



Love, Dates & Heartbreaks: The Right Person Myth

So many reality shows and romantic comedies hinge on the idea that once you find the right person, relationship troubles cease to exist— that every problematic action or habit two people may bring into a relationship is simply relegated to the past by the magical fact that two “soulmates” have met each other. Of course, by observing patterns that lead to success in other areas of life, we know that in fact, success is always the result of preparation, not mere coincidence or a few well-intentioned promises to succeed. And so if relationships already carry enough complicated problems and pains with them as it is, perhaps it’s time to get serious about being the kind of person the person we’re looking for is looking for.

Start Talking

Have you ever been on a really bad date? What happened?

Current relationship status aside, let’s say a friend wants to set you up on a blind date, but you are only allowed to give them a single word to communicate your priorities. What word do you choose to describe what you’re looking for?

Have you ever walked into a test, job interview, or presentation completely unprepared? What happened?

Looking Back

1. Last week, Jeff talked about making prayer a recurring, continual part of your day to day life. How did you do with that over the past few days?
2. If you *were* able to implement more recurrent prayer into your days this week, how did you do it?
3. If not, where do you think the disconnect occurred between the good intentions of Sunday and the reality of Monday?
4. What can you do to avoid letting prayer get lost in the shuffle of life this coming week?



What About You?

5. If you're currently single, what are the top three things you're looking for when it comes to seeking a significant other? If you're in a relationship, what were the top three things you were looking for?
6. How do you measure up to those three criteria, yourself?
7. Andy pointed out several "right person" myths, including the mistaken belief that once we meet "the right person," relationships will be easy. Have you ever found yourself buying into any of these?
8. What do you think are the consequences of buying into "right person" myths?
9. Why do you think we're so susceptible to believing in magic solutions like the "right person myth"?

Look It Up

Read the Following Passages: John 15: 1 - 12.

1. In this passage, Jesus compares the results in our lives to fruit, stating that God "prunes" those trees that bear good fruit in order to allow them to become even more fruitful. What do you think this means?
2. If it is true that human beings cannot bear good fruit without being connected to God, then how does a person maintain that proximity?
3. What hints do we find in the passage about how to remain in the love of Jesus?
4. How do you interpret Jesus' command to love others as he has loved you?

Putting It All Together

1. If preparation— rather than mere commitment— leads to success in relationships, what could you do in the next week to begin implementing habits and practices that will prepare you for relational success?
2. List three things that come to mind when you think about Jesus' love for you. What would it look like (in practical terms) to extend those same three things to someone else this week?
3. If you were to be completely honest for a moment, where are you falling short of the criteria you look for in a partner? What can you begin to do this week to be the person who the person you are looking for is looking for?
4. If you are currently in a relationship, where have you slipped in relation to the three criteria you look for in a partner? How can you get back on track in meeting the standard you set in your initial search for a partner?

