

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE:	How to Put Meaning in Your Marriage
SERMON REFERENCE:	Genesis 2:18-25
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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) We need to move our marriages from monotony to the momentous.
- b) In Genesis 2, we find the story of the first family: Adam and Eve.
 - i) In many ways, they were different from any other family.
 - (1) For example, they did not have in-laws.
 - (a) He could not compare her cooking with his mother's cooking.
 - (2) They did not have any competition.
 - (a) Eve could not tell Adam about all of the other men she could have married.
 - ii) 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.
 - c) Divorce is a national epidemic.
 - i) Many marriages end in divorce.
 - ii) 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.
 - d) Genesis 2:18-25
 - i) In verse 18, the words "help meet" mean "a fitting helper."
 - ii) In this passage, we have God's purpose and God's pattern for marriage.
 - e) The real test of our faith is not how we act at church, but how we behave at home.
 - f) In today's message, we will see what the Bible has to say about a home.
 - i) God gave marriage and the home to meet the deepest emotional, physical, psychological, and spiritual needs of mankind.
 - ii) Marriage did not originate in the swamps of evolution and immorality.
 - iii) Marriage was the first institution that God created in the Garden of Eden.

2) THE PURPOSE OF MARRIAGE (GENESIS 2:18-24)

- a) Genesis 2:18
 - i) Adam needed a companion.
 - (1) He needed someone with whom he could fellowship.
- b) Adam could not fellowship with any of the animals.
 - i) Genesis 2:19-20
- c) When God gave Adam the job of naming the animals, He created a desire in the heart of Adam.
 - i) 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.
 - ii) Adam noticed that each animal had a mate.
 - (1) But for Adam, there was no Mrs. Adam.
 - (a) "There was not found a fitting helper for him."

- (i) Genesis 2:20
- d) God, having created the desire in Adam, created woman.
 - i) Genesis 2:21-23
 - (1) The Hebrew language tells us that what Adam said was something like, “Wow!”
 - (a) When Adam saw Eve, he exploded in an expression of great joy.
 - ii) 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.
 - iii) 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.
- e) Marriage is the highest, deepest, and most insoluble of all human relationships.
 - i) Genesis 2:23-24
 - (1) A husband and wife should leave father and mother.
 - ii) The relationship between husband and wife is a closer bonding than between parent and child.
- f) When the Bible says to leave father and mother, that does not mean geographically.
 - i) 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.
 - ii) Our father and mother can be a thousand miles across the country, and we can still be emotionally bound and tied to them.
- g) Many marriages fail because people have failed to cut the emotional umbilical cord of leaving father and mother.
 - i) 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.
 - (a) Two women are vying for the affection of the same man.
 - (b) Sometimes a woman has not found the love that she should get from her husband, so she has an unnatural attachment to her son.
 - ii) 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.
 - (a) Those are the times when we really need to pray.

- h) 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.
 - i) The Bible tells us in Exodus 20:12 that we are to honor our father and our mother.
 - ii) Yet, at the same time, we are to leave because God made man and woman for one another in a very special way.
 - i) Genesis 2:18
 - i) 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.
- 3) THE PARTNERSHIP OF MARRIAGE (GENESIS 2:18)
- a) God made man a fitting helper.
 - i) This means a helper like himself.
 - b) We sometimes laughingly call our husbands or our wives “the other half,” but that is quite appropriate.
 - i) Adam without Eve was like a violin without a bow.
 - c) God gave Eve to Adam to make up that part of Adam that was lacking.
 - i) 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.
 - ii) The Hebrew word for “woman” comes from an Arabic root which means “to be soft.”
 - (1) God built femininity into a woman.
 - iii) The Hebrew word for “man” comes from an Arabic root which simply means “to exercise power.”
 - (1) God put masculinity into men.
 - iv) The Bible teaches that God made them different that He might make them one.
 - d) The nature of man and woman:
 - i) 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.
 - (a) The difference in the sexes is in the Word of God.
 - ii) Man is to be the provider; woman is to be the encourager.
 - (1) Genesis 2:15
 - (a) God told Adam to dress the garden and to keep it.
 - (2) Genesis 2:18
 - (a) God told the woman to encourage the man and to stand by his side.
 - (3) This is in God’s original plan.
 - iii) Man is to be the protector; woman is to be the nurturer.
 - (1) Genesis 3:16
 - (a) The husband is to be the one in charge.

- (2) The man is to lead, to guide, and to protect.
 - (a) 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.
- iv) 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.
 - (a) He is goal oriented.
 - (i) He will see the steps to get to his goal in his mind, and that is the way that he works.
 - (ii) He doesn't necessarily consider how people will feel.
 - 1. If he does, then it is a secondary issue.
 - (2) The woman will not only see the goal, but she will also see beyond the goal.
 - (a) She will consider how people will feel about it.
 - (3) Neither is right or wrong.
 - (a) They both need one another.
- v) A woman has what we call "intuition."
 - (1) A woman knows what is going on without knowing what is going on.
 - (a) It is a gift from God.
- vi) 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.
- vii) Men have a propensity to see the big picture; women see the details.
- viii) 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.
 - (a) 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.
 - (a) God made her that way because she is a fitting helper for man who might get hardened a little.
- ix) 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.
 - (a) Therefore, the woman forgives over and over again, while the husband is not as trusting.
- x) 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.
- e) Genesis 2:18
 - i) There is to be a partnership.
- 4) THE PERMANENCE OF MARRIAGE (GENESIS 2:24-25)
 - a) The word “cleave” here is a Hebrew word which means “to weld” or “to glue,” like we would glue two pieces of paper together.
 - i) In this verse, God talked about the future of the family.
 - ii) In this verse are God’s principles to keep us from having broken homes.
 - b) God does not want broken homes because broken homes produce broken humans, and broken humans produce broken homes.
 - i) 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.
 - c) God’s plan is one man for one woman until death do them part.
 - d) One survey showed that the number one problem in marriage is immaturity, and the number two problem in marriage is selfishness.
 - i) 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.
 - ii) Incompatibility and irreconcilable differences are really immaturity and selfishness.
 - e) Love is a choice and a commitment.
 - i) We choose to love.
 - ii) The emotion may follow, but love is a commitment.
 - iii) If we don’t make that commitment, then when a crisis comes, we will walk away.
 - f) The Bible says that a husband is to cleave to his wife.
 - i) Genesis 2:24
 - ii) 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.
 - (a) There is no way to unglue something that has been welded and glued together.
 - g) The problem is that many who say “I do” don’t.
 - i) 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.”
 - (a) There has to be a commitment.
 - h) God’s plan is one plus one equals one.
 - i) Genesis 2:24
 - (1) They become one flesh.
 - (2) Matthew 19:6
 - ii) Genesis 2:25

- (1) This means that they were so much one that there was no shame and no intimidation.
 - (a) They were willing and able to share everything with their partner.
 - (b) There was no threat.

5) CONCLUSION

- a) There is no way possible that you can win in a war with your mate because you and your mate are one.
 - i) If you damage your mate, then you don't win; you lose.
 - ii) 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.
 - (a) Therefore, you cannot win.
 - iii) This doesn't mean that you cannot have discussions.
 - (1) To help her is to help you; to help you is to help her.
- b) Jesus Christ built the first home in the Garden of Eden.
- c) Jesus Christ builds the church home.
 - i) Matthew 16:18
- d) Jesus Christ builds the Heavenly home.
 - i) He has gone to prepare a place for us.
 - (1) John 14:2
- e) Jesus Christ builds the family home.
 - i) Jesus alone can build the kind of home that you need.
 - ii) Jesus is the greatest home builder; Satan is the greatest home wrecker.
- f) Jesus intends for everyone to have three homes:
 - i) A family home.
 - ii) A church home.
 - iii) A Heavenly home.
 - (1) Jesus is the key to all three.
- g) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- h) 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.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16