**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | How to Put Meaning in Your Marriage  |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Genesis 2:18-25 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #1495 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
	1. We need to move our marriages from monotony to the momentous.
	2. In Genesis 2, we find the story of the first family: Adam and Eve.
		1. In many ways, they were different from any other family.
			1. For example, they did not have in-laws.
				1. He could not compare her cooking with his mother’s cooking.
			2. They did not have any competition.
				1. Eve could not tell Adam about all of the other men she could have married.
		2. There are some things in this story that are eternally and perpetually the same.
			1. There are eternal truths that will help you to put meaning in your marriage.
	3. Divorce is a national epidemic.
		1. Many marriages end in divorce.
		2. But the divorce rate is lower among couples where both husband and wife were married in a church that they attend regularly and have some kind of family devotions.
			1. When all else fails, we need to go back and read the instructions.
	4. Genesis 2:18-25
		1. In verse 18, the words “help meet” mean “a fitting helper.”
		2. In this passage, we have God’s purpose and God’s pattern for marriage.
	5. The real test of our faith is not how we act at church, but how we behave at home.
	6. In today’s message, we will see what the Bible has to say about a home.
		1. God gave marriage and the home to meet the deepest emotional, physical, psychological, and spiritual needs of mankind.
		2. Marriage did not originate in the swamps of evolution and immorality.
		3. Marriage was the first institution that God created in the Garden of Eden.
2. the purpose of marriage (genesis 2:18-24)
	1. Genesis 2:18
		1. Adam needed a companion.
			1. He needed someone with whom he could fellowship.
	2. Adam could not fellowship with any of the animals.
		1. Genesis 2:19-20
	3. When God gave Adam the job of naming the animals, He created a desire in the heart of Adam.
		1. God created the animals, and He brought them to Adam to be named.
			1. Not only did the animals come one-by-one, but they also came two-by-two.
		2. Adam noticed that each animal had a mate.
			1. But for Adam, there was no Mrs. Adam.
				1. “There was not found a fitting helper for him.”

Genesis 2:20

* 1. God, having created the desire in Adam, created woman.
		1. Genesis 2:21-23
			1. The Hebrew language tells us that what Adam said was something like, “Wow!”
				1. When Adam saw Eve, he exploded in an expression of great joy.
		2. Adam had been in the garden face-to-face and one-on-one with Almighty God and had walked with God, yet there was still in his heart an unmet need and desire.
			1. So, God gave to Adam a wife, and God gave to Eve a husband.
		3. God did not give to Eve a father to rule over her, a brother to play with her, nor a son to watch over; but God gave to Eve a husband.
			1. The husband was there to meet the deep need that she would have for companionship and partnership.
	2. Marriage is the highest, deepest, and most insoluble of all human relationships.
		1. Genesis 2:23-24
			1. A husband and wife should leave father and mother.
		2. The relationship between husband and wife is a closer bonding than between parent and child.
	3. When the Bible says to leave father and mother, that does not mean geographically.
		1. This does not mean that we have to move out of town or that they have to move.
			1. We can live next door to our father and mother and fulfill this command.
		2. Our father and mother can be a thousand miles across the country, and we can still be emotionally bound and tied to them.
	4. Many marriages fail because people have failed to cut the emotional umbilical cord of leaving father and mother.
		1. Surveys tell us that in-laws are a great problem in modern marriages.
			1. Many times, it is not the mother of the bride but the mother of the groom who causes the problems.
				1. Two women are vying for the affection of the same man.
				2. Sometimes a woman has not found the love that she should get from her husband, so she has an unnatural attachment to her son.
		2. We find that there are two times when in-laws are a real problem in a marriage:
			1. When the husband and wife first get married, and they are trying to establish their independence.
			2. In the last part of their marriage when their parents are becoming more and more dependent upon them.
				1. Those are the times when we really need to pray.
	5. When the Bible says that we are to leave father and mother, it does not mean that we are not to honor our father and mother.
		1. The Bible tells us in Exodus 20:12 that we are to honor our father and our mother.
		2. Yet, at the same time, we are to leave because God made man and woman for one another in a very special way.
	6. Genesis 2:18
		1. God made marriage that man might have a companion who would meet his deepest emotional, spiritual, physical, and psychological needs, and vice versa for the woman.
1. the partnership of marriage (genesis 2:18)
	1. God made man a fitting helper.
		1. This means a helper like himself.
	2. We sometimes laughingly call our husbands or our wives “the other half,” but that is quite appropriate.
		1. Adam without Eve was like a violin without a bow.
	3. God gave Eve to Adam to make up that part of Adam that was lacking.
		1. Eve was to be Adam’s completer, not his competer.
			1. A problem today is that we tried, through the battle of the sexes, to get men and women in competition with one another.
		2. The Hebrew word for “woman” comes from an Arabic root which means “to be soft.”
			1. God built femininity into a woman.
		3. The Hebrew word for “man” comes from an Arabic root which simply means “to exercise power.”
			1. God put masculinity into men.
		4. The Bible teaches that God made them different that He might make them one.
	4. The nature of man and woman:
		1. Not only is there the companionship, but there is also the partnership.
			1. There are those today who are trying to remove the difference between men and women.
			2. God made men to be men; God made women to be women.
				1. The difference in the sexes is in the Word of God.
		2. Man is to be the provider; woman is to be the encourager.
			1. Genesis 2:15
				1. God told Adam to dress the garden and to keep it.
			2. Genesis 2:18
				1. God told the woman to encourage the man and to stand by his side.
			3. This is in God’s original plan.
		3. Man is to be the protector; woman is to be the nurturer.
			1. Genesis 3:16
				1. The husband is to be the one in charge.
			2. The man is to lead, to guide, and to protect.
				1. Therefore, God made the man physically strong because that is the realm that he lives in.
			3. God made the woman to be soft, gentle, and tender because she is the life-giver.
		4. Men tend to think logically with their heads; women think emotionally with their hearts.
			1. A man by nature is the bread-winner and the protector.
				1. He is goal oriented.

He will see the steps to get to his goal in his mind, and that is the way that he works.

He doesn’t necessarily consider how people will feel.

If he does, then it is a secondary issue.

* + - 1. The woman will not only see the goal, but she will also see beyond the goal.
				1. She will consider how people will feel about it.
			2. Neither is right or wrong.
				1. They both need one another.
		1. A woman has what we call “intuition.”
			1. A woman knows what is going on without knowing what is going on.
				1. It is a gift from God.
		2. God built into man the desire to take risks, but the woman is not as interested in taking risks as she is in creating beauty, gentleness, and security.
			1. Most women would rather have security than greater success because God gave her a nesting instinct.
			2. God gave man a productive instinct.
		3. Men have a propensity to see the big picture; women see the details.
		4. A man tends to be more insensitive; the woman tends to be more sensitive.
			1. Insensitivity taken to an extreme is bad, but God gave man a thick skin.
				1. Man has to make decisions and be able to do physical jobs that can hurt, such as carrying heavy loads.
			2. The woman is empathetic and sensitive.
				1. God made her that way because she is a fitting helper for man who might get hardened a little.
		5. The man tends to be more defensive and suspicious because he is the protector.
			1. The woman tends to be more trusting and open because she is the nurturer and the life-giver.
				1. Therefore, the woman forgives over and over again, while the husband is not as trusting.
		6. In each of these qualities of male and female, there are strengths and weaknesses.
			1. But God made men to be men and women to be women.
	1. Genesis 2:18
		1. There is to be a partnership.
1. the permanence of marriage (Genesis 2:24-25)
	1. The word “cleave” here is a Hebrew word which means “to weld” or “to glue,” like we would glue two pieces of paper together.
		1. In this verse, God talked about the future of the family.
		2. In this verse are God’s principles to keep us from having broken homes.
	2. God does not want broken homes because broken homes produce broken humans, and broken humans produce broken homes.
		1. If you are in a broken home or from a broken home, then don’t despair because there is hope.
			1. We can break the cycle.
	3. God’s plan is one man for one woman until death do them part.
	4. One survey showed that the number one problem in marriage is immaturity, and the number two problem in marriage is selfishness.
		1. When men and women come to marriage, they ask what is in it for them rather than asking what is best for both of them.
		2. Incompatibility and irreconcilable differences are really immaturity and selfishness.
	5. Love is a choice and a commitment.
		1. We choose to love.
		2. The emotion may follow, but love is a commitment.
		3. If we don’t make that commitment, then when a crisis comes, we will walk away.
	6. The Bible says that a husband is to cleave to his wife.
		1. Genesis 2:24
		2. He is to glue himself to her, and she is to glue herself to him.
			1. When we try to separate two pieces of paper that are glued together, we will damage both pieces of paper.
				1. There is no way to unglue something that has been welded and glued together.
	7. The problem is that many who say “I do” don’t.
		1. They stand at the marriage altar, and rather than saying, “So long as we both shall live,” they translate it as, “So long as we both shall love.”
			1. And “Till death do us part” is translated as “Till disagreement do us part.”
				1. There has to be a commitment.
	8. God’s plan is one plus one equals one.
		1. Genesis 2:24
			1. They become one flesh.
			2. Matthew 19:6
		2. Genesis 2:25
			1. This means that they were so much one that there was no shame and no intimidation.
				1. They were willing and able to share everything with their partner.
				2. There was no threat.
2. CONCLUSION
	1. There is no way possible that you can win in a war with your mate because you and your mate are one.
		1. If you damage your mate, then you don’t win; you lose.
		2. You are one flesh.
			1. A man at war with his wife is at war with himself.
			2. A woman at war with her husband is at war with herself.
				1. Therefore, you cannot win.
		3. This doesn’t mean that you cannot have discussions.
			1. To help her is to help you; to help you is to help her.
	2. Jesus Christ built the first home in the Garden of Eden.
	3. Jesus Christ builds the church home.
		1. Matthew 16:18
	4. Jesus Christ builds the Heavenly home.
		1. He has gone to prepare a place for us.
			1. John 14:2
	5. Jesus Christ builds the family home.
		1. Jesus alone can build the kind of home that you need.
		2. Jesus is the greatest home builder; Satan is the greatest home wrecker.
	6. Jesus intends for everyone to have three homes:
		1. A family home.
		2. A church home.
		3. A Heavenly home.
			1. Jesus is the key to all three.
	7. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
	8. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
		1. Romans 3:23
		2. Romans 10:9-10
		3. Romans 10:13
		4. Acts 16:31
		5. John 3:16