

HOW TO HAVE A BETTER MATE

Genesis 2:18-25

June 8, 2008 Sunday a.m.

INTRODUCTION

- A. We've heard the story that after God created Adam he stood back and looked at him a minute, then said, "I can do better than that! Then he made Eve. Another version says God told Adam he could make him a perfect mate, beautiful, kind, intelligent and fun to be with. Adam asked God what that would cost him. God said, "An arm and a leg". Adam then asked, "What can I get for a rib?"
- B. The Bible teaches us that we were created for companionship—v.18.
 - 1. This means God's plan is for most people to have a mate.
 - 2. I say "most" because God calls some people to be single and that doesn't mean somehow you have missed out on God's plan or God's best for your life.
- C. It takes two people to make a good marriage. One person, however, can make a difference and can have a better mate. Let's look at three ways to have a better mate found in Genesis 2:18-25.

I. FIRST, ACCEPT YOUR MATE AS AN EQUAL PARTNER.

- A. This is the meaning of the Biblical account of the creation of Eve—vv.21-22.
 - 1. Some cultures and societies have oppressed women and forced them into a lesser role (i.e. FLDS in Texas Compound).
 - 2. However, this was never God's plan. Adam acknowledged this when he first saw Eve—v.23.
- B. This is how God wants us to see our own mates. Not as a possession or servant, but as an equal partner—v.24.

II. SECOND, ACCEPT YOUR MATE AS YOUR TOP PRIORITY.

- A. This is God's plan—v.24.
 - 1. The Hebrew word translated "united" comes from the root word for "glue."
 - 2. The idea isn't that we are "stuck" with the mates we have.
 - 3. The idea, rather is that we are "stuck together", that is, we fit together, belong together, and function best when we are together.
- B. When we were courting and first married, being together was easy. However, as time goes by, it's easy to let our marriage slide into a routine.
- C. This is illustrated by something called "The Seven Stages of a Cold".
Seven Stages of A Married Cold.
 - Year One:** (the husband says) "Sugar, I'm really worried about my girl. You've got a bad sniffle. So, I'm putting you in the hospital this afternoon for a few days' rest. And since I know you don't like hospital food, I've arranged to have your meals delivered."
 - Year Two:** "Listen, darling, I don't like the sound of that cough. I've called Dr. Schwartz to rush over here. Now, go to bed and get some rest."
 - Year Three:** "Maybe you better lie down, honey. There's nothing like a little rest when you feel lousy. I'll bring you something. Have we got any canned soup?"
 - Year Four:** "Now look, dear. Be sensible. After you feed the kids and wash the dishes and sweep the floor, you should lie down."
 - Year Five:** "You look awful. Why don't you take some aspirin?"
 - Year Six:** "Look, I wish you'd gargle or something, instead of sitting around barking like a seal all evening."
 - Year Seven:** "For crying out loud, stop sneezing! Are you trying to give me something?"

II. THIRD, ACCEPT YOUR MATE UNCONDITIONALLY.

- A. This is what verse 25 means-v.25.
- B. An exhausted mother got on a bus with her three small children. After she got them settled she sat down beside another woman. The other woman said, "honey if you had it to do over again would you still have children?" The young mother replied, "Oh yes, just not the same ones!"
 - 1. We should let our mates know that if we had it to do all over, we would still marry them again.
 - 2. We need the security of unconditional acceptance from each other, especially when we get a little older and no longer look the same. For example, the only six pack I now have is in the "fridge". But its Diet Coke!
 - 3. God accepts us unconditionally and we must accept our mates the same way.
 - 4. Rodney Crowell's song illustrates the kind of unconditional acceptance we all need from our mates (Video of "After All This Time").

CONCLUSION

- A. Whether your marriage is in danger of falling apart or just becoming bland, remember that one person can make a difference.
- B. God tells us how...
 - 1. Accept your mate as an equal partner.
 - 2. Accept your mate as your top priority.
 - 3. Accept your mate unconditionally.