

Where Is My Mate? Session #2

I. **Stop the Search!**

- A. After all the years I ministered to singles, I have noticed that a majority of singles are searching for a mate. Young people are searching, old people are searching, men are searching, and women are searching. The search is on!
- B. In not the too distant past it was the custom that men did the searching for a spouse and the women were the ones to be found. They would send smoke signals up in hopes of being found. But recently I think many women have given up hope that men can find their way and just lousy with directions so they have come find where the men have lost themselves!
- C. In this lesson we will talk about the issue about looking for a mate. In the next two sessions we will look at how men and women are to prepare for marriage.
- D. Whose job is it to find a mate? The man? The woman? Both? Well how about we let the Bible show us the answer. There is a consistent pattern in the Word of God which is God's plan for you to meet your mate. God's biblical pattern is that he prepares a man, and He prepares a woman and then leads the woman to the man. I will discuss what this means more fully next week.
- E. It was a couple of weeks after God told me, "Many singles are praying for a mate, but they are not praying for their mate", that He told me this, **"I don't want my children looking for a mate, I want them to prepare for their mate."**

II. **God's plan for Divine encounters!**

A. **Gen. 2:21-22 – Adam and Eve**

- a. A modern Translation: **"And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept; and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from the man He made into a woman, and then God hid the women real good in the garden. He then caused the man to awake from His sleep and informed him that He had made a companion for Him but He must go find her. He counted to three, slapped His hands together, and shouted, "Find her boy!" Then Adam ran around the garden like he was on an Easter egg hunt trying to find Eve."**
- b. That must be from the clueless translation. A much more accurate translation is that God brought Eve to the man. God had prepared the man, then He prepared the woman and led the woman to the man. The man did not go looking, the woman did not go looking. God prepared them and then led the woman to the man. This is God's pattern as we will see.

B. Gen. 24:1-4 – Isaac and Rebecca

a. **Gen 24:1** And Abraham was old, *and* well stricken in age: and the LORD had blessed Abraham in all things.

Gen 24:2 And Abraham said unto his eldest servant of his house, that ruled over all that he had, Put, I pray thee, thy hand under my thigh:

Gen 24:3 And I will make thee swear by the LORD, the God of heaven, and the God of the earth, that thou shalt not take a wife unto my son of the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell:

Gen 24:4 But thou shalt go unto my country, and to my kindred, and take a wife unto my son Isaac.

1. Notice that Isaac did not come to Abraham about the issue of wanting a wife. Abraham, Isaacs loving father, saw the need for a wife for his son and moved to provide him one.
2. Notice that Abraham did not send out Isaac to find the right wife. No, Abraham knew that Isaac would blow it for sure. Just look how Esau did picking his own wives!
3. Abraham sent out his servant to find the bride.
4. Abraham represents God the Father and the servant of the father is a type of the Holy Spirit. God your Father will send the Holy Spirit out as the head of the search committee for your spouse!
5. The servant prepared Rebecca and led her back to where Isaac was.

b. **Gen 24:62** And Isaac came from the way of the well Lahairoi; for he dwelt in the south country.

Gen 24:63 And Isaac went out to meditate in the field at the eventide: and he lifted up his eyes, and saw, and, behold, the camels *were* coming.

Gen 24:64 And Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac, she lighted off the camel.

Gen 24:65 For she *had* said unto the servant, What man *is* this that walketh in the field to meet us? And the servant *had* said, It *is* my master: therefore she took a vail, and covered herself.

Gen 24:66 And the servant told Isaac all things that he had done.

1. Isaac was not out looking for his wife. He went out to meditate and focus on his relationship with God. Rebecca was not looking for her husband. She was concentrating of following the Father's servant.
2. God prepared Isaac by his relationship with Him, and God prepared Rebecca by her following the servant and brought them together in a divine encounter!

C. Ruth and Boaz

1. Rth 1:16 And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people *shall be* my people, and thy God my God:
Rth 1:17 Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the LORD do so to me, and more also, *if ought* but death part thee and me.
Rth 1:18 When she saw that she was stedfastly minded to go with her, then she left speaking unto her.
 - a. Ruth decided to follow Ruth and make God her God no matter where that led. She was following after godliness.
2. Rth 2:2 And Ruth the Moabitess said unto Naomi, Let me now go to the field, and glean ears of corn after *him* in whose sight I shall find grace. And she said unto her, Go, my daughter.
Rth 2:3 And she went, and came, and gleaned in the field after the reapers: and her hap was to light on a part of the field *belonging* unto Boaz, who *was* of the kindred of Elimelech.
Rth 2:4 And, behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem, and said unto the reapers, The LORD *be* with you. And they answered him, The LORD bless thee.
Rth 2:5 Then said Boaz unto his servant that was set over the reapers, Whose damsel *is* this?
 - a. Ruth was led to the field of Boaz as she served Naomi. Boaz was prepared by God and Ruth had been prepared by God and was led to Boaz.
3. Esther 2:16- Esther and the King
 - a. (Est 2:2) Then said the king's servants that ministered unto him, Let there be fair young virgins sought for the king:
 - b. Est 2:12 Now when every maid's turn was come to go in to king Ahasuerus, after that she had been twelve months, according to the manner of the women, (for so were the days of their purifications accomplished, *to wit*, six months with oil of myrrh, and six months with sweet odours, and with *other* things for the purifying of the women;)
Est 2:14 In the evening she went, and on the morrow she returned into the second house of the women, to the custody of Shaashgaz, the king's chamberlain, which kept the concubines: she came in unto the king no more, except the king delighted in her, and that she were called by name.
Est 2:15 Now when the turn of Esther, the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who had taken her for his daughter, was come to go in unto the king, she required nothing but what Hegai the king's chamberlain, the keeper of the women, appointed. And Esther obtained favour in the sight of all them that looked upon her.

Est 2:16 So Esther was taken unto king Ahasuerus into his house royal in the tenth month, which is the month Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign.

- c. Esther was prepared and then led to meet the king. God wants you ladies to be escorted to royalty. Kings treat their ladies like queens.

4. Eph. 5:27- Christ and His Bride

- a. The Bride of Christ is being sought out by the Holy Spirit and is being prepared to be presented to Christ.

5. The modern marriage ceremony

- a. The ceremony of marriage is not where they hide the bride and the man must hunt her down. No, she is escorted to the man.
- b. The woman does not have to hunt down the man. She is escorted by her father.

- 6. The fact that the woman is led to the man does not mean that the woman is the initiator in the relationship! In all of these examples God prepared the man and prepared the woman and led the woman to the man. The women did not initiative looking for the men!

- 7. These examples do not mean that women will always be led geographically to their husbands. These stories reveal a spiritual principle that we will look at more in depth when we look at how God prepares men and women differently for marriage.

8. Prov. 8:22- *Whoso* findeth a wife findeth a good *thing*, and obtaineth favour of the LORD.

- a. Many have hung their wife search on this verse.
- b. The word finds here has different meanings in Hebrew just like English- i.e. you can find by searching like keys, or you can find by pleasant discovery like finding \$100.00 bill on the side of the road.
- c. This Hebrew word is used both ways in the Old Testament.
- d. Heb. Matsa- to *come* forth to, that is, *appear* or *exist*; to *attain*, that is, *find* or *acquire*; figuratively to *occur*, *meet* or *be present*:
- e. **1 Kings. 13:24- And when he was gone, a lion met- Heb. matsa- him by the way, and slew him: and his carcase was cast in the way, and the ass stood by it, the lion also stood by the carcase.**

9. Seek not a wife!

- a. **1 Cor. 7:27- Art thou bound unto a wife? seek not to be loosed. Art thou loosed from a wife? seek not a wife.**

III. Hollywood's formula for relationships

1. Find the right person
2. Fall in love
3. Put all your hopes and dreams on them to fulfill you
4. When that fails start over with #1

IV. God's formula for relationships

1. Be the right person
2. Walk in love
3. Put all your trust and hope in God to fulfill you
4. If that fails then start over with #1