

HAPPILY EVER AFTER? PART II

OCTOBER 10-11, 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 be or do without looking at God's plan.
- Genesis 3:11b-13, "Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave *to be* with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate." ...And the woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."
- Our deepest struggles in life will likely occur in the one relationship most affected by the fall...marriage.
- The enemy struck marriage because it most reflected God's heart and character.
- Malachi 2:11, "...the Lord's holy institution that He loves..."

I. MY ALLY OR MY ADVERSARY?

- The only mystery of marriage we were experiencing was why did we do it!
- After seven years the disdain just grew.
- It is called contempt; this is criticism bolstered by hostility or disgust.
- Contempt often involves sarcasm, mocking and is an open sign of disrespect.
- Do you use sarcasm and cynicism?
- Sarcasm conveys disgust which kills any hope of reconciliation.

- The deepest struggles of life would come out of the primary place where they all began...marriage.

II. WHO DID I MARRY?

- The answer is a fallen person...same as you.
- Matthew 7:3, "Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?"
- It was here God began to mold me...and change me.
- It was take your eyes off her...and put them on Me.
- I Peter 3:7, "You husbands...show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered."
- My spiritual life was tied to my marriage.

III. DEALING WITH ME

- James 4:1-2, "What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members?..."
- My wife had shown me, me...
- I did marry a full length mirror...that kept telling me what I was really like.
- I needed to repent...and allow a deep cleansing healing inside...and to forgive!
- We all must learn to turn toward one another...not away.
- Changing partners only changes the scenery, but the issues inside me are still there.

CLOSE

- This is the tough part, to be real with yourself.