

WHEN MARTIANS MEET VENUSIANS

Ruth 3:15-18

April 19, 2009 Sunday am

INTRODUCTION

- A. The title of today's sermon sounds like a B-Rated movie.
 - 1. Actually it comes from the book written by Dr. John Gray in 1992 called, "Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus".
 - 2. Dr. Gray's book offers practical advice on how men and women can learn to communicate since they obviously come from different planets and speak different languages.
 - 3. Dr. Gray has written a sequel he called "Why Mars and Venus Collide".
- B. The News Media has been buzzing this week since Mel Gibson's wife, Robyn, after 28 years of marriage and 7 children, filed for divorce.
 - 1. Makes us wonder if any marriage is divorce proof.
 - 2. Would reading one of Dr. Gray's books help our marriages.
 - 3. Probably. But there is an even better book to read about marriage, the Bible.
 - 4. One place we can find marital help in the Bible is the book of Ruth.
 - 5. Do you know the story of Ruth and Boaz? SUMMARIZE.
 - 6. Today, let's look at some marital tips we can get from the story of Ruth and Boaz.

I. TIP # ONE: LEARN TO GET ALONG WITH THE IN-LAWS.

- A. This is a universal law of nature: You don't just marry your spouse. You marry their family too.
 - 1. If you know this to be true say "Amen" or "O' My". And if you just found this out today say, "O No"!
 - 2. You see, when you get married you don't just get that cute little puppy or kitten, you get the whole litter.
 - 3. On top of all that, be sure to take a good look at your prospective mother-in-law or father-in-law, because someday that's what your sweet little thing will look like, or act like or both!
- B. In our text we see that Boaz was a very smart man.
 - 1. You see, he sent Ruth home with a lot more food than she needed—15-17.
 - 2. That was his way of signaling Naomi that if he got Ruth as his wife, he would take care of Naomi too.
 - 3. Some of you may be saying right now that you really don't like your in-laws, or their brother or sister, or aunt Bea.
 - 4. If Boaz was here today he would look you in the eye and say, "Do you think Naomi was some kind of prize?" After all, she wanted to change her name to "Bitter" (1:20-21). Why? Because she had become a bitter old woman.
 - 5. But Boaz knew if he got Ruth, he also got Naomi too, and he decided to be generous to her whether she deserved it or not. And we must learn to get along with our in-laws too.

II. TIP # TWO: LEARN TO GET ALONG WITH YOUR SPOUSE.

- A. We look to Naomi for this bit of marital advice.
 - 1. Naomi may not have been the ideal mother-in-law. After all, she stayed home and sent Ruth out into the fields to find food.
 - 2. But one thing is for sure. Naomi knew the opposite sex. She knew how to get along with men. She knew how men thought—18.
 - 3. How did she learn how Martians think? She was married to one and had even given birth to two little Martians herself.
- B. A short lived Broadway Show in the 1990's was nominated for several awards, even a Tony in 1998. It was called "Side Show".

1. Its was based on the true story of Siamese twin girls named Violet and Daisy Hilton. In the 1930's they sang, danced and played the saxophone and violin and even made a couple of Hollywood movies.
 2. One message of the play is learning the importance of working together. As long as Violet and Daisy remembered that, they continued o be successful in their careers.
- C. This is a good picture of marriage—"joined at the hip"!
1. Like the Hilton twins, you either succeed or fail together.
 2. You can fight against each other's differences and try to change the other, but your marriage will fail or at best be miserable.
 3. Or you can accept those differences and learn to make the best of it. The choice is up to you.

III. TIP # THREE: LEARN TO GIVE MORE THAN YOU GET.

- A. Boaz gave more to Ruth than Ruth gave to Boaz.
1. After all, she had no dowry and that was important in that part of the world.
 2. In addition, Ruth's baggage not only included her Moabite mother, but her ex Jewish mother-in-law to boot. The only thing worse that a mother-in-law, is two of them.
 3. But Boaz didn't care. He was willing to give Ruth more than she gave him because he loved her.
- B. Some people try to say that marriage is a 50-50 proposition.
1. That is to say, if you meet your spouse half way then they will meet you half way. It only sounds fair, but it doesn't work that way in real life.
 2. Marriage is always about giving more than you get.
 3. This isn't to say you get nothing in return or that your spouse is a louse!
 4. It is to say, however, that you must not enter a relationship expecting your spouse to meet all your needs.

CONCLUSION

- A. Men are still from Mars and women are still from Venus.
- B. But you can have a successful extra terrestrial marriage anyway if you follow these three tips from the story of Ruth and Boaz...
1. Learn to get along with the in-laws.
 2. Learn to get along with your spouse.
 3. Learn to give more than you get.