

To Love Me is to Know Me

“Finding Intimacy in Our Marriage to YAHUSHA [Jesus]”

I. SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 29:13 – “And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart”.

II. GETTING HITCHED

In short, to “get hitched” means to “get married”.

I got hitched to my wife Hydie on Friday, May 28, 1999. I had been praying for quite some time to YAHUSHA [Jesus]: that He would find just the right person for me. I petitioned him for well over a year, and probably for closer to two (2) years. You see, I had been studying Proverbs, particularly Proverb 5:18, where it says that a young man should “Let [his] fountain be blessed, and rejoice with the wife of [his] youth”. (And the verse 19 that follows, discusses the beautiful intimacy that one should find in such a marriage relationship.) You see, I was already old, 41 years old to be exact when I started praying this impossible prayer, for a wife of my “youth”.

I had my doubts that such as prayer would even be possible, for... for nearly 41 years, I had been living life mostly for myself... seeking my own pleasure... seeking my own satisfaction. You see, I had used women and others for *my* own pleasure, *my* own purpose, and *my* own satisfaction. And by living all the prior years in my life for myself, and not for YAHUSHA [Jesus], and not for others... then, there came with all those years a certain mental conditioning in my head, in my heart... that was telling me through a very thick stain that had developed through all the years of my pride and selfishness: that I was not even capable of loving another person other than myself. Yes, I because of all those years of selfish living, I had found myself incapable of loving others... unable to love and commit myself to any other person than myself... to put my own desires secondary to anyone else besides myself, no less than to a wife. (Pause) But thank YAHUAH, that “With men this [prayer request] is impossible, but with YAHUAH [God] all things are possible” (Matthew 19:26). And by the time I had started this prayer petition, I had a couple things in my favor:

1. I had fallen in love with... and committed myself to a rebirth relationship with YAHUSHA [Jesus] a few years earlier, and I was becoming more adaptable, more pliable in His hands... in my journey with Him. And not only that, but
2. ELOHIYM [God] is in charge of the “marriage” business, if you and I will submit to Him, and allow Him to make that important, life-on-earth-long decision for us. Do you find my statement strange? That in our world here of “doing it my way”... or in our counter world there of “doing it my parents way”... that YAH [God] will step forward for us when we need Him to make such an important, *100% accurate* lifelong decision for us? Then, let me ask you this... where is your faith? Don’t you believe Him, and take Him at face value when He reminds us **“but from the beginning of the creation, ELOHIYM [God] made them male and female... [and] for this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh, [to intimately *know* one another]; so then they are no longer two, but one flesh? [And that] therefore what YAH [God] has joined together, let not man separate”?** (Mark 10:6-9)

So, to my dear unmarried friends and family at any age, who are here today in this audience, or who are viewing or reading this message remotely: if you want to know His will for you regarding *marriage*, or even whether or not you should enter into a relationship with another in your personal life; or, in your professional life or in any other situation, then come to Him in faith and in prayer, for as long as it takes for Him to answer you. Yes, come to and stay with Him in prayer for as long as it takes for Him to answer you *definitively*. For some of you, His answer will be that getting hitched to Him alone – in an intimate “marriage” to Him alone – should be sufficient for you. And regardless, in any case and... in *each and every* case... regardless of whether He wants you to experience marriage here on earth or not, you will only achieve 100% certainty of His answer to you will be *if* you are already hitched to Him, in an intimate marriage to Him first! As we discussed last week, to achieve His guidance in life, we must first become hitched to Him, by yoking ourselves to Him... each and every day, at the start of our daily lifetime walk with Him... where we subject our will to His, and allow Him to lead us each. We remember: He bids us to **“come to [Him], all [of us] who labor and are heavy laden, [for] [He] will give [us] rest. [We] take [His] yoke upon [us] and learn from [Him], for [He is] gentle and lowly in heart, and [we] will find rest for [our] souls [in Him]. [For He promises us that] [His] yoke is easy and [His] burden is light.”**

And as we each live in a world of big decisions, and heavy burdens, why wouldn't we take Him up on His invitation? Why would we desire to bear all of our own difficulties, our own stress, our burdens by ourselves? Is it because of our pride, our stubbornness, that we would prefer to "do it my way" rather than His?

III. TO KNOW ME IS TO LOVE ME – FALLING IN LOVE WITH YAHUSHA [JESUS]

You know, today I can honestly say that after 21 years of marriage to Hydie, the wife that YAHUAH [God] provided me through answered prolonged prayer, although I still don't know her completely yet (if I should even believe that as a man that I could ever really totally understand the mystery of my woman 😊), I am yet loving her more each day than when I fell in love with her for the very first time. And it should be no different in our relationship with YAHUSHA [Jesus], *but* it should be even more perfectly developed: that each day we are married and totally devoted to Him, that we then find ourselves loving Him more and more intensely each day. Yes, I will admit that at first, a love relationship will probably begin more with infatuation than with a true love. But even in the perfectly-matched relationship between us and ELOHIYM [God], doesn't He even entice us to get to know Him with enticements such as: "O taste and see that YAHUAH [God] is good; blessed is the man [or woman] that trusts in Him"? (Psalm 34:8)

And, last week, didn't you feel that He was enticing you in the same way that He was enticing me, when He promises us that as we come out of our sickness and weaknesses, whether physically or spiritually, that He is the One "Who heals all your diseases, Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies, Who satisfies your mouth with good things, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's" (Psalm 103:3b-5)? Yes, even I was enticed again last week with these promises, who after 26 years of walking together with Him, found the exact reassurance and hope that I needed, when I needed it from Him. And...

as the start of getting hitched to Him, and as you begin each day growing old together, you will realize that "it is of YAHUAH [God]'s mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. [But] that they are new every morning; [for] great is [His] faithfulness [unto us]" (Lamentations 3:22).

The hitched life doesn't mean that every day married to Him will be without temptation, trial, or tribulation. For it will sometimes be like human marriages.

I believe that one of the things that helped Hydie and I get through some of those first few years of difficulty in our marriage was our understanding that our marriage was “permanent”. You see, we were married in the Philippines. In case you didn’t know, divorce is illegal there. And what that meant for us, was that divorce would not be an option, despite how difficult times would be between us. And there were some very difficult times at the beginning. But our commitment and dedication to each other, aka our “love” for each other got us through to a point where we now cherish each day more and more than before.

Looking back, I still remember that even the difficulties of those days that we experienced at the start of our marriage were sometimes tough... Yet I also remember that the “good” days and moments together, far outweighed the “bad”. And from this type of example, I hope that you will begin to understand that back when many of YAHUSHA [Jesus] followers deserted Him, the original (11) disciples through Peter, after just a short time into their commitment to hitch themselves to Him, responded when He asked them “do you also want to leave Me”? (John 6:67b)... they responded: “to Whom [else] shall we go”? [For] *You* have the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that *You* [ADONAI] are that MASHIACH [Christ], the Son of the living YAH [God]”!

And so now you and I, when like His initial disciples experienced the hardships of their commitment, their “hitching” themselves to MESSIAH [Christ], we will already have “tasted” and “seen” that YAHUAH [God] is good! And that we are blessed (and ultimately not disappointed) because we trust in Him!

IV. “ALWAYS & FOREVER” – A SPECIAL LOVE SONG

As our love for YAHUSHA [Jesus] begins to grow deeper each day in our marriage, I would suggest that you begin develop a special “love song” to sing to Him, that expresses your love for and commitment to Him. By the time I married Hydie, the song that I had selected to express myself... my love for and commitment to her was “Always & Forever”. If you lack a place to start, if you are really feeling it, you may want to borrow and adapt ours special love song, with your words such as this..

Always and forever, each moment with you...
... is just like a dream to me, that somehow came true.

And I know tomorrow will still be the same...
...'cause' we've got a life of love that won't ever change.

And every day, love me your own special way...
...melt all my heart away with a smile

Take time to tell me you really care...
...and we'll share tomorrow together, because...

There'll always be sunshine when I look at you...
...something I can't explain, just the things that you do.

And that's why...

...I'll always love you, forever, forever

I know that this idea of having a special love song between you and your Savior may sound a little corny, and you may have another, more unique and brilliant way of showing your love for Him, and so I would encourage you... as your love relationship with Him grows, as you grow more and more fond of Him, as you fall more and more in-love with Him, that in order to keep your romance alive... that you keep expressing yourself and your feelings to Him, your praise and adoration for Him. If you do this, then you will be totally amazed at how He will respond to you. You will find that as today's scripture says, that as you seek Him "with all of your heart", then you will begin to find Him. And as you begin to find Him and know Him better and better, you will find that "His love [toward you] fails not. [But] that they are new every morning; [for] great is [His] faithfulness [unto you]" (Lamentations 3:22).

I would rather have you risk doing "corny" things to get your romance off the ground with YAHUSHA [Jesus], than to risk getting that dire warning from Him] that He gave the Church of Ephesus, that "**that you have left your first love**" for Him. That you should "**remember ... from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works** (the corny things), **or else [He] will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent [of losing your first love for Him]**" (Revelation 2:4b-5).

V. TO LOVE ME IS TO KNOW ME

In the bible, when the words to "know" someone are used, it is usually referring to the most intimate physical relationship between someone, usually between a man and a woman. For example, in Genesis 4:1, it says that "Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, 'I have acquired a man from

YAHUAH [the LORD].” So, in this context, YAHUAH [God], YAHUSHA [Jesus], and the RUACH HA’QODESH [Holy Spirit] will only consider that we truly love Him, when we have a most intimate relationship with Him. A relationship even closer than, and purer than the closest and purest relationship between a husband and wife. For although it is not in the definition of true love for us to be jealous toward someone else (1 Corinthians 13:4), we need to understand that it is a righteous characteristic and the Sovereign right of YAHUAH [God], to be a “jealous” YAH [God]. For He says, “I, YAHUAH ELOHAYKA [the LORD your God], *am* a jealous YAH [God], visiting the sins of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who [don’t love] Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who [do] love Me and keep My commandments” (Exodus 20:5-6).

So, as we conclude today, let’s commit to jump-starting a romantic with Him today. For we do not want Him, before we start praising Him, before we start singing our corny love songs from the bottom of our hearts, we don’t want Him to start by singing the words to a different tune:

**If you don't know me by now... [then]
...you will never never, never know me
[For] all the things that we've been through...
... [by now] you should understand me like I understand you...
... but you don’t; so I never knew you, I never had that most intimate
relationship with you.**

So from YAHUSHA [Jesus]’ perspective, He will truly consider that we do indeed “love” Him, if we have nothing less than the closest and purest relationship with Him, where we love no one, or nothing else *more* than we love Him. Where everyone and everything else, grow strangely dimmer in the light of His mercy and grace. And now, let’s pray for that relationship today, where we discover that His love is new every morning, and great is His faithfulness unto us. Amen.

Credits:

1 “Get Hitched idiom”, Merriam-Webster Dictionary; <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/get%20hitched>

2 “Always and Forever”, Heatwave; Songwriter: Rodney Lynn Temperton, ©Warner Chappell Music, Inc.

3 “What does it mean to know God, rather than Knowing about God?”, God Makes Sense, Questions and Answers, Christianity.net.au;

https://christianity.net.au/questions/what_does_it_mean_to_know_god_rather_than_to_know_about_god

4 “If You Don’t Know Me By Now”, Simply Red