

HAPPILY EVER AFTER? PART III

OCTOBER 17-18, 2015

INTRODUCTION

- Marriage is a wild thing...
- We have gotten our view of marriage from movies and TV...that is not reality!
- Most of us have a bad model.

I. BUILDING HISTORY TOGETHER

- Marriage became the greatest challenge I would ever face as a follower of Jesus.
- It was the tool God used to shape me and break me.
- But only if I stayed in and said yes.
- Romans 5:3-5, "We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation..."
- Building a history together takes time...and energy and forgiveness.
- The sheer act of staying in is a prophetic statement of hope.
- It is a picture of God and us...He has endured with you!
- Any great love affair is like this...you get spurned and then restored...

II. WHY DO WE QUIT SO QUICK

- Unfortunately we live in a land of quitters.
- Jesus warned this would happen.

- Luke 8:12-15 Story of the Sower - "bear fruit with perseverance"
- It is hard to endure without a keen sense of eternity...in your heart.
- II Thessalonians 3:5 NIV, "May the Lord direct your hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance."
- Is the perseverance easy? No but well worth it.
- A lady named Madeleine L'Engle once described how I felt about it with God.
- "Dear God, I hate you." Love Madeleine
- Marriage is a long walk...that is filled with a deep well of life and love...respect and honor.
- People tell me "I married the wrong person."
- Me too...then she morphed into another person and another person and another person.

III. IMPARTING BLESSING

- Pain can bring blessing.
- The toughest years of my marriage brought life to me.
- And made me teachable.
- The Bible is filled with stories of struggle.
- II Corinthians 4:17, "For our present troubles...produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever!"
- We live in a culture that tells us we deserve to live pain free.
- The reason we take on a covenant with each other is because we all know that will be hard.