

## START HERE #9: GENESIS 2:18-25 "NEW AND IMPROVED"

### INKBLOT(bat,butterfly,moth) TERMS LIKE - I SAY MARRIAGE YOU SAY..... SINGLE

The world has its view of singleness and marriage – not always bad but not Biblical

- Reframing our view – Paradigm Shift – GOD “DO YOU SEE WHAT I SEE”

Everyone’s story is different – Adam - single and married all within a day – Eve was the only one never to be single. PRINCIPLES DON’T JUST COME THROUGH - NT

**MP: God doesn’t just restore what was lost at the fall He makes it better through Christ.**

### SEE YOUR SINGLENES LIKE GOD DOES

#### LT#1: YOUR IDENTITY ISN’T IN A STATUS IT’S IN A PERSON HIS NAME IS JESUS

Pop Website: There’s an unspoken stereotype about singleness that lurks in Christian circles. It’s the idea that singleness is a temporary inconvenience to be endured until you reach your destiny as a married person. FALSE - JESUS/PAUL/MARY/MARTHA/JOHN THE BAPTISER (martyred marr)

- Marriage isn’t better or worse it’s different .. MISSED PURPOSE (wishing)

Focusing on spiritual identity not marital status leads to true purpose.

- Single – complete in Christ (HIS WILL) – Married (two complete Christ)

#### LT #2: SINGLE DOES NOT EQUAL ALONE

One isn’t loneliness number – CHRIST – CONTENTMENT IS MIRACULOUS - ABOUND

Philippians 4:11 Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. <sup>13</sup>I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

- In the Valley of Aloneness – FOR ME AS A SINGLE – 26 years old

#### LT #3: CHOOSE WHAT IS RIGHT NOT NECESSARILY WHAT FEELS RIGHT

Change your attitude by changing your focus.

Opportunities not Difficulties / Contentment not Envy / Patience not Hurry / Hope not despair / trust not anxiety – JOSEPH (tempted) – GOD AND MY MASTER

#### LT #4: HANDLING IT RIGHT WILL HELP IT BE RIGHT

Be the right person – make the right choices - marry the right one – have the right motivations

1 Corinthians 7 – Advantage Single – WORK FOR GOD (I need your help)

### SEE YOUR MARRIAGE LIKE GOD DOES

Christian marriages are healthier than you think (Scott Herold)

#### LT#1: PLACE GOD’S GLORY AS YOUR CENTRAL PURPOSE

Most marriages fail because of undefined/improperly defined purpose

- EXERCISE #1.....(financial adv, companionship, kids) – GOD’S GLORY - REVEL

#### LT#2: DISCIPLE ONE ANOTHER

>influence4GOD: Goals for – retirement/home/car/ed – SPIRITUAL GOALS / GIFTS???

- (Healthy SD – Bible/Prayer/Generosity/Simp-Sabbath/Community/engaged

### **LT#3: LIVE SACRIFICIALLY**

- REAL LOVE WILLINGLY SACRIFICES – LATELY???

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and **gave Himself for her**, <sup>26</sup> that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word.

### **LT #4: WORK TOWARDS HEALTHY COMMUNICATION**

Make Time – Be Clear – Listen Actively – Aim to Understand – Validate Feelings - Unity

James 1:19 So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; <sup>20</sup> for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

### **LT #5: BE COMPASSIONATE NOT CRITICAL**

Don't let the small things become big things

1 Peter 3:7 Husbands, likewise, dwell with *them* with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as *being heirs together* of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

### **LT #6: EMBRACE BIBLICAL EXPECTATIONS**

Focus on living spiritual qualities not filling perceived roles (who you are not what you do) - maximize the unique gifts both bring – complimenting each other is a two-way street (**champion one another**)

### **LT #7: ALIGN YOUR FINANCES TO BIBLICAL VALUES**

couples are 10X more likely to break up if they think their partner is bad with their finances. Policyge

### **LT #8: FOSTER INTIMACY**

DIGITAL WORLD - Physical contact releases oxytocin generous, more empathetic and nurturing, more collaborative, and more grateful Gratitude, psychological "glue" that keeps people close.

- **BE THANKFUL**