

# **Entrusted with Your Family**

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**Genesis 2:18-24**  
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On the second page of the Bible, there is a wedding, the marriage of Adam and Eve. On almost the second to last page of the Bible, Revelation 19, there is another wedding, an event called the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, where Jesus marries his bride, the church. So marriage bookends the Bible, meaning marriage is no small thing to God. If you think about it, before there was children in community, before there was commerce in government, there was marriage. Marriage is the first human institution. Marriage is the oldest human institution. Why is that? Well, you might say it's because of procreation, so that the human race could continue. But think about that for a second, you don't need marriage for that. Nice to have, but you don't need commitment for procreation. So again, why marriage? Why start with marriage? What is it all about?

Well, we're going to answer that today, but for now, what I want you to do is look at Genesis 2:22. It says, quote, "The rib that the Lord had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man." So God brought, he gave the first woman to the first man. Now, I don't think it's a stretch at all to say that when God gave Eve to Adam, he was giving Adam a stewardship. He was entrusting Eve to Adam's care. And after last week, learning that all of life is a stewardship given to us by God and about which, we will give an account one day, it's important for us to take that and break that stewardship down into manageable chunks in order to understand it better. What we're going to see is that most of us here today, either are now, or will be entrusted with a family.

So starting our year off on stewardship, my hope will help all of us get 2024 started off on the right foot when it comes, not just to the subject of stewardship in general, but now specifically, the subject of family stewardship. Last week, I gave you my definition of stewardship based on thinking and putting together, studying in the Bible on stewardship over a month. And I said then that stewardship is a domain of oversight entrusted to someone's care, to manage it as the owner pleases for his benefit, and about which, he, the owner, will evaluate one day. He will evaluate that stewardship. Well, since everything is owned by God and everything that we have comes from God, that means everything we are and everything we have is our stewardship. It's what God is entrusted to us. It's what we are to manage according to his will for his benefit, and it's what he's going to evaluate all of us on one day.

Well, part of the everything of our stewardship is our families. And like Adam, your marriage, which then created your family, that has been entrusted to you by God to manage it as he designed it to be managed, according to what he wants for it, for his benefit. And he will evaluate our families one day based on what he has told us here, that he wants for it. I said last week, there's only one question that's going to be on the final exam, and it's going to be, were we

faithful? So as it relates to your family, the question for all of us will be, were you faithful? Were we faithful to the will of God for our families? Well, since we already know what the question is going to be, it's critical that we're all ready to answer that question and to answer it well.

Listen, I want that day of evaluation to be a good one for me, and because I love you, I want that to be a good day for you, as well. And before I get into the text, I know that the topic of marriage and family, kind of like topics of prayer and evangelism, are topics that can induce a ton of guilt. We know God's standard; we know what he wants. We know we fall short of his desires. We want to do what's right, but we often don't know how to do it, or we think if I'm not perfect, then I'm just a total failure, and so why bother. Anybody, talking to anybody here. Or it brings up so much pain, it brings up things that were done to us or done by us. We're just like, "I don't want to hear this subject." Listen, my goal today is instruction, it's not interrogation. It's grace, it's not guilt.

As we go through God's word today on family stewardship, if you're struck with guilt, remember that guilt is like physical pain. It is there to tell you something is wrong so that you fix it. Let guilt motivate you to change your management, to align or to realign your stewardship of your family with God's will for your family. If the guilt comes from things that happened in the past that you've already talked to God about, you've already confessed, then remember those things are forgiven, separated from you as far as the East is from the West. So apply what we're going to see today to the present and to the future, because the past is the past.

Also, if you're single, your stewardship is not a family right now most likely, but your stewardship today is your singleness. and 1 Corinthians 7:35 tells you to steward your singleness in undivided devotion to the Lord. So you, as a single person, you are to maximize this temporary singleness that you have by living for the Lord in every area of your life. Not living for self, which is so easy to do. By using your time to be a blessing to others, living to be a blessing to others just like God has blessed you. Also, what we're going to see single people, is the standard for marriage that you should have and the standard for marriage that you should wait for in a spouse. When I said that at the four o'clock service yesterday, there was all kinds of amens all over the room when I said that. And then I said this, "Do not compromise on any of this just to have a spouse because if you do, you will suffer," and then the room just erupted. "Uh-huh. Amen. Yep. Uh-huh."

So listen to that 4:00 service. They know what they're talking about. Also, singles, I know you be like, "Well, this doesn't apply to me." No, listen, it does because it is good for you to have this information even if you never get married so that you can be a blessing to the people in your life who are married who need this. The things that we learned from the text are not just for your personal application here or any weekend. The things that we learned in the text are also there to train you to take those truths and give them to others. So this is always, "How does this apply to me and how can I take this truth and be a blessing with someone else with it?"

Finally, each point today can be a whole book, each one. And so the pastors recommended books on the back of the handout, books on manhood and womanhood and marriage and family and

parenting, and if you haven't read any of these books before, you look at that list, "I don't know any of these books." What I did, was I put little stars by a few of them to say, this is where you should start. Start with these. If you've never read any of them, start with these. These are all great.

Now with all of that out of the way, let's turn to God for *point #1), Family Stewardship's Basics. Family Stewardship's Basics*. What we see in the opening chapters of Genesis is not marriage calculus, it's not marriage astrophysics. This is the ABCs, the one, two, threes, the basics. This is God's design for every marriage, Christian or not. That means if your view of marriage is more informed by our rebellious culture, by your emotions, your experience, than it has been informed by the Bible, then that is going to determine your level of agreement with what we're going to see in the text.

It's also going to determine your alignment to the things that we see in this text. Who has been discipling you most on marriage? So I've got eight points for us to consider from Genesis Chapter Two on marriage. And the first one is this, marriage was created by God. Marriage is created by God. Notice Genesis 2:22, Adam and Eve are both called man and woman. Man and woman. However, after God brings her to Adam in verse 22, and then in verse 23, Adam breaks out in worship. This is this poem there in verse 23, he breaks out in worship and this poem is also a commitment to her. So he's worshipping God, he's committing himself to her. But then notice in verse 25, there's a change. They go from man and woman to what? Now they're called the man and his what? His wife because they got married in verse 22 and 23.

God married them, he's the creator. He's the definer of marriage. It was his idea. He initiated it. He established it, meaning that we are either in alignment with what he established here or we're not. This means marriage is not a human invention. We didn't create it. We can distort it, we can pervert it, but we can't define it. We can't redefine it. God defined it, and it defines it here in the text that we looked at. Second, marriage is very good. Marriage is very good. Marriage was created after human beings were created on the sixth day of creation. So it's created after that first week of creation, but it's also created when reality was still good, before sin entered the world. So if you think about it, marriage is one of the few things that we still have going on now that is left over from the very start of creation.

Marriage is not the result of sin, therefore, it's not one of God's many answers to sin. It is pre-sin. It is good. It is for our joy and our blessing. Now listen, there might be one or two people that have agreed with something I've said so far, or disagreed with something I said so far, but this is where it all ends. Everything else now, the culture war, I don't know if you noticed, the culture is attacking the first two pages of Genesis and has been for a long time. And so this is where disagreement floods in. This is the sixth time I've talked about marriage here at Redeemer, and every time before, this is the last day that people spend here. "Oh, you believe that?" Yes. We don't edit the Bible here. We simply proclaim it. We simply say, "Here's what it is."

Why? Because that is what God is going to do when every single one of us stands before him. Here is my word and here is your life, now let's talk. So better to get our lives aligned with his

word now, than then. And that's why we do it. So number three, marriage is between one man and one woman. Marriage is between one man and one woman. God sets this paradigm at the very beginning before sin enters the world. So anything other than that is the result of sin. This is the ideal, not the ideal, this is the only way marriage can be. All forms, therefore, of plural marriage or homosexual marriage or even cross-species marriage, which is happening today, is sinful and it's not marriage. Those who participate in that have been lied to by a culture that is in defiance against God, defiance against humanity, and defiance against the truth. They've been tricked into thinking that they're married when they're not. It's adultery, fornication, and a natural debauchery masquerading as married, calling itself marriage.

Now I know when I say all of that, many of us see actual people, right? We know actual people that... I'm just talking about theory. We know actual people when I say that. So listen, two things. Number one, love never accepts as good, what God says is wrong, that's not love. And second, let us never forget that they are our mission field. People who have been caught up in this, bewitched by this, that's our mission field. And our mission field needs two things, love, and truth. They don't need ridicule or scorn or hatred. Think about it. They are looking for what we have. They're looking for acceptance, right? Who has that better than us, who are accepted by the God of the universe now and forever? They're looking for identity. Who has that more than us? Identity founded on Christ himself. They're looking for a solidarity with a loving community of people, who has that better than us in the local church? We have what they're looking for, and these aberrant forms of marriage, when what they have is right here, what they have is with you.

Fourth, marriage is for life. Marriage is for life. Verse 24, "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife and they shall become one flesh." This is what the words "Hold fast," in verse 24 are getting at. This union, and then the relationship created by the union is expected by God to be as long as you both shall live, until death to you part, or until Christ returns. This one flesh in verse 24 speaks to this too. You can't separate your flesh from itself, right? Think about separating your flesh from itself. You try to do that, that's going to cause great pain and even death. And that's the idea here, is that this one flesh union of husband and wife should never be separated and will only be separated with great deep and lasting pain. Jesus, put it this way, Mark 10:9, "What God has joined together, let no man separate," which means God created the marriage bond so that it would be considered permanent, indivisible, unbreakable.

A ring symbolized this because circles are unending, just like the covenant made before family and friends and God is to be considered unending. Now, God gives two, and only two, exceptions to this allowing for divorce for physical adultery or physical desertion. Now why these two and only these two? Because only physical adultery or physical desertion actually breaks the one flesh union that got established when both couples said, "I do." So with the covenant broken by the adulterer, or by the deserter, the innocent party is free to divorce and remarry. Forgiveness and reconciliation are also always best, but God allows for spouses to divorce when they're sinned against.

Fifth, marriage creates each spouse's primary relationship. Marriage creates each spouse's primary relationship. Verse 24 again, "Therefore, a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife." Now to be clear, this doesn't mean that they abandon their parents. That would violate the command to honor your parents. However, this new family, the idea is that this new family that they build when they get married is not less than, it is equal to the family that they both just left. And parents can help this by releasing their children into their new marriage and not holding them back from it, or they can harm it by holding them back and causing them, forcing them to choose. When husband and wife are married, their allegiance is to shift from their parents to their spouse, their responsibility is to make their spouse their priority, superseding allegiance to parents. There's still allegiance to parents, but now there's one that's greater.

Where do you see that in the text? Why is that here? I want you to think about it. Verse 24, this new couple is called one flesh. In the words of Jesus, Mark 10, "They are united, no longer two but one, or joined together." So they're no longer two independent people in a relationship like a child and a parent. No, they've been united by God. The two are no longer two, they are now one. Which means that this bond that unites husband and wife is more sacred and more binding than the bond that unites children and parents.

Sixth, God created husbands to lead their marriages. God created husbands to lead their marriages. And the text shows this in at least five ways. I'm going to go through these five ways quickly. Number one, Adam was created first. Second, Eve was created from Adam and created for Adam. Now those first two, we might go, "Well, what's the big deal about that? That's not really a big deal." But First Corinthians 11 and 1 Timothy Chapter 2, both say that is a big deal, that there are theological implications of those things that work themselves out into husbands leading their marriages. Third, the race is not called woman. The race of humanity is named after Adam, who is a man. It's named after what Adam is. Fourth, God had Adam name his wife just like he had him name the animals. And so all of that is husband leadership before sin enters the world.

But fifth, God holds Adam responsible for the sin that came into the world through Eve. And I want you to see this. I don't get to do... This is the extended version of the sermon. And so I want you to see this verse, Chapter 3:7 says, "They knew they were naked, they knew they sinned." And Verse 8 "They heard the sound of the Lord walking through the garden." Verse 9, "But the Lord called out to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden. I was afraid because I was naked. I hid myself." God said, "Who told you," singular, "that you" Adam "were naked? Have you" Adam, "eaten of the tree of which I commanded you" Adam, "not to eat? The man said, "The woman whom you gave me was with me, and she gave me the fruit to eat." Then the Lord said to the woman, and he goes on, but I want you to see that these you's are not y'all's from Texas. These you's are singular because God is holding Adam responsible for what had just happened.

And then verse 17, God makes it clear, it says, "And to Adam, God said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten fruit of the tree that I commanded you not to do." Listening to the voice of his wife is not like you listened to her and that was a good idea. No, that this phrase means you obeyed her. You took direction from her; you followed her as your leader. So before sin enters the world, husbands are expected to lead their marriages. After sin enters the world, husbands are held responsible for the direction of their marriages, the directions that their families take.

Also notice Genesis 3:16, this Genesis 3:16 is the entrance of sin into this marriage stewardship, into this family stewardship. And here's one of the ways it will work itself out, where it says at the end of verse 16, "He shall rule over you." That's evidence of sin because that word rule means to dominate, intimidate, be harsh, be selfish. And that is why in Christ, Christian husbands are told in Colossians 3:19, quote, "Love your wives and do not be harsh with them." In Christ, husband leadership is not overturned, because again, it's not the result of sin. Instead, it is brought back to what it was supposed to be originally, which according to Ephesians 2:25 and following, is leadership in love by sacrificing our good for hers, by making her more like Jesus because of her interaction with us, by being sensitive to her needs, nourishing her and cherishing her, just treating her like we do our own bodies.

All of this why Ephesians 5:28 says, "He who loves his wife, loves himself." Think about that. He says, "Husbands, what is best for you is to love your wife. What is best for you is to nourish her and cherish her." That's what's best. Not only is she one flesh with you, but it's what God saved you to do, saved you and brought you to your wife to do. And when you do that, it's not only best for her, but it's also best for you. I've heard it said that love can be measured by how much we're willing to lose, how much we're willing to die for the wellbeing of our spouses, and husbands, that starts with us. How much do we sacrifice for their good?

Seventh, God created wives for their husbands. God created wives for their husbands. Oh, he's one of those chauvinists, huh? Well, I'm going to show you that this is what the Bible teaches. Genesis One is the big picture of creation. Genesis Two is not a separate creation account. Genesis Two then takes the creation account and focuses it down on the creation of humanity. In Genesis 2:7, Adam is created. Genesis 2:8, the Garden of Eden is created, and in Genesis 2:15, it says that God put Adam into the garden. Notice, verse 15, to work it and keep it. So God gave him a job. But then God notices verse 18, that there is an issue. Verse 18, "Then the Lord God said it is not good that the man should be alone." The issue is Adam was alone, which means that there was no other living being like Adam. He was the only one of his kind. And so God says, notice verse 18, "It's not good that the man should be alone. I will make him a helper fit for him."

Then what we see verses 19 and 20, talk about Adam naming the animals. But verse 20 ends repeating verse 18. Notice verse 20, at the end, "For Adam, there was not found a helper fit for him." Again, he was the only one. He was the one and only human. So twice, God says there's an issue. There's an emphasis here. I want to make it clear. Here's why I'm creating a wife. First, he needed someone, quote, "Who would fit him, who was fit for him." So God created the woman,

he brought her out of the man, verse 22, so they would not be alone. He would've someone that is fit for him, not inferior to him, but actually an equal to him, equally in the image of God, equally human. So God creates her, brings her to him for this reason. You're going to have someone like you, unlike everything else in creation, there's nothing else for you that's like you, but now there is, and it is this woman.

And God gave Adam his wife so that he would flourish in his job with a helper. This word means supporter, assistant. It means one who gives strength. It means one who contributes to the fulfillment of a need. It means one who contributes to the furtherance of another person's effort or purpose. All of this, notice, said by God, and all of it done by God before sin comes into the world. So creating a wife for a husband is part of God's good creation. This word helper, by the way, is not demeaning in any way. You know why? It is only used 10 times in the entire Bible, seven times it is used for God. He is called the help or the helper of his people. He is pictured as the one who helps them defeat their enemies. He's pictured as the one who helps them overcome the obstacles in their way to doing his will.

So interestingly, when God saw that Adam was alone and needed help, he created a wife, not a parent, not a dog, not a child, not a slave, not a same-gender friend, not a sibling. He created a wife who is united with him in God's image, united with him as one flesh, and united with him in purpose. What do I mean by that? They are both united in accomplishing the responsibilities that God gave the man to do. She was created to help him, not the other way around. Now, that doesn't mean he doesn't care for her and serve her and bless her, but it means that at the most basic level, her primary job is him. She's a member of his team. He's the pilot, she's the copilot, made to fit together like two puzzle pieces completing each other. She's a helper who is also his equal, who is different from him, but different in ways that compliment him, that fill in his gaps, that make up for his weaknesses, make up for his deficiencies, help him do God's will better with her than he would ever possibly do alone.

And hearing that, if these last two points make us uncomfortable, listen, it might be because you've been disciplined more by our culture than the Bible on these things, but it's also because of what we saw in Genesis 3:16. Turn back to that. Because you see, when sin entered the world, it shows itself in wives who will see themselves as separate entities from their husbands. Notice, your desire will be contrary to your husband. I made you for him. But now your desires, there's going to be a tendency to be contrary to him, be against him, uncomfortable with being for him, working against him, resisting his leadership rather than following him and helping him.

And that is why in Christ, Colossians 3:18 tells Christian wives to, quote, "Submit to your own husbands as is fitting in the Lord." So Colossians 3:18 answers this part of Genesis 3:16. And Colossians 3:19, which we just looked at before, answers this last part. Don't be harsh with her, like it says will happen here because of sin. And also follow him, don't be contrary to him. And it says, as is fitting in the Lord, that is never in ways that are sinful. So that unless it's sin, wives should follow their husband's loving, selfless Christ-like leadership in their lives and in their families.

Now, why marriage? Why marriage? What's the purpose? Why did God create it in the first place? Number eight, marriage was created for companionship. Marriage is created for companionship. Oh, well that kind of contradicts what you just said in those two points. No, no, we're adults and we can take these ideas and put them all together and see how they all fit and how they all mesh. And when we do, the result is joy because we will be doing exactly what God created us individually, and what he created us as husband and wife, to do. See often in the Bible, husband and wives are called companions. You can see this in Proverbs, in the Song of Solomon, where companions, and that word is a rich word. It means friend, intimate, familiar, trusted confidant. So it's not roommate, it's not pal, it's companion. It's the best of friends.

This again, is not just seen in the result, verse 24 of holding fast or becoming one flesh. But it's also seen in the fact that before Eve was created, verse 18, God saw that Adam was alone. And God's assessment of that was what. Verse 18, his assessment that he was alone was what? That that's not what? That's not good. The only other time that word good has been used so far in Genesis, was at the end of the days of creation. It was good. It was good, it was good, it was good, it was good, it was good and it's very good. Well, God looks at this and goes, "Wait a minute. There's something not good in my good creation, and it is this. He's alone." It's like the text is saying that creation could not be very good until Eve was created. So God creates Eve from Adam's side. I heard that amen back there. Thank you for that. I love the amens. Amen. Thank you.

So Eve is created from Adam's side, meaning that she's human too. She's made in God's image too. He is no longer alone. There was one-of-a-kind and now there's two-of-a-kind. But what God did, was he created another human, which means that God met Adam's aloneness with somebody like him, somebody he could relate to, somebody he could be in fellowship with, somebody he could be close to, someone he could be intimate with. Many have said companionship is why God created Eve from Adam's rib, out of his side, under his arm, close to his heart. I had a guy last night at the door, he said to me, "Yeah, but what you forgot to say was that she's been a pain in his side ever since." I was like, "You go ahead and have that buddy. That's yours. You run with that."

So the goal of marriage is companionship. Commitment to each other first, which then leads second, to intimacy with each other. Not just physically, but emotionally, relationally, spiritually. This means our responsibility in light of all of this is to be a companion, a friend, a trusted confidant with our spouses. So how can we be better companions with our spouses is a good question to ask as a result of our time in God's word today. So in the end, marriage is not a contract of convenience like our culture has been drumming into us and discipling us into for decades. Marriage is a covenant of companionship. It is a lifelong commitment created by God for our good and for our joy, again, only as our lives are aligned with his will for marriage.

Listen, it's often the case that our spouses are a mirror. They are a mirror that reflect back to us how we're doing with these eight basics. And so if you are a parent here today, this is what you are to disciple your kids into. This is what we prepare our boys for. This is what we prepare our



girls for. We never give them advice. We never give them examples that contradict these eight basics about marriage. If you're a parent with grown kids or you're a grandparent, these are the things that you point your kids to, or your grandkids to, as your relationship with them changes from a parent to more of a mentor. Now you're saying, "Hey, I want you to hear this. I want you to see this. This is what you should strive for. This is what you should do. You should stop doing this and get back in alignment."

I know some points are harder to hear than others, especially if you haven't lived your life in light of these eight basics. And so if that's the case, I want you to listen very carefully, and I want you to remember that God is at God who forgives. God's forgiveness should never be seen as an excuse for sin, should never be seen as a reason not to feel guilt or shame because of our sin. It's never a reason to say, "I don't really need to worry about this because God forgives." God's forgiveness is meant to drive us to our knees in confession, meaning we admit that what he says is what we should think. What he says is what we should do. What he says is how we should live. In First John 1:9, when we confess our sin, when we agree that our sin is actually sin. We're not excusing it, we're not justifying it, but we're owning it. It says, quote, "God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from most unrighteousness." Isn't that good, most unrighteousness?

It's not most is it? It's all of it. All of it. Just let that word all wash over your heart. So after looking at these eight, is there any thinking about marriage or family that needs to be confessed as sin, as out of alignment with God's will? Is there any desire, decision, any activity concerning marriage or family that needs to be confessed as sin, is out of alignment with God's will? If there is anything, I invite you to a God who is merciful. I invite you to a God who is gracious. I invite you to a God who knows that we are dust, rebellious dust at that, and God who forgives. I invite you to Jesus, whose perfect record of faithful obedience and perfect righteousness as the God man, that all of that is yours, replacing your resume of sin forever when you trust in him to be your Savior.

So it's not just that you're forgiven, it's that your sin is replaced with his perfection, replaced with his record of sinlessness in every area of your life, including marriage and family. And then it's this fact, this reality, sins forgiven forever, life eternally secured. It's that reality that begins to fuel **point #2), Family Stewardship's Behavior. Family Stewardship's Behavior.** We saw this last week, First Corinthians 4:7, "The behavior that is required of stewards is that we are faithful, that we are worthy of trust when it comes to our families." And to make that easier to grasp with faithful behavior, what does that look like in light of the eight basics about family stewardship? Faithfulness looks like at least two lifestyles, two lifestyles. The first lifestyle is obedience, not a surprise. Faithfulness is obedience.

So let's go back to the nine marks of a faithful steward last week. Do you remember those? Well, if you don't, I'm going to go through them with you now, but I'm going to take them and apply them to what we've been saying today about family stewardship. In other words, family stewards, faithful family stewards are loyal not just to what God says about marriage and family,

but they're also faithful to their spouses and to the covenant they made with each other when they both said, "I do." Second, faithful family stewards are present, they're not absent. They're not negligent in their performance of God's eight basics for marriage. Third, faithful family stewards are determined. They're not passive, but husbands take the initiative in leading their families, especially spiritually. And wives take the initiative in helping that leadership. There's initiative there, forward movement on the will of God.

Fourth, faithful family stewards are diligent. Doing all of this well is difficult. So they shun laziness. They work hard. They understand that hard work is needed to please the Lord. So faithful family steward is not coasting, it's not autopilot, but he or she is willing to do, to work and work hard to do God's will. Fifth, faithful family stewards are intentional. Apathy is not accepted and neither is being aimless. The standard is set in God's word for what God wants marriages and families to be. So this standard, these things we've talked about, they're not just known, but they are embraced. And because they're known and embraced, they're clearly sought after with time and talents in the family.

Sixth, faithful family stewards are submissive. They're submissive. They're not fighting the Lord on any of this. They're not going to ignore what he wants to do in order to do what they want to do. They check their ideas. They check their desires. They seek to obey his will for their marriage, for husbands, for wives, for parenting. They're submissive to what God says rather than fighting it. Seventh, faithful family stewards are sacrificial. Sacrificial. They're willing to go against their own comfort, their own desires, their own emotions, their own thoughts, sacrificing any and all of it, simply to do what God tells them to do because they know God's way is better than theirs in everything, including family and marriage.

Eighth, faithful family stewards are humble. Humble. There isn't an air of acting like they're the master of their marriage and family. No, God is the master. God is the master, and because of that, they're not okay with Genesis 3:16, entering their family relationships, know that they're not okay with un-submissiveness as wives. They're not okay with a lack of love from husbands. They're not okay with that. They strive to humbly fulfill Ephesians 5, knowing that it is only humble, faithful obedience that we'll ever see that happen. As we were leaving last night, this lady stopped me, shook my hand, and said, "I'm really glad that this guy was here tonight." I just kept on, I'm like, "Wow." Listen, that's not humble. I said, "Oh, the L-shaped amen. You're saying amen, but it's not going there." It's amen. Yeah, that's not humble.

Ninth, faithful family stewards are wise. They're not fools who think they know better. They're not fools who look to foolish sources that defy God's eight basics for marriage to be their counselors when it comes to marriage or family. So they're not foolish thinking. They know better. They're not looking to fools who think they know better. They live their lives knowing God is watching, and they just want to please him. They want him to smile on their lives when it comes to their families. So in the domain of oversight, the husband, the wife, the parents, the grandparents, all of that is stewardship. And in the area of oversight the steward has been given,

the goal is faithful obedience to what God wants for his or her family. Which means the second lifestyle that must mark faithful family stewardship has to be forgiveness. It has to be right.

Why? Because, well, no one is sinless when it comes to what I've said today, right? Nobody. We've all sinned against the Lord, against our spouses, and against our children in some, or even everything we've talked about today. So not only do we need God's forgiveness, which we already talked about, but we also need to extend forgiveness to our spouses. This is true for big sins and for small sins that have added up. This is true for sins of commission. This is sins of omissions, of things that should have been done that haven't been done. This is true for one specific sin, or many sins that have been adding up since your honeymoon. It's also true for unmet expectations, broken promises, secrets revealed, or just plain denseness. Forgiveness is needed for all of it. Don't let unforgiveness and bitterness and anger and resentment create relational barriers between you and your spouse. Tear them all down through forgiveness.

Multiple times, the New Testament talks about love covers a multitude of sin, and so it's looking at that and covering it over with love. And if it's like, it's too hard, I can't do that. Well, you know what that means? That means you got to have the conversation and say, "Listen, I can't get over this. I want to be right before God. I want to be right with you. We just need to talk about this." Forgiveness has to mark Christian marriages because it has to mark Christian lives. And Jesus made this clear in Matthew 18. He talks about a servant who owes his king 10,000 talents. Now, last week I told you a talent was a year's worth of wages, but that's actually not the case. Upon further review, I realized that I was wrong on that, and I've learned that a talent is actually closer to 15 years' worth of wages, one talent.

So the five talents of the guy we looked at last week, that's 65 years' worth of wages. 10,000 talents is 150,000 years of wages. That's how much he owed his king. So now let's take that into modern times. The average income here in Gilbert is \$100,000.00. So at 150,000 years, this servant owed this king the equivalent of \$15 billion. And what did the king do? He said, "I can't pay it. I can't. It's just too hard." Forgiven, \$15 billion gone.

That's us in the story by the way, the one who was forgiven \$15 billion, that's our sin. And the king, that's God. And then the servant, right, he finds a guy who owes him 100 denarii, which is the equivalent of about three months' worth of wages. So in Gilbert, that's about \$25 grand. That's not a small amount, but it's certainly not \$15 billion, right? As we're reading that, if we don't know how it's going to go, as we're reading that, we think, "Oh, I mean, of course this guy is going to forgive. I mean, it's just three months versus 150,000 years' worth of wages. Like of course he's going to forgive." Even when we know the story, we know what he's supposed to do, but he doesn't, right? Has him arrested and thrown in jail until he can pay it all back.

Listen, I bet there's not a single person on earth that we throw into that jail more than our spouses. And it happens when we don't forgive, when we refuse to forgive them for sins that they committed against us, and in spite of all of the sin that God has forgiven us. Curtis told me this earlier, he gets credit for it, and he loves to see the shift in couples go from, "How can I forgive you for all of your sin against me," to "How can I not forgive you in light of all that God has

forgiven me." So let's make sure that as family stewards, it's not just obedience, but it's forgiveness for the sins committed against us by our spouses. And in that, we will begin to be faithful stewards of our marriages and our families. Let's pray.

Father, I know there are a few subjects that can bring discomfort, guilt, shame, anger, like marriage and family. And yet, because you love us, you put texts like this one in the Bible, not just to show us a history lesson about how things started, but to say this is the truth about family. This is the truth about marriage. This is the standard that I set at the very beginning so that we would live in it, so that we would walk in it. And when we do, the result is blessing and joy in our lives. And so I know that the author of the book also lives inside of the people, of his people here today. And so I pray that your work in our hearts will show itself in helping us with courage and determination to take the next step of obedience in light of this message, no matter what it is. There's already something that I'm sure you've impressed on our hearts that you want us to do. So I pray that you would do that, and I pray that you would do that not just for our good, but that you would do it for your glory. Because when we obey you, that pleases you, that brings you pleasure, that blesses you, and it does that because when we are faithful, you see in us the faithfulness of your son, you see in us a picture of Christ and the church. And that's not only for our good, but it's for your glory. So do these things in each of us, I pray, Amen.