

Where Is My Mate

Session #5

I. Recap

- A. Know God's will
- B. Be in faith- pray for your mate
- C. Prepare for your mate
- D. God prepares a man in his field and leads a prepared woman to that field

II. Testimony

- A. Rick- I was 33 when I got married. I went through the stages in my 20's where I was searching for my missing rib! That's why I like bar-b-que to this day!
- B. I went through 10 relationships before I met my wife. I tried to fit 10 different ribs back into my life and came up with a string of zeros. I was trying to do it myself!
- C. I started teaching in my church in 1995. I remember always looking at the young ladies coming in and wondering if they were the one. It drove me crazy.
- D. I remember that the Lord put on my heart at different times to pray for my wife out there.
- E. He brought me to a place where I was honest about my desire for a mate but also that I stopped looking.
- F. I finally just committed the wife search to God and decided to give myself to my calling which was teaching and be faithful where He put me and do what He called me to do.
- G. Then one day entered Joann...
- H. Joann's testimony

III. What about dating?

- A. Again the world is on the search!
- B. What the world says is that you find your mate by dating.
- C. Modern worldly dating is done by finding a nice looking person and go out on dates with them.
- D. What does the Word of God say about dating? Nothing!
- E. Dating as the world does it is a fairly new concept on the world stage.
- F. Dating developed after World War II. This is when a young woman and man got in a car and went out alone together. Often they would fog up the car windows.

- G. Before that time there was no dating as we know it. What took place was courtship.
- H. Courtship took place when a young man called on a young girl and they spent time in an open transparent environment.
- I. In modern dating there is often the three go to's- Go to dinner, go to a movie, and then go to bed. Unfortunately this is often true among Christians.
- J. In modern worldly dating there is a focus on romance from the start. You make sure you look just right, smell just right, and say all the right things.
- K. You ask yourself if you should hold hands on the first date. What about kissing?
- L. Dating today focuses on romantic, emotional, and physical parts of a relationship.
- M. Courtship did not! Because of the supervision that was present in courtship the focus was upon friendship!
- N. **(Amo 3:3) Can two walk together, except they be agreed?**
- O. This verse speaks of friendship. Friendship is where you discover what you have in common with one another. It is the slow discovery of likes, dislikes, values, traits, vision, goals, personal hang-ups, and a host of other things.
- P. What is defective in modern dating is that it largely by passes friendship.
- Q. Dating often moves past the friendship stage or by passes it altogether and focuses on romance and the physical aspects. Once you become physical and romantically involved your eyes begin to glaze over. This is what is called being love drunk! When you are drunk you don't see people in their true light.
- R. Before you get married you need to keep your eyes wide open. When you get married that is the time to shut them!
- S. Am I saying that it is wrong for you to go out alone with the opposite sex? No, but you just need to make sure you focus on the friendship stage of the relationship until you both believe God is calling it to be permanent. Often when you don't know someone very well it is better to group activities. Church activities are great.

IV. Friendship

- A. So if I am not to go looking for a mate and I am not supposed to do dating the world's way, then how am I going to ever meet my spouse!

- B. Do not seek a spouse. Seek friendships! Those who have friends must show themselves friendly. Develop friendships!
- C. There is four stages of friendship
 - 1. Acquaintance
 - 2. Casual
 - 3. Close
 - 4. Intimate
- D. It takes time to go from Acquaintance to intimate but many couples try to do it by an all night conversation on the phone or at Village Inn! Then they start holding hands, kissing, and get love drunk.
- E. Once you get physical you will attach your hearts together. However, many times you later find out that person is a jerk and you break up. You teach yourself divorce.
- F. It takes patience and character to develop a friendship and hold the physical and romance off until engagement and marriage. The character it takes before you get married is the exact same character you need to make your marriage work!
- G. I recommend that couples know each other for a year before they get married. It is important to see someone in all four seasons of life.
- H. If a man can't wait to develop a relationship right then they don't love you because love is patient.
- I. Ladies, keep your fruit at the very top of the tree. It will take a man of virtue and commitment to be able to get it. Some women put their fruit at the bottom branch fearing they won't ever get married if they don't.
- J. You should marry your best friend. Joann and I started out as friends. It grew over time.
- K. You should not become intimate friends with the opposite sex unless you can see yourself marrying them.
- L. Both need to be honest where they are at and if there is an attraction to one another. Just because you are attracted to one another does not mean that you should dive into a physical romantic relationship with them!