



Beyond The Sermon

A Sermon Application Guide

Title: **Benefits to Marriage (Happily Ever After pt1)**

This guide is designed to offer a simple tool for those wanting to take the next step with Sunday's message. You can print this guide to study on your own, or use it in a group and experience transformation together.

Message Theme & Prayer Focus

REAL MARRIAGE

"Thank you Lord for the gift of marriage and your beautiful design of intentionally living life so closely with another person. Your plans for my marriage are beautiful. God, I pray that as we walk through this season, we can see more and more of the plans you have for us. Open doors for us to bring glory to your name. Thank you Jesus. Amen."

Key Truths

Marriage is work, but the work in marriage isn't to change the person you are with, it is to become more of yourself and give selflessly to your spouse. So often we're inwardly focused, and use our energy to gain favor at work or where we are, but being married is all about being famous at home. This means that we should be finding our identity within the home, supporting the home, and meeting the needs of the home. We win at home first! The most important place to be present is with our spouse, children, and family raising a home that honors and serves the Lord, being led by His Holy Spirit.

In life, simply knowing what to do doesn't get us God's results. The same goes for marriage. Actually putting in the work and doing what needs to be done from a place of fulfillment in Christ is what gets us God's results.

Three things people in marriage wonder and desire answers to:

1. Am I beautiful/desirable?

You can never tell your wife too often that she is beautiful. It's a deep desire in women that has been there since they were young to know that they are beautiful and desired. More than with women, there is a deep desire in all of us to be desired.

2. Am I enough?

A wife needs to know that she is enough for her husband. A husband needs to know that he measures up to what his wife needs.

3. Do I win?

Your spouse is thinking: “Am I more important to you than your career, friends, or hobbies”, and “Am I, underneath God, number 1 to you?”

As we meet our spouse’s needs, it’s irresistible to them, creating the perfect balance of paying attention to each other’s needs and growing in love for each other. We cannot demand our spouse to meet our needs, but in filling the needs of our spouse, we give them the desire and energy to fill ours in return.

In Genesis 2, the Lord vocalizes that it is not good for man to be alone so He makes Adam a helper. The term ‘helper’ here is the same word that describes the ‘Holy Spirit’. Wives do not fill a secondary roll. The wife is equal, but different, carrying with her a set of tools, skills, and gifts that are needed for a balanced marriage.

One of a woman’s needs is open and honest communication. One of a man’s needs is a recreational companionship. We were built to complement each other and to build each other up in the strengths we carry.

Each of us desire to have our needs met and in a marriage relying on the Lord that happens. Biblical submission, as in Ephesians 5, is not one person lording over the other one. It is a beautiful relationship of laying down our lives for each other. A wife is supposed to submit to a husband, but the husband is supposed to lay down his life and desires for her.

Practical Applications

In what area of your marriage do you feel the least connected to your spouse? Do you feel like you’re walking through life reading from a different book? What part of this Beyond Sunday felt the most like it was speaking right to you?

This week is your week. Your spouse is worth it. Take some undistracted and intentional time to talk to your spouse and get on the same page. Bring up the areas where you feel disconnected and give them time to share their heart. Maybe this looks like finding a babysitter and pulling together a picnic, going on a run together, taking a class together, praying for each other, or cooking at home and talking rather than flipping on the tv. Time building your marriage is time you will both receive something special from.

Key Verses

- Genesis 2:18
- 1 Corinthians 7:28

- Ephesians 5:21-28

Declarations

“Marriage is a gift and I am thankful for it. My spouse is a blessing and I am grateful to have a partner to walk through life with. I know that taking time to win at home is more important than getting recognition and favor at my workplace or with my friends. I prioritize meeting the needs of my spouse even when I don't feel like a priority myself. God has a plan for me and God has a plan for my marriage, and I accept that plan and walk into it by the power of His Holy Spirit at work in me.”

What's Next?

Now it's time to write down anything that the Lord has spoken to you. Praise Him, Thank Him and ask the Holy Spirit to help you walk this out.

Scripture References

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1 Peter 3:7 NKJV Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

Psalms 62:7 NIV My salvation and my honor depend on God; he is my mighty rock, my refuge.

1 Corinthians 7:3-4 ESV The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband. For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does.

Genesis 2:22 NKJV Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.

Proverbs 18:22 NKJV He who finds a wife finds a good thing, And obtains favor from the Lord.

1 Corinthians 7:39 NKJV ...she is at liberty to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord.

1 Corinthians 7:16 NKJV For how do you know, O wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, O husband, whether you will save your wife?

Proverbs 5:1-4 ESV My son, be attentive to my wisdom; incline your ear to my understanding, that you may keep discretion, and your lips may guard knowledge. For the lips of a forbidden

woman drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil, but in the end she is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword.

Proverbs 5:5-6 ESV Her feet go down to death; her steps follow the path to Sheol; she does not ponder the path of life; her ways wander, and she does not know it.

Proverbs 12:26 NKJV The righteous should choose his friends carefully, For the way of the wicked leads them astray.