

MONDAY 03.23.26 - Mark 10:6-9

“But at the beginning of creation God ‘made them male and female.’ ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.’¹ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

I am going to make a bold statement. I have observed marriages in the US, and in numerous cross-cultural settings and I have observed a common denominator with regards to how healthy a marriage is. That common denominator is the husband. If the husband loves his wife and children and is committed to being a Godly leader, the likelihood that the marriage and family will be strong and God honoring goes through the roof. On the other hand, if the husband is not committed to his wife and family as a Godly leader the marriage will be unhealthy. God has given men the responsibility to be head of their household. This is a grave responsibility which we must take seriously. Men, I beseech you, get on your knees and ask God to help you to become the kind if leader in your household that He wants you to be. Then get off your knees and go to work. It will be hard work, but it will be worth it.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

TUESDAY 03.24.26 - 1 Peter 3:7

Ephesians 5-6 is the place most readers refer to understand the roles Christian folks should model in their family life. But today’s verse, and the surrounding ones, are great expositors of the same meanings. Husbands should act according to knowledge, or with understanding, or being considerate and treating wives with respect. (ESV, KJV, NIV) This explains behavior that ‘loves wives as Christ loved the church.’ Love in the AGAPE way is surrendering and helping, serving and protecting. But now, doing it with understanding of who she is, how she thinks and feels, and what she needs.

Scripture gives husbands a governing role but also lays upon him a greater burden commensurate to that role. If a husband’s behavior does not measure up, there is a result in the ‘other world’, that spirit world, and when he prays his words may not go higher than the ceiling of his bedroom. Love your wife, with AGAPE love.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

WEDNESDAY 03.25.26 - Psalm 118:26

Sometimes we take Sunday worship for granted. Once we get past the temptation to sleep in or skip church, it’s easy to simply attend. But imagine wandering in the desert for 40 years and finally standing at the edge of the Promised Land. You would gladly join in praising God for His deliverance. As you approach, the priests greet you with joy: “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” The Lord has brought you safely through. Later, similar words would welcome those returning from exile in the days of Ezra and Nehemiah. And centuries after that, they were proclaimed as Jesus entered Jerusalem. No longer directed toward imperfect servants, these words were now lifted to God Himself in human flesh. The One who led His people to deliverance was now bringing ultimate deliverance. The true King had come. He has come—so worship Him. Hosanna!

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

THURSDAY 03.26.26 - Luke 19:39-44

Spiritual blindness is nothing new. We often fail to recognize the truths that are right in front of us. Although Jesus had outwitted the Pharisees’ and Satan’s schemes many times and had

performed many miracles, even bringing the dead to life, Jesus most clearly demonstrated His spiritual sovereignty and victory over sin and Satan when He rode into Jerusalem. The crowds cheered and rejoiced at the coming of their King, yet the Pharisees rebuked Jesus and His disciples for fulfilling the prophecy regarding the Messiah’s entrance. He was not what they wanted. Their eyes were blind to His majesty and holiness. They saw a homeless, upstart rabbi with Godly pretensions threatening their status quo. Jesus knew their hearts and motives and, in turn, warned them what would happen if they rejected Him. Their warning is our warning. We see evidence of the Lord’s power and glory all around. He calls us to Himself, and we must hear and obey. Now is the day of salvation.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

FRIDAY 03.27.26 - Daniel 9:25

Six hundred years before the birth of Christ, the prophet Daniel was in captivity in Babylon. The angel Gabriel was dispatched to him to reveal the future of the nation of Israel. One of the facts that Gabriel disclosed to Daniel was the time of the Messiah’s coming to the Jewish people.

Messiah was to arrive 483 years (62x7 years) after the command to rebuild Jerusalem. King Artaxerxes gave the command in Nehemiah 2:1-8, and it was issued on March 5, 444 BC. Four hundred eighty-three years (or 173,880 days) after the command brings us to the date of March 30, AD 33. That is the exact day that Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey and presented Himself as King to Israel. The long awaited and anticipated Messiah had finally arrived in the city of God—Jerusalem.

God always fulfills His promises. He can be trusted.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

E2 GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

WEDNESDAY EVENING STUDY - 6:30pm. Begins April 15th.

**“God of the Ordinary”, A Study in the Book of Ruth
Led by Barry Wills, Rm B8-10**

This is a 6 session study by Alistair Begg. God still protects His people and accomplishes His purposes. Through all of life’s circumstances, we discover His loving hand at work.

THURSDAY MORNING LADIES BIBLE STUDY- 9:00am

**“In View of God’s Mercies”, by: Courtney Doctor
Led by Brenda Ross; Rm 2**

SUNDAY MORNINGS - 9:40am

- Kids** CHILDREN’S CHURCH (Ages 4 – 4th Grade)
LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level
NURSERY (through Age 3) *9:40AM ONLY
LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level
- Youth** E2 CLASS (5th – 12th Grade)
LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)
- Adults** **SPRING QUARTER** - Sunday Mornings at 9:40

LOCATION: B8-10 - Dave Heineman- began Mar. 1
**EXPLORE THE BIBLE:
Matthew 14-28**
Gaining a better understanding of what it means to live out our faith each day.

LOCATION: B11 -Dave Delcamp - began Mar. 1
**BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE:
Understanding the Character of God**
Through the revelation of Scripture—and His ultimate revelation through Jesus Christ—we can see exactly who God is.

SUNDAY EVENINGS - 6:00pm

- Youth** YOUTH GROUP (5th – 12th Grade)
LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)
- Adults** LOCATION: Worship Center

TO SIGN UP OR REQUEST MORE INFORMATION FOR ANY OF THESE GROUPS OR CLASSES, USE THE CONNECTION CARD IN THE BULLETIN. THANK YOU.

**Ephesians 5:25-33
A Marriage That Goes The Distance (part 2)**

Loving leadership is not ...

- D _____ (1 Peter 3:7a)
- D _____ (1 Peter 3:7b)

Loving leadership is demonstrated by ...

- S _____ (Ephesians 5:25a)
- S _____ (Ephesians 5:25b)
- S _____ (Ephesians 5:26-29)

Language	Communication	Action	Avoidance
<i>Words of Affirmation</i>	Compliments Affirmation Kind words	Send notes and cards	Criticism
<i>Quality Time</i>	One-to-one time Not interrupting Face-to-face conversation	Take long walks together Doing things together Taking trips	Long periods of being apart More time with friends than with spouse
<i>Receiving Gifts</i>	Positive Fact-oriented information	Give gifts on both special and not so special occasions	Forgetting special days
<i>Acts of Service</i>	Action words like “I can,” “I will,” “What else can I do?”	Helping with house and yard chores Repair and maintenance Deeds of kindness	Ignoring spouse’s request while helping others
<i>Physical Touch</i>	A lot of nonverbals Verbals need to be word pictures	Touches Hugs Pats Kisses	Physical neglect or abuse

TAKING OUR NEXT STEP TOGETHER IN THE WORD



March 23 – March 27

INTRODUCTION:

Part of our purpose and strategy as a church is to Edify and Equip (E2) every believer. We desire to see every person take their next step with God, both individually as well as with families and small groups (E2 Communities). This devotional is to aid us in just that. We invite you to join us in daily devotion.

OVERVIEW:

Monday and Tuesday’s readings will be a follow up on Sunday’s message from, March 22nd, “A Marriage That Goes The Distance” (pt2). Wednesday through Friday’s devotions will help prepare us for the message on March 29th, “Praising God”.

KEY/MEMORY VERSE:

Follow God’s example, therefore, as dearly loved children.
Ephesians 5:1