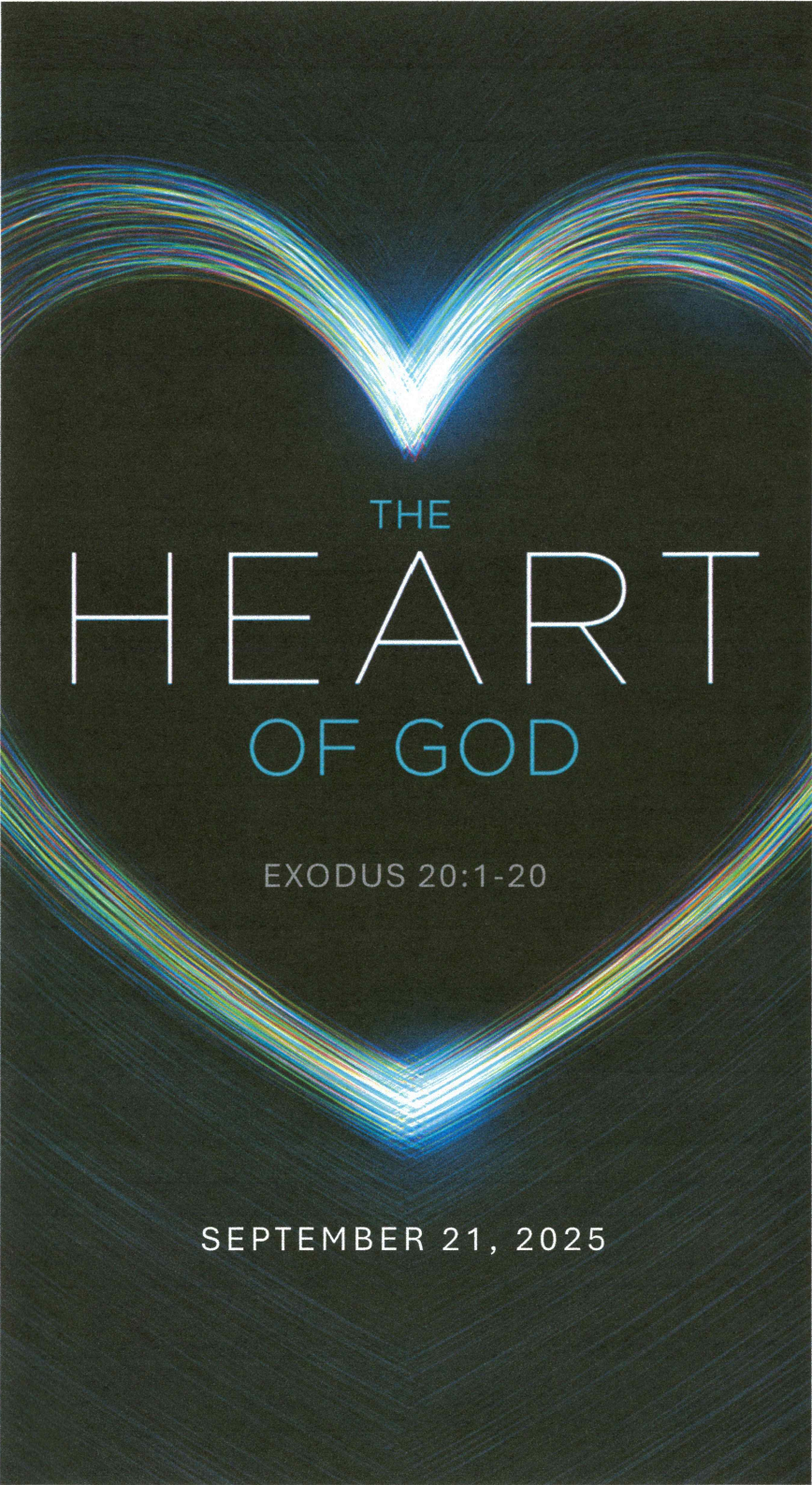
Jesus' parable of the wise and foolish builders emphasizes the importance of a strong spiritual foundation. Paul echoes this in his letter to the Corinthians, urging believers to build their lives on Christ. As you read, consider the foundation of your life and relationships. Are you building on the solid rock of God's Word and principles? Reflect on areas where you might need to strengthen your foundation. Ask God for wisdom to align your life more closely with His truth, and for the courage to make any necessary changes.

DEACONS ON CALL

Cleve Bearden and **Marc Traweek**

SCHEDULED EVENTS

- **WORSHIP:** Sundays at 9:45 AM
- **SMALL GROUPS:** Sundays at 11 AM
- **DEEP DIVE:** Wednesdays at Noon & 6:45 PM
- **FIRST KIDS:** Wednesdays at 5:30 PM
- **FIRST YOUTH:** Wednesdays at 5:30 PM



No Greener Grass / Exodus 20:14

In a world where the sanctity of marriage is often challenged, it's crucial to remember the sacred nature of this covenant. Just as a gardener tends to delicate vines, nurturing them to bear fruit, so must we care for our marriages with patience, dedication, and unwavering commitment.

I. Five Ways to Adultery Proof Your Marriage

1. Commit to _____.

2. Think through the _____.

3. Maintenance work is _____.

- **The top five needs of most women are:** 1. Affection; 2. Conversation; 3. Honesty and openness; 4. Financial security; 5. Family commitment.
- **The top five needs of most men are:** 1. Sexual fulfillment; 2. Recreational companionship; 3. An attractive spouse; 4. Domestic support; 5. Admiration.

4. Adultery is not just _____.

a. You can commit adultery with your _____.

b. You can commit adultery with your _____.

5. Flee from _____.

II. How Does One Heal a Marriage?

1. Acknowledge the _____.

2. End the relationship _____.

3. Avoid all _____ with that person from now on.

4. Go home and love your _____.

Scripture References (In order of use): Psalm 128:3-4; Malachi 2:14; Psalm 119:9; Proverbs 5:15; Proverbs 6:32; 1 Corinthians 7:3-4; James 1:14-15; 2 Timothy 2:22; Romans 16:19; Song of Solomon 5:16; 1 Corinthians 10:12
Referenced Works: The Treasury of Scripture Knowledge (Canne, Browne, Blayney, Scott); Be Delivered (Warren Wiersbe); Ten Values that Build Strong Families (Rick Warren); Exodus (John Mackay); The Message of Exodus (Alec J. Motyer); Exodus (Peter Enns); Exodus & Leviticus (B. H. Carroll)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does our society generally say about marriage and fidelity?
2. Read **Exodus 20:14**. Is there anything from the sermon you would like to discuss?
3. Why do you think God compares marriage to a vine in Psalm 128:3-4? What does this metaphor teach us about marriage?
4. Patrick mentioned five ways to adultery-proof your marriage. Which of these do you find most challenging and why?
5. Discuss the differences between men's and women's top five needs in marriage. How can understanding these differences strengthen a relationship?
6. How can someone guard against "heart adultery" or an emotional affair? Why are these just as dangerous as physical affairs?
7. What are some practical ways we can "flee from temptation" in our daily lives?
8. How can we help each other to strengthen our marriages?
9. Let's go over the practical applications listed below. What advice would you give each other in putting these applications to work in your marriage?

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

- This week, have an honest conversation with your spouse about your top needs in the marriage. If you're single, reflect on what you believe your top needs would be.
- Identify potential "danger zones" in your life where you might be vulnerable to temptation. Create a plan to address these areas.
- Commit to a daily practice of praying for your marriage (or future marriage) and meditating on Scripture about fidelity and love.
- If you're struggling with thoughts or emotions that could lead to adultery, confide in a trusted friend or counselor for accountability and support.
- For married couples: Plan a date night or special time together to invest in your relationship and meet each other's needs.