



bigIdea



How can two people stand at an altar and swear they will love each other until “death do us part” and then just a few years later hate each other more than they have ever hated anyone? How can the person to whom she gave her deepest vow become the person she despises most?

BIG IDEA: Don't just focus on finding the right person, but becoming the right person.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Chris says that we all bring emotional “baggage” into our romantic relationships. What are some reasons why romantic relationships reveal this baggage more than any other kind of relationship?
2. Our ‘baggage’ frequently results from family or romantic relationships. What are some specific experiences that have most contributed to your baggage?
3. What type of baggage did you bring into your marriage relationship?
 - a. “I have no baggage!” (denial!)
 - b. Small handbag
 - c. Large suitcase
 - d. Massive Trunk
4. Read Proverbs 4:23. In this verse, Solomon, famous for his wisdom, says to guard your heart *above all else*. Do you agree with Solomon? Even if you disagree, can you think of some reasons why Solomon would place such value on guarding your heart?
5. Read Luke 6:41-46. How does the tree and its fruit help you recognize what type of person you are?
6. What quality of fruit would your family say you are producing? Grade-A? So-so? Wormy? Why? If your life was a fruit tree, what would Jesus need to do to make it good (healthy)?
7. Read Mark 7:1-23. What is the issue debated by the Pharisees and Jesus? Given this debate, how would each define what it means to be spiritual?
8. How does Jesus’ idea of being clean differ from that of the Pharisees? Why doesn’t Jesus offer any solution to the problem at this time?
9. Mark 7:20-23 represent an evil heart, whereas Mark 12:30 represents a pure, whole heart. How can you strengthen that second kind of heart?

MOVING FORWARD

What’s inside of you is coming out. And it’s not coming out because of who you are with, but because it was in you to begin with.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.

Proverbs 4:23

VERSES TO GO DEEPER

Luke 6:41-45; Luke 11:39-41; Proverbs 4:23; Proverbs 15:28; Proverbs 27:19; Matthew 15:1-20

