

Get Your Life Back - Part 6

February 14th, 2021

"Marriage Edition!!!"

Intro:

Get your Life Back (final message) – we've been reading, pausing, taking up our cross, we've been reflecting and getting our life back.

- **This week: Marriage Edition**

- Marriages have taken a hit in the last 12 months!

- Not just in our world, here in our church...it's been a hard season.

- We've been through something utterly Traumatic. (ILL: working from home, becoming child's teacher (via Zoom), pandemic that leaves us without date nights or options for people to be in our home, constant change, decision making, cancelled vacations, differences in politics, managing extended family and their drama...TRAUMA!!!

- & Trauma is never good for Relationships!

- Who this Message is for... Married Couples, Engaged Couples, Single People, Teenagers, Everybody!!!

- Don't tune us out! - we've all been through trauma (ILL: teenagers, maybe you're realizing why you're parents seemed so stressed out & you're on the receiving end)...everyone can learn!

The truth is that:

* **Marriage is God's Idea.**

Genesis 2:15,18 "The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it... The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." (NIV)

v. 22,24 "Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man... That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh."

**Ecclesiastes 4:9-10a "Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up."
(NIV)**

v. 12 "Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken."

- God designed Marriage as a Beautiful Partnership & Union with Him at the Center!!!

- He is the 3rd strand!!!

*** Marriage is God's idea, but the truth is it's Hard Work.**

A. Just b/c God is the 3rd strand, doesn't mean that marriage in this fallen, sinful world isn't hard work!!!

- GENESIS ACCOUNT - It doesn't take long b/f the devil is messing up their marriage!!!

- They had the most perfect conditions & they still couldn't get marriage right!

B. Sarah & I have a great marriage, but it's not b/c it's all been easy!

- We both brought in a lot of Baggage & it's taken us years of communicating & working through it & forgiving to get to where we are!

- *"Show me two people who have a good marriage, & I'll show you two people who have gotten really good at forgiving!"*

- You want the marriage we have, but you don't want to do what we've done to have it!

*** Marriage is God's idea, it's hard work, but the truth is that a Great Marriage is Possible even in a Hard World.**

A. Marriage has been under attack in our Society for a long time, but this last year has been another level!

- Maybe things that we were able to hide or run from were suddenly in our face.

- Or ways that we used to cope (**like go to the bar & get away from our spouse**)...Quarantine made it impossible to Hide or Fool ourselves about the True State of our Marriage!

Hebrews 12:27 (NLT) "This means that all of creation will be shaken and removed, so that only unshakable things will remain."

B. If your marriage got "Shaken" last year, that's okay, Know 2 things:
1) You're Not Alone. (Last year was really hard... Pastor them)
2) There's Hope. (The last chapter isn't written yet.)

*** God has More for our Marriages!**

A. 1 to 10 - Wherever you're at in your marriage, God wants to raise your number this year...

- But it's going to take Intentionality & Determination & Work & Grace & Unconditional Love & a Greater Level of Surrender & Dying to Self to get there!!!

B. Having a Great Marriage is Not for the Faint of Heart!!!

- It's an Uphill Climb, but it is SO WORTH IT!!!

- John Maxwell - *"Everything worthwhile is Uphill."*

Will you dare to climb uphill with us? To face that fear and believe for more?

Four Questions to ask Each other:

1. How are we Doing... Really?

A. We can never get where God wants us to go unless we are first willing to admit where we are!

- JESUS POST-RESURRECTION W/ DISCIPLES ILL.

- They went through a Traumatic Season & their relationships were drastically impacted!

John 21:15 "When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love (agape) me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love (phileo) you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."

v. 16 "Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you love (agape) me?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love (phileo) you." Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep."

v. 17 "The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love (phileo) me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love (phileo) you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep." (NIV)

- In the end, Peter is like, *"Lord, you know I "like" you a lot, but that's about all I can muster up right now!!!"*

- Jesus didn't push him away, He said, "Okay, I can work with that!"

B. Married Couples: ? How are you doing... really? 1 to 10?

- Are you willing to get honest about where you're really at?

- Are you willing to have some conversation without Judgment & with a WHOLE LOT of Grace???

C. Pointing Fingers isn't going to get you where you want to go!

- Jesus had every right, literally, to point fingers at every one of the disciples & be like, "All of you punks let me down when I needed you most!"

- But He didn't!!!

D. Getting your Life Back in your Marriage this year is going to look like starting with a lot of Grace!!!

2. What's Working... Thankfully?

A. The 2nd Question focuses on the Positive first!!!

- It's human nature to run to & focus on everything that is NOT working in our marriages, but...

- B/f we do that, we need to 1st see what IS Working!

Philippians 4:8 "Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things." (NIV)

B. Jesus / Disciples ILL - Yeah they were discouraged & didn't really know what to do next, but they hadn't given up the faith!

John 20:19 "On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" (NIV)

- They stayed together & they were seeking God still!!!
- That was enough of an atmosphere for Jesus to show up in!

C. Married Couples: It's not ALL bad, we promise!

- Make a List of 5 things or better yet, 12 things that are stable or going well in your marriage right now.

D. Here's why this matters:

- 1) It allows you to Thank God for the Positives in your Marriage!
- 2) It lets you know what to Keep Doing & what to Add Fuel to!!!
 - ILLS - The Kids are great! Awesome, Why???

3. What's NOT Working... Honestly?

A. Disciples ILL - Jesus starts appearing to people & when they tell the disciples they didn't listen!

Mark 16:9,11 " When Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene... When they heard that Jesus was alive and that she had seen him, they did not believe it."

v. 12-13 "Afterward Jesus appeared in a different form to two of them while they were walking in the country. These returned and reported it to the rest; but they did not believe them either."

v. 14 " Later Jesus appeared to the Eleven as they were eating; he rebuked them for their lack of faith and their stubborn refusal to believe those who had seen him after he had risen."

- Jesus got in their business & was like, *"Why are you not believing these people who are trying to tell you something you need to hear?"*
- Jesus is like, *"Your Unbelief is NOT working!!!"*

B. Married Couples: We're going to have to get Brutally Honest about what's NOT working if we're going to be able to see God heal it & fix it & improve it!!!

- ILL - Communication, Sex Life, Finances,
- Attention to our Spouse's Emotional Needs
- 3 Biggest Problems: Communication / Sex / Money???
- Is that true???

C. The Answer: More Grace / Truth / Humility are Needed... Every time!

1) Grace - To Forgive.

- Nobody can hurt us like a Spouse.

2) Truth - Anything Hidden grows in it's power over us.

3) Humility - Pride is the #1 Killer of Marriages!!!

- We go to our corner & they go to theirs & we never meet in the middle with Love!
- As long as we are in opposite corners, we think "they" are one we're fighting!
- But as soon as we get in the same corner, we realize its the Devil that we're truly fighting!!!
- Humility is the ONLY way to get in the same corner!

4. Where do we want to be 365 Days from now... Prayerfully?

A. Disciples ILL - In a very short period of time, they go from Scattered, Disunified & Discouraged to the Day of Pentecost!!!

- The Church was born through the very same disciples who had went through a Traumatic Experience in their Relationship with Jesus.

B. If God can Restore them like that, God can Restore your marriage!!!

C. What do we need to do?

1) Get a Plan. - Nobody arrives somewhere great on Accident.

- Date Night / Babysitter.

- Overnight "Weekends" just the 2 of you.

- We can't afford that! Sure you can!!!

2) Get Some Resources.

1) Courses?

2) Books?

3) Marriage Conference.

4) Marriage Counselor.

3) Get Rid of some Stuff that's not helping.

- Distractions /

- Netflix.

- Internet Accountability Software.

4) Put in the Effort.

- Start paying the price to have a great marriage!

D. 365 days from now you will have the Marriage that you Decide to have.

- It's up to you!!!

- God will meet you at the point of your Desperation for Him!!!

MARRIAGE STORY - COUPLE WHO WERE ON THE ROPES & GOD BROUGHT THEM BACK TO LIFE!

TIME OF PRAYER - FLOW MOMENT - HEALING FOR MARRIAGES

- Grace / Forgiveness / Restoration