

HAPPILY EVER AFTER? PART I

OCTOBER 3-4, 2015

INTRODUCTION

- Marriage is a wild thing. It has been redefined, reworked and retreaded.
- It is hard to know what marriage really is or was intended to or do.
- It is often hard, dirty, sometimes embarrassing work.

I. WHEN REALITY SETS IN

- I married this girl and found out she was a stranger.
- Instead of building a team we were battling out the demarcation lines.
- We always put on our best face dating.
- Marriage would become the tool God used to shape me and break me.
- I Corinthians 7:1-2, "...It is good for a man not to marry. But since there is so much immorality, each man should have his own wife, and each woman her own husband."
- What if the joys, sorrows, triumphs, disappointments, of marriage are all intended by God to draw us closer to Him and build us as people?

II. FROM BAD TO WORSE

- Psalm 127:4-5, Behold, children are a gift of the Lord..."
- It got worse. Now I had to share my wife with my son.
- The Bible is full of pictures of God being wed to those He loves.

- Hosea 2:16, 19-20 NLT, "...I will make you my wife forever..."
- The breakdown of relationship with God is often depicted as the breakdown of marriage. Jeremiah 3:8
- I knew I needed Him in my marriage to fix my wife, but not to grow me.

III. WHY DID I MARRY?

- Sex, love, romance, companionship? All of the above.
- Answering this question establishes the foundation for your life together.
- Both the Old and New Testaments use marriage as the central picture of relationship between God and man.
- Ephesians 5:25-32, "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her..."
- My marriage was failing, I was failing, as a husband and a father.
- II Corinthians 5:15, "...He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves..."

IV. THE GREAT LESSON HE TAUGHT ME

- Love in marriage must be learned. It is not natural for most of us but supernatural.
- II Corinthians 5:16, "So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view."
- Commitment had to come above fulfillment.
- But wasn't that the message of Jesus?
- Die to yourself and live to Him?
- The next 10 years would shape my destiny.