

HOME: Finding your Spouse

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Sermon Synopsis

In this episode of World Impact, Dr. Billy Wilson addresses one of life's most significant decisions: choosing a future spouse. Drawing on over 45 years of his own marriage to his wife Lisa and teaching from Oral Roberts University, he offers practical, biblical guidance for cultivating a godly and lasting marriage. The message speaks to young people, parents, and grandparents, emphasizing the importance of making decisions grounded in Scripture and faith.

The sermon begins with student interviews that reveal the qualities believers seek in a spouse, including faith, kindness, emotional health, and a servant's heart. For men, Dr. Wilson points to Genesis 24, recounting Abraham's servant's prayer-guided search for Rebekah, who exemplified beauty, purity, industriousness, and reverence for God. The story underscores the need to seek divine direction and prioritize character, spiritual integrity, and a shared willingness to navigate life together.

Turning to women, Dr. Wilson draws lessons from Ruth and Boaz, highlighting loyalty, humility, courage, and God's providential guidance. Women are encouraged to discern a husband who demonstrates integrity, faithfulness, and care while walking closely with God. Throughout the teaching, common misconceptions about marriage—such as expecting a spouse to change, relying on marriage to complete us, or cohabitating before marriage—are addressed with clear biblical instruction, including 2 Corinthians 6:14, which stresses shared faith and values.

Practical insights are reinforced by marriage experts Brent and Janis Sharpe, who emphasize emotional health, shared values, mutual respect, and ongoing cultivation of love. Dr. Wilson concludes by encouraging believers to pursue marriages that reflect the relationship between Christ and the church, relying on prayer, discernment, and obedience to God's Word. The

sermon offers both hope and practical guidance, showing that with God's direction, marriages can be fulfilling, resilient, and a witness to His love.

Sermon Highlights

- The decision of choosing a spouse is one of the most important decisions in life and should be grounded in seeking God's guidance and direction through prayer and Scripture.
- Men are encouraged to seek a wife who has a servant's heart, is industrious, beautiful in character and appearance, sexually pure, and fears the Lord, as exemplified by Rebekah in Genesis 24.
- Women are advised to choose a husband who values them, provides with integrity, speaks kindly, protects, is generous, and is strong in the Lord, modeled by Boaz in the Book of Ruth.
- Marriage is a divine adventure and requires both seeking God's will actively while also taking personal responsibility to engage in the process of building a healthy relationship.
- Common myths about marriage are dispelled, emphasizing the need for spiritual compatibility, realistic expectations, and the importance of emotional maturity and healthy individuality before entering marriage.

Scripture Verses

Genesis 24:57

They said, "Let the maiden stay with us a while, at least ten days; after that she can go."

Proverbs 31:30

Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.

Ruth 2:10-12

At this, she bowed down with her face to the ground. She asked him, "Why have I found such favor in your eyes that you notice me—a foreigner?" Boaz replied, "I've been told all about what you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband—how you left your father and mother and your homeland and came to live with a people you did not know before. May the Lord repay you for what you have done. May you be richly rewarded by the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge."

2 Corinthians 6:14

Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?

Psalms 37:4

Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Quotes

- "God does want our earthly marriage to represent the heavenly union between Christ and the church." - Dr. Billy Wilson
- "Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised." – King Solomon
- "Don't date someone that you can't marry, don't date someone that is a non-believer if you are a believer." - Dr. Billy Wilson
- "God is involved, but He also wants you to take action at times." - Dr. Billy Wilson
- "Be the kind of person that somebody would want to be married to." - Brent Sharpe

Bible Study

Objectives

- Understand the biblical principles of choosing a spouse based on God's Word.
- Learn from the examples of Isaac and Rebekah in Genesis 24 and Ruth and Boaz in the book of Ruth.
- Identify qualities to seek in a future spouse including spiritual integrity, kindness, provision, and faithfulness.
- Reflect on common myths about marriage and dispel them with scriptural truth.
- Equip individuals to make godly decisions and be active participants with God's guidance in selecting a spouse.
- Encourage emotional maturity and healthy self-awareness before entering into marriage.

Reading and Reflections

- Genesis 24:1-67 – The account of Abraham's servant seeking a wife for Isaac demonstrates the importance of prayer, divine guidance, and key character qualities in a spouse.
- Proverbs 31:30 – Highlights that 'a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised,' teaching that spiritual reverence is more valuable than beauty or charm.
- Ruth 2:10-12 – Boaz's kindness and integrity as a prospective husband shows the qualities women should seek: provision, protection, and godly standing.
- 2 Corinthians 6:14 – Warns believers to not be unequally yoked with unbelievers, emphasizing God's role in the choice.
- Psalm 37:4 – Encourages believers to delight themselves in the Lord to receive the desires of their hearts, including in marriage.

Key Observations

- Selecting a spouse is a sacred and strategic decision that affects a lifelong journey and future generations.
- God's guidance through prayer and the leading of the Holy Spirit is essential in choosing a spouse.
- Key qualities to look for in a spouse include godliness, a servant's heart, kindness, faithfulness, purity, and a willingness to embark on life's adventure together.
- Cultural or familial pressures can complicate choosing a spouse; obedience to God overrides societal expectations.
- Healthy marriages grow from two emotionally mature, spiritually grounded individuals who bring strength and not neediness.
- There are many myths about marriage, and discerning the truth protects couples from disappointment and broken homes.

Personal Reflections

- Am I seeking a spouse who honors God above all, or am I influenced primarily by physical attraction or convenience?
- In what ways have I prepared myself emotionally and spiritually to be a healthy partner in marriage?
- Have I taken time to pray and ask God specifically for guidance about my future spouse?
- Am I willing to be active in the process — to communicate openly, seek wise counsel, and take intentional steps — trusting God to lead me?
- Do I cherish the unique differences God made in me and seek a spouse who complements rather than mirrors me?
- Am I aware of the family background and core values of my potential spouse, recognizing that marriage joins families?

Lessons for Daily Life

- Marriage is an adventure and requires mutual commitment, faith, and flexibility to navigate life's changes together.
- Choosing a spouse is not solely about feelings or timing but about alignment with God's will and character traits that reflect His values.
- Healthy communication and shared core values create a strong foundation for marriage.
- Purity and integrity are not outdated but necessary virtues that foster trust and honor in relationships.
- God's design for marriage reflects the union of Christ and the Church — a model for love, sacrifice, and steadfastness.
- Patience and active faith go hand in hand; waiting and seeking God's timing does not exclude responsible action.

Practical Applications

- Begin each day praying for God's guidance in your relationship decisions and listen for His leading.
- Evaluate your current or prospective relationships based on biblical qualities—not just external appearances or fleeting feelings.
- Invite trusted mentors or godly counselors to provide perspective and wisdom about your relationship and readiness for marriage.
- Have open conversations about faith, family values, goals, and expectations early in the relationship.
- Maintain personal spiritual disciplines to grow as a healthy, whole individual who can give and receive love fully.
- Keep yourself emotionally mature by resolving past hurts and learning to communicate with kindness and patience.

Challenges for the Week

- Commit to daily prayer asking God to reveal and prepare your future spouse as well as yourself.
- Reflect on any myths you might have believed about marriage—write them down and replace them with biblical truths.
- Identify and list the core values and qualities you desire in a spouse and compare them with biblical examples like Rebekah and Ruth.
- Seek accountability by sharing your intentions and lessons with a mature Christian friend or mentor.
- Start having a courageous conversation with your significant other or circle about spiritual alignment and life goals.
- If unmarried, refrain from cohabitation and reaffirm your commitment to living according to God's plan.
- If you are helping a family member or friend, pray specifically for wisdom and learn how to be a support in their decision-making.

Further Study

- Study Genesis 24 in full to understand the servant's faith and God's providence in the marriage of Isaac and Rebekah.
- Read the entire book of Ruth, noting Ruth's faith, loyalty, and Boaz's godly character and integrity.
- Examine Proverbs 31 with focus on the virtuous woman and how spiritual character is an eternal asset.
- Meditate on 1 Corinthians 13 for the qualities of love that sustain marriage through challenges.
- Explore 2 Corinthians 6:14-18 to understand the importance of spiritual unity in marriage.
- Research biblical roles within marriage and how Christ's relationship with the church provides a model of sacrificial love (Ephesians 5:22-33).
- Look into modern Christian resources on premarital counseling and emotional maturity preparation.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You with grateful hearts, thanking You for the gift of marriage and the sacred journey You have designed for husbands and wives. Lord, we ask for Your wisdom and guidance for everyone seeking a spouse. May Your Holy Spirit lead them to the partner who fears You and walks in Your truth. Help us to value what You value—the heart, character, and faith above all. Teach us patience to wait on Your perfect timing and courage to actively pursue Your will. Heal any hearts that have been hurt and prepare each individual to be the kind of partner You desire. Bless families, children, and generations to come through marriages built on Your foundation. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

Daily Devotionals

Day 1

Scripture Verse

Genesis 24:12-14 (NIV): "Then he prayed, 'Lord, God of my master Abraham, make me successful today, and show kindness to my master Abraham. See, I am standing beside this spring, and the daughters of the townspeople are coming out to draw water. May it be that when I say to a young woman, 'Please let down your jar that I may have a drink,' and she says, 'Drink, and I'll water your camels too'—let her be the one you have chosen for your servant Isaac. By this, I will know that you have shown kindness to my master.'"

Reflection

Choosing a spouse is undeniably one of the most significant decisions you will ever face. In the sermon, we witness Abraham's servant embarking on an important mission grounded in prayer and reliance on God's guidance. Like this servant, we too are called to seek God's wisdom first and foremost in matters of the heart. The servant's prayer shows us that practical steps—such as looking for character traits like industriousness and kindness—must align with spiritual discernment. Consider the servant's patience and sensitivity to God's leading. He did not rush or follow his own preferences, but rather stayed attentively by the spring, ready for God to reveal the chosen bride. In life, many feel pressured by time or societal expectations to make immediate decisions about marriage. Yet, God's timing is perfect. Like Abraham's servant, we must fully surrender our desires to the Lord, making space for Him to work powerfully. Rebekah's response to the servant's request exemplifies the servant's prayer and the qualities worth seeking—a willing and loving heart, purity, and grace. Marriages that glorify God are partnerships where spouses share mutual respect, a servant's heart, and a commitment to God's purposes. Marriage is not merely a social arrangement; it's an adventure with God at the center. Imagine yourself standing at that spring today, waiting for God's sign, praying that He clear the path and prepare your heart for the spouse He has set aside for you. Reflect honestly on the qualities you desire in your future spouse and whether those align with godly character. Practical wisdom also teaches that you should involve trusted spiritual mentors and be mindful of the family background, as marriage binds more than just two people—it unites families and communities. This first devotional invites you to deepen your trust in God's guidance, surrender the anxiety of the unknown, and prepare your heart to recognize His answer when it comes.

Prayer

Father, I come to You today seeking Your wisdom and guidance as I consider the path toward marriage. Help me to wait patiently and to recognize the qualities You desire in a spouse. Prepare my heart to be a good partner and lead me into the adventure You have planned. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 2

Scripture Verse

Ruth 2:10-12 (NIV): "At this, she bowed down with her face to the ground. She asked him, 'Why have I found such favor in your eyes that you notice me—a foreigner?' Boaz replied, 'I've been told all about what you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband—how you have left your father and mother and your homeland and have come to live with a people you did not know before. May the Lord repay you for what you have done. May you be richly rewarded by the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge.'"

Reflection

The story of Ruth and Boaz illustrates the beauty of a marriage founded on kindness, respect, and God's providential care. Ruth's courage to leave her homeland and commit to Naomi was an act of faith that led her to a man who valued her deeply and responded with generosity and protection. Boaz treated Ruth with dignity and kindness, recognizing her worth beyond societal status or nationality. His strength and integrity showed him to be a man who leads well—not through dominance but by gentle care and faithfulness. These qualities are essential in a husband, as the sermon taught. This narrative challenges us—especially women waiting for their spouse—to seek a partner who not only loves God but also can provide spiritual and practical leadership. Boaz's role as a kinsman redeemer speaks volumes about loving sacrificially and protecting one's family. It also shows that marital union is part of God's greater plan for redemption and blessing. Reflect on Ruth's bravery and trust. How often do we hesitate to pursue God's calling because of fear or uncertainty? Ruth's willingness to trust God's leading changed her destiny and reshaped history. Moreover, Boaz's kindness was consistent—the invitation to eat together, to protect her, and his willingness to marry her showed that godly men value and lift up their wives. If you are a woman preparing for marriage, pray that God would bring you a man of integrity, strength, and kindness. If you are a man, reflect on how you can imitate Boaz's example by showing protective love and a redeeming spirit. Finally, this story clearly tells us that marriage is about building a future together under God's wings. It is a covenant, a partnership anchored in faith and mutual support that glorifies God and blesses others.

Prayer

Lord, thank You for showing us through Ruth and Boaz what it means to love with kindness and integrity. Help me to live faithfully and to seek a spouse who reflects Your heart. Prepare me to be a blessing to my future partner, and may our union bring glory to You. Amen.

Day 3

Scripture Verse

2 Corinthians 6:14 (NIV): "Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?"

Reflection

Dr. Wilson's sermon powerfully addresses myths that cloud wise decision-making in choosing a spouse. Among these, the warning in 2 Corinthians 6:14 stands out as a divine directive foundational for a marriage that honors God—the call not to be unequally yoked. This scripture isn't merely a warning; it's a revelation of God's design for unity in spiritual values. Marrying someone who walks by faith aligns your journey not only emotionally but eternally. It is common for hearts to rush into love, overwhelmed by attraction or emotional need. Yet, a marriage lacking shared faith struggles because its foundation is unstable. Consider the practical and spiritual dilemmas when one spouse pursues Christ and the other does not. Conflicts arise in daily decisions, child-rearing, worship, and purpose. In the modern world, myths often fuel false hope: "They will change after marriage," or "Love will make it work." Scripture and experience say otherwise. It's crucial to bring maturity, completeness in Christ, and clear values into a marriage. Like the wise counselors in the sermon advised, marriage works best when two healthy, whole individuals come together, ready to give rather than merely receive. Reflect deeply: Are you preparing yourself to be the kind of person who would attract a godly spouse? Are you living out your faith so visibly that God's hand is evident in your life? Another practical wisdom is discernment: seek counsel, observe character over time, and test compatibility not just in feelings but in missions, habits, family values, and lifestyle. Marriage is not simply about chemistry; it's covenantal and communal. Lastly, remember the sermon's encouragement—God is at work in your journey. Patience, prayer, and active participation in God's plan will bring the right partner. Trust His perfect timing and purpose, and commit yourself daily to walking faithfully before Him.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, help me to honor You in the decisions I make about relationships. Guide me to a spouse who shares my faith and values, and prepare me to be the partner You desire. May I not be unequally yoked but united with one who loves and fears You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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