

ALL !N WITH JORDAN EASLEY

Building A Marriage That Lasts

Home Builders | Part 4 | Matthew 7:24-25

INTRODUCTION

Imagine waking up in the middle of the night to a screaming fire alarm. Smoke fills the air and you see an orange glow. In that moment, your priorities become crystal clear. You do not worry about the furniture or the television; you focus on the people who matter most and get them to safety. A fire alarm launches you into purposeful action.

But what if your marriage is on fire and you do not hear the alarm? Most marriages do not collapse overnight. They smolder slowly from a spark of selfishness or an ember of neglect. While we are busy with life, the fire spreads until the relationship we thought was secure is barely standing. The good news is that God loves you too much to let your marriage burn down without first sounding an alarm. He shows you what to do when you hear it, calling you to the purposeful action that can save and rebuild your home.

KEY POINTS

1. Recognize The Alarms Of Relational Breakdown

Before sin, Adam and Eve walked in perfect unity with God and each other. After sin, everything changed. They hid from God, covered themselves, and began blaming one another. This pattern reveals the first set of alarms. Distance enters your marriage the moment distance enters your relationship with God. Disrespect follows, as honor is replaced with blame and resentment. Finally, Division takes root, turning partners into opponents. These alarms are not just signs of marital trouble; they are symptoms of a spiritual drift that started in the Garden of Eden and continues today.

2. Guard Against The Alarms Of Spiritual Neglect

In the story of Mary and Martha, Jesus gently points out that good things can distract us from the best things. Martha was busy with important hosting duties, but she was missing the one thing that was necessary: being present with Jesus. This reveals two subtle but dangerous alarms. Disengagement is when you and your spouse stop sharing your hearts and begin living parallel lives. It is the quiet neglect that allows intimacy to wither. Distraction is when good things like work, kids, or even ministry take the place of the best things, leaving your marriage with only leftovers.

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3. Overcome Alarms With Spiritual Truth

When a marriage is in trouble, the enemy often whispers lies to push it toward collapse. He wants you to believe that you married the wrong person, that things will never change, or that someone else could make you happier. This is the alarm of Deception. Believing these lies leads to the final and loudest alarm: Despair. This is the hopeless feeling that the wounds are too deep and the walls are too high to ever be repaired. God's Word is the ultimate weapon against these attacks. Jesus promised that the truth will set you free, giving you the power to silence lies and find hope in Him.

If the alarms of distance, disrespect, or division are sounding, the purposeful action begins vertically. Your intimacy with your spouse will never rise above your intimacy with God. When two spouses draw near to God, He naturally draws them closer to each other. Make it a priority to pursue God together. Pray together daily, read God's Word together, and worship together. This pursuit is the foundation for rebuilding. From that foundation, choose to honor and serve one another. Replace sarcasm with life giving words and blame with grace. Actively fight for unity by remembering you are on the same team. The enemy's goal is to divide and destroy, but God's plan is for you to be one.

To combat the quiet alarms of neglect and the loud alarms of spiritual attack, you must be intentional. Reignite intimacy by catching the "little foxes" of busyness and neglect that chew at the roots of your marriage. Put your phones down, look each other in the eye, and ask questions that go deeper than "How was your day?" Refocus your priorities by seeking God's Kingdom first, as it is the only way to keep good things from replacing the best things. Schedule date nights and set boundaries to protect your time together. Finally, when deception and despair sound, you must choose to persevere with hope. Replace every lie from the enemy with the truth of God's Word. Your hope is not found in a perfect spouse or perfect circumstances; it is found in the power of God to restore what is broken.

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. Which alarm discussed in this sermon (distance, disrespect, division, disengagement, distraction, deception, or despair) is sounding the loudest in your marriage right now, and what is one purposeful action you can take this week to address it?
2. In what ways have “good things” like your career, hobbies, or even service at church become distractions that keep you from being fully present and invested in your spouse?
3. What is a lie you are tempted to believe about your marriage, and what specific truth from God’s Word can you use to fight back and persevere with hope?
