

## HOW TO CHOOSE A Mate

Genesis 2:18-25

Genesis 24:1-67

18 *And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him. 19 And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof. 20 And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.*

21 *And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; 22 And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. 23 And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. 24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. 25 And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed. – (Genesis 2:18-25)*

### Intro:

1. Decision making and the will of God
2. Major Life's Choices - Career, Moving, Marriage, House, Family
3. Other Choices - car to buy, what to wear, church, hair cut, etc.
4. How do you make decisions?
5. Bad decisions - Samson and Solomon

Arranged marriages

Mail Order Brides

Shot Gun Weddings

Paul (1 Corinthians 7:32-35)

*1 Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman. 2 Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband. 3 Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband. 4 The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife. 5 Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency. 6 But I speak this by permission, and not of commandment. 7 For I would that all men were even as I myself. But every man hath his proper gift of God, one after this manner, and another after that. 8 I say therefore to the unmarried and widows, It is good for them if they abide even as I. 9 But if they cannot contain, let them marry: for it is better to marry than to burn.*

(ie) Jaeann DeMuth - testimony of most women she works with. They wish to be as she is.

Because you FEEL in-love is not a reason to get married.

Feelings come and go.

Feelings can change.

Feelings can deceive us.

Feelings are fickle things - like clouds or morning fog.

Choosing a Life-Partner is about the most important and most difficult of all decisions you will ever make.

## Observations on Genesis 2

1. *“It is not good for man to be alone.” (vs 19a)*

Not everyone should get married.

Not everyone has a soul-mate.

General rule – God exhausted all other possibilities to make Adam happy.

Desperation of all the good ones being taken is not a good reason to marry.

Loneliness is not a reason to get married.

Sex need is not a good reason to get married.

Dependency is no reason to get married.

Security is not reason.

2. *I will make him an help meet for him. (vs 19b)*

God is the one who “makes” a help-meet for you. His designs are the only designs that fit.

Help-Meet = helper, friend, assistant, deliverer, shield (together fight off enemies)

Husband = House-band

3. *There was not found an help meet for him. (vs 20)*

Sometimes there is no one to be found to match your personality, needs, and wants.

God searched all the possibilities - elephants, dogs, cats, gerbils, fish

Sometimes God has no life-partner for you. I Corinthians 7:32-35

4. *and God brought her unto the man. (vs 22b)*

God who ordains also sustains until the time is right.

God’s timing is always perfect, yet often delayed in our earthly worm-view.

God delights to design heavenly encounters! He brings people together.

5. *Therefore... shall a man... cleave unto his wife: (vs 24) one flesh, unashamed*

1. God knows what is best

2. He knows your needs

3. Has designed or not one unique for you

4. He will bring him/her to you..

Not ashamed = not to be pitied, not embarrassed of decision, no regrets,

0954 buwsh *boosh*

AV-ashamed 72, confounded 21, shame 9, all 2 (inf. for emphasis), confusion 1, delayed 1,

Cleave = glued, hitched, joined at hip.

Jesus used this to talk about the permanence and inseparability of marriage - Matthew 19:4

01692 dabaq *daw-bak'* (GENESIS 2:24)

1) to cling, stick, stay close, cleave, keep close, stick to, stick with, follow closely, join to, overtake,

4347 proskollao *pros-kol-lah'-o* (MATTHEW 19:5)

AV-cleave 2, be joined 1, join (one's) self 1; 4

1) to glue upon, glue to to join one's self to closely, cleave to, stick to

## Observations on Genesis 24 Story of Isaac and Rebekah

1. Not from among the Canaanite women  
Be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers. 2 Corinthians 6:14
2. Prayer for God's leading and specific direction (Began with a father's prayer, father's advise, Angel of the Lord to go before you prepare the way (v7).
3. Find the right personality (very beautiful v16, a virgin v16, He watched her closely vs21)
4. Wait for the witness of God's Spirit, confirmation of other key players. (Laban, as the Lord has directed v51) Meditate on it day and night.

### Genesis 24

3. I want you to swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and the God of earth, that you will not get a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I am living,
12. Then he prayed, "O LORD, God of my master Abraham, give me success today,
16. The girl was very beautiful, a virgin; no man had ever lain with her.
21. Without saying a word, the man watched her closely to learn whether or not the LORD had made his journey successful.
50. Laban and Bethuel answered, "This is from the LORD; we can say nothing to you one way or the other.
63. He went out to the field one evening to meditate,

### NIV Genesis 2:19-25

18. The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."
19. Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name.
20. So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field. But for Adam no suitable helper was found.
21. So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh.
22. Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.
23. The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man."
24. For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.
25. The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

Dear son,

Now the years have passed and you are no longer a boy. You are a man. When you were a child I cared for you. I got up weary many nights and walked the floor with you as you cried incessantly with the colic. I changed your diapers, I whipped your nose, and gave you medicine with an eye dropper, held your bottle up so you wouldn't get gas. I even gave you a bath and powdered your bottom once or twice. And I must have read "The Poky Little Puppy" at least a zillion times before your fifth birthday.

I taught you little things that perhaps you don't even remember. I taught you how to hold a spoon and make it arrive at your mouth. I taught you to tip a glass to your lips without dropping it or drooling all over the floor. Remember when I taught you how to whistle? I helped you take your first steps. I taught you how to tie your shoes, make your bed, clean your room, (Well I tried anyway!), then to comb your hair, to brush your teeth, and to throw a ball. ( Oh yes, remember how I taught you to say "GIRL" instead of "Goil?")

I warned you and protected you from life's impending dangers, like how not to sit on an ant hill, how to cross the street, and not put your hands or tools into the electrical outlets. Some things you learned quite well from the school of hard knocks, like how to cut your finger nearly off, or how to get a saw blade stuck in the car door lock!

Together your mother and I helped you become what you are today. We watched you grow from a helpless drooling baby , to a chunky little slug, then to a tall and muscular athlete.

Now you are grown, you have entered the doorway to manhood. There aren't too many things left for me to teach you. But there are a few! In the next 5 years you will have to make some of life's toughest decisions. You will choose a college, a career, an employer, your home town residence, and your lifestyle – most important of all you will (may) choose a life's partner, a wife.

This business of choosing a wife is the most difficult and exciting thing you will ever do. I offer these observations having counseled dozens of engaged couples and having seen hundreds of failed marriages and ruined lives. **BE WARNED!** A bad decision --- a bad choice -- will stay with you all your life. It can't be erased or done over again without searing pain to everyone involved. The results of a bad choice will bring lifelong heartache that no legal paper called "DIVORCE" can erase or heal.

Here is my counsel. As Solomon advised his sons and cautioned them with practical advise so let me give you my counsel. Choose wisely my son! Your life depends on it.

#### 1. CHOOSE A GOOD-PLEASANT FACE.

After all you will wake up to it the rest of you life. Make it a pleasant one! If choosing a wife were just a matter of choosing a pretty face, or an attractive body we could all choose from a Sears catalog and do quite well. The problem is behind every face, and inside every body is another not-so-easy-to-see person. Beauty is only skin deep. The body will change -- faces will grow old, wrinkle and sag, -- bodies bulge (usually where they shouldn't) -- Hair loses its shine, fullness, and color, turns gray and sometimes falls out, -- so choose wisely! Choose for the long-haul, not the short promenade. Go to a nursing home (I'm serious, go!) watch the faces. None of the bodies are any good, but look the faces. Some of the faces will shine. It is the inner beauty wearing through!

#### 2. CHOOSE A PERSONALITY THAT PERKS YOU UP.

Don't marry a image of yourself. Opposites do attract, better still, they compliment each other. Don't marry someone you are prone to argue with (if you argue now, later will be worse!), or one who pouts to get her own way, or a melancholy who changes moods suddenly.

#### 3. CHOOSE SOMEONE YOU ENJOY CONVERSING WITH ON MANY TOPICS.

You will have 50 maybe 60 years to talk together, or "sit in silence." If you don't have much to talk about now, later will be worse, not better. Choose someone who stimulates and challenges your mind. One who doesn't talk incessantly, or at you, but who talks to you, and with you.

#### 4. CHOOSE ONE DEEPLY COMMITTED TO CHRIST.

Nothing is so miserable as to have unequal spiritual depth, or total disunity on religious and moral convictions. Ask God for a woman after His own heart. Accept nothing less! You will never regret it.

#### 5. CHOOSE GOOD GENES.

Now that may seem supercilious, even trite. But I'm serious. Think about it. What is her mother like? What is her father like? She will be both, or at best some of both! Your children will carry the same traits. Are they sickly, prone to cancer, heart disease, mental retardation, insanity, or early death? These things will not disqualify a potential wife, nor are they of number one importance, but KNOW WHAT you are getting into! Remember you are marrying her genes, her health, and her family.

There are no perfect genes -- your's aren't either. But if you want black children marry a black woman, but don't be surprised when the children are black, or mulatto. It's in the genes. If you marry a cross-eyed, buck-toothed, broad-eared, flat-nosed, straw-haired, pigeon-toed, midget --- don't expect tall dark and handsome kids!

## 6. CHOOSE PRAYERFULLY!

Who can find a good wife?" asked Solomon. "Her price, (that is her value) is far more than rubies." Don't play games with marriage. It is not a guessing game, musical chairs, a lottery, or pot luck! It is serious business that affects the rest of your lives. Who is able to make such a monumental decision alone? Who is wise enough to choose wisely for life? No one! Pray about this important decision. God cares -- God plans -- God foreordains. He will lead, guide and direct you both. He will make sure you meet, that you fall in love, and that you both know it is of God. Don't rush! Don't worry! Don't guess!

There is no perfect woman --- only one perfect for you --- and you will be perfect for someone. God created her, prepares her, and will bring her into your pathway in His perfect time and place. Be patient!

Listen to the still small voice of God's Spirit who speaks "This is the way walk ye in it." --- or "This is the one I have chosen."

When you find her you will know! You won't have to ask anyone. You'll just know. You won't have to take a chance, or hope you are not making a mistake, you'll know! you will know!

Choose wisely my son! Trust God's wisdom and choose wisely!

### 13 Weird Biblical Ways of Acquiring a Wife

1. Find an attractive prisoner of war, bring her home, shave her head, trim her nails, and give her new clothes – she's yours. (Deuteronomy 21:11-13)
2. Find a prostitute, rescue her, then marry her. Hosea (Hosea 1:1-3)
3. Find a man with seven daughters, and impress him by watering his flock. Moses (Exodus 2:16-21)
4. Purchase a piece of property, and get a woman as part of the deal. Boaz (Ruth 4:5-10)
5. Go to a party and hide. When the women come out to dance, grab one and carry her off. Benjaminites (Judges 21:19-25)
6. Have God create a wife for you while you sleep. Note: this will cost you a rib. Adam (Genesis 2:19-24)
7. Cut off 200 foreskins off of your future father-in-law's enemies and get his daughter for a wife. David (1 Samuel 18:27)
8. Even if no one is out there, just wander around a bit and you'll definitely find someone. (It's all relative of course.) Cain (Genesis 4:16-17)
9. Become the emperor of a huge nation and hold a beauty contest. Xerxes or Ahasuerus (Esther 2:3-4)
10. When you see someone you like, go home and tell your parents, "I have seen a ...woman; now get her for me." If your parents question your decision, simply say, "Get her for me. She's the one for me." Samson (Judges 14:1-3)
11. Find a cute woman, kill her husband and take his wife. David (2 Samuel 11)
12. Wait for your brother to die. Take his widow. Onan and Boaz (Deuteronomy or Leviticus, Ruth)
13. Don't be so picky. Make up for quality with quantity. Solomon (1 Kings 11:1-3)