

Where Is My Mate?

By

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Where Is My Mate

Introduction

I have been a singles pastor for almost 15 years. From experience I find many singles have the same question. The question is “Where is my mate?” I noticed over the years that some singles seem to get married rather quickly [*sometimes too quickly*] and rather easily. I say easily because they really weren’t looking for a mate, waiting for a mate, or even asking God for a mate. However, someone came into their lives and a relationship just bloomed into marriage. On the other hand I have also witnessed many singles asking God and waiting for years for a mate with no results. I have counseled with many single individuals over the years that were heartbroken that they could not find that special someone to spend the rest of their life with. My heart hurt for them. I could actually identify with their feelings. I myself had waited for some time before I met and married my wonderful wife Joann. I was 33 years old when I got married. I remembered wondering if I would ever get married or if even it was God’s will for me to get married. So, I could identify with the pain that these singles were experiencing. I decided one day to go to God about this issue of why these precious people were still single and what the hold up was to them finding their mates. This book is the product of what God shared with me concerning this issue. I believe the things God shared with me will greatly encourage, enlighten, and even provide you with guidance which will lead you to the person God has prepared for you.

I dedicate this book to all those singles out there that have an ache in their heart to have someone special to share their life with but have not found them. God really does care about you and your heart's desires. I pray that He uses this book in your life to fulfill those desires in His way and in His timing and for His glory. This book is also written for parents and grandparents of children that are not married. They will need this book in coming days!

Where Is My Mate?

Chapter 1- God's Will

It was just a regular day at work and I had just arrived for a meeting. Taking a seat, I prepared my papers. I was not really thinking about anything in particular as I recall. Then out of nowhere it happened! God spoke to me and what He said shocked me! I know when God speaks to me because it stops me in my tracks. I just sat there amazed at what God just said to me. I had forgotten about my prayers some months earlier about why many of the singles I minister to had been waiting for so long without finding their mates. He had chosen this time and this place to give me an answer to those prayers! Just because God does not immediately answer your questions it does not mean He is not going to! Keep your expectancy up to hear from God at any time and any place. Do you want to know what God told me that day as I sat down for that meeting? Well, I will share that in the next chapter. Before you skip ahead to the next chapter to see what He said, it is important that you read this chapter first!

Before I relate what God told me that day, we need to address the issue of God's will. You must settle in your heart God's will for you concerning marriage. It is important to know that God's will is broken down into two categories. The first is His general will for everyone. The second is His specific will for you personally. The general will of God is found in the written Word of God, the Bible. For instance, the Bible says it is His will for everyone to work. **2 Thess. 3:10** The Bible says that if you do not work, you should

not be allowed to eat. Since we all need to eat, we all need to work! However, the Bible does not tell us where God wants us to work specifically. To find out God's specific will we must turn to the Holy Spirit in our heart. By following the desires and peace of our heart we can be led to the right job for us.

So does God's Word reveal God's will generally towards marriage? Yes, it does. The Bible is pro marriage! There is not a single verse in the Bible that forbids anyone from getting married that desires to do so. This now leads us to talk about God's specific will about marriage in your own life. Is it God's will for you to marry? Again, we can find God's specific will for our lives by the Holy Spirit in our hearts. Let's look at a verse in Psalms that sheds light on finding God's specific will.

(Psa 37:4) Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart.

You can look at this verse several ways. First, you can look at it that if you delight yourself in the Lord that He will give you whatever things you have desired in your heart. However, there is another way to look at this verse which I believe gives the true meaning. If you delight yourself in the Lord, God will put within your heart the desires He wants you to have! This reveals the grace and goodness of our God. If we seek Him first, then God will place His desires in our hearts and then they become our desires! If we will delight ourselves in God then when we ask God for the things we desire, we receive them because those desires were placed there by Him in the first place and are His

will for us! Let's look at a verse in the New Testament that tells us the same thing!

(Php 2:13) [*Not in your own strength*] for it is God Who is all the while effectually at work in you [*energizing and creating in you the power and desire*], both to will and to work for His good pleasure and satisfaction and delight. [Amplified Bible]

If we delight ourselves in God then He will work in us to create the desire to do His will! God is so good. This means that you do not need a booming voice from heaven to know if God wants you to be married! You just need to check the deep desires of your heart! If you have a deep desire to be married then you can rest assured it is in His will for you to be married.

You can check any desire you have by drawing closer to God. The closer you get to God the desires of the flesh will fade away. However, the closer you get to God, the desires God wants you to have will grow stronger and more distinct! That is why it is vital to delight yourself in the Lord!

Since the specific will of God is found by the desire you have in your heart you need to be honest with what is in your heart. I say this because when I was single I found myself vacillating between telling people that I wanted to be married and then later proclaiming that I would be a bachelor to the rapture! God confronted me on this duplicity one day. He told me that He could not move in my life in area of a mate as long as I continued to be double minded about what I wanted concerning marriage. What God revealed to me was that I really did want to be married very much,

but to buffer myself against the disappointment and hurt of the possibility of not getting married I would deny that I wanted to be married. I would proclaim that I would just live for God as a single man all my days! I had to get real with what I truly desired in my heart and to make my confession line up with it once and for all! You cannot be in faith and vacillate from yes, no, yes, no, yes, no, yes, that's it- NO! Oops, I had my fingers crossed!

Our heart desires are important to take into account to find God's specific will for our lives but they need to be submitted to Him and often refined. **I find that the more someone desperately desires something the longer they have to wait for it!** I think when we have a consuming desire for something we need to ask ourselves, "Why do I want this so much?" Often singles that are wanting to get married really bad are looking for a person to meet a need in their heart that only God can meet. That is why it is so important to delight yourself in God! Delighting yourself in God means that you go to God to meet all of your needs. When you do this you can trust the desires of your heart! Often if our desires are out of bounds then God will withhold that thing we are asking from Him. **James 4:1** He is not being mean to us. He is actually revealing to us His love! If God gave us something that takes the place of Himself then that person or thing will actually become harmful. God loves us too much to see our life destroyed by misplaced desires! Delight yourself in God and check your heart and you will find the will of God!

Where Is My Mate?

Chapter 2: A Change of Prayer!

Now back to what God told me as I sat down at that meeting. What did God say that shocked me that day? What stopped me in my tracks? It was this simple statement.

“Many singles are praying for a mate, not praying for their mate.”

At first I did not know what God meant by this, but soon I realized that God was showing me that He wanted singles to be in faith about their mates. At first glance there might not seem to be a big difference between praying for a mate and praying for your mate, but actually there is a world of difference! It is the difference of praying in unbelief and praying in faith. One is praying that God would give you a mate, but the other is based upon believing God has given you a mate when you asked Him. When you believe that He did, then you should start praying for your mate! If you think about it, your mate is living somewhere right now! Unless you plan to rob the cradle and marry someone that is not born yet, the person that you will marry is alive somewhere and God wants you to start praying for them!

If you will start praying for your mate then God will start revealing things about your mate to pray. I believe that if you will continue to regularly pray for your mate that you can recognize them when you meet them! If you are not in faith about a mate then God will not reveal things to you about them. I find that if I will

set myself to pray for others, even if I have not met them, that God will give me insights into how to pray for them. He gives me impressions that I pray out. This will be the case with your mate. I think it is important to pray protection over your mate. I think it is important to pray that your mate prosper. I think it is important that you pray that your mate will remain in good health. I think it is **really important** to pray that the opposite sex stay away from your mate! When I was single I always thought it was just me that I could not get a date! It turns out my wife was praying all the ladies away!

Again, I have seen some singles get married rather quickly and easily. However, others have been waiting a long time. In times like these God is requiring faith. You might ask, "Would God really require me to believe Him for a mate?" The answer is yes! He required faith of us to be saved. God requires faith to be filled with the Spirit. God requires faith for us to be healed. It is no different in the area of a mate! The just shall live by faith. **Rom 1:17** We can only please God by faith. **Heb. 11:6** Therefore we need to get in faith about a mate.

(Mar 11:24) Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive *them*, and you will have *them*.

This verse reveals what it means to pray in faith. It shows us that it is vital that when we pray for something [that includes a mate] that we must believe that we receive it from God, and then we will have it in the natural! Faith is now! Now, faith is.. **Heb. 11:1** Many people confuse faith and hope. Both are

important, but they are not the same. Hope is the confident expectation of something in the **future**. So, when someone says they believe they are **going** to be healed, this might sound like a statement of faith, but actually it is a statement of hope. Now, hope is very important and good, but it is not faith! You enter into faith when you believe you have received what you asked for **BEFORE** you see it! If you saw it, then you do not need faith! How do you know if you are in faith? It is by the assurance you have in your heart!

(Heb 11:1) Now faith is the assurance of *things* hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. NASB

Faith is having assurance something is yours even if you can't see it! So, to check to see if you are in faith, ask yourself if you have assurance in your heart that you have what you asked for. If the answer is no, then don't condemn yourself, just realize you are not there yet. When you are in faith, you will have assurance that what you asked from God has been given to you. This applies to a mate. When you ask God for a mate you need to believe you receive them! If you have assurance God has heard you then you are in faith. If you lack assurance then keep in the Word and prayer until you do. Once you believe God has heard your prayer then you need to start praying for your mate. I find that just realizing that your spouse is alive and out there somewhere will lead you to start praying for them! **Now, don't look around and find someone that is attractive and claim them as your wife!** God has a better plan for you than that. We will see what that plan is later!

The next thing that is important to know about faith is that faith is specific. God wants us to be specific with Him in prayer. Often, Christians fail to get answered prayer because their prayers are too vague! Jesus required people to be specific with what they wanted from Him.

(Mar 10:51) So Jesus answered and said to him, "What do you want Me to do for you?" The blind man said to Him, "Rabboni, that I may receive my sight."

One day a blind man came to Jesus to be healed. It was obvious he was blind because others had to direct him to Jesus. Jesus had the audacity to ask the blind man, "What do you want me to do for you?" Couldn't Jesus see that the man was blind? Of course He did, but He wanted the man to be specific in his request. He wanted to know exactly what the man wanted. This is the same with us!

Mar 10:35 Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Him, saying, "Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask."

Mar 10:36 And He said to them, "What do you want Me to do for you?"

Here we see James and John came to Jesus with a request. Now, Jesus knew the hearts of all men. Jesus knew what these men were coming for, but He asked them, "What do you want me to do for you?" Notice they asked a real general prayer for Jesus to give them whatever they wanted. However, Jesus required them to be specific in their request! "What do

you want me to do for you?” God wants you to be specific with Him about a mate. He wants to hear what your desires are! I think it is good to sit down and write down a list of desires you have for a mate and bring them before God. However, don’t get so fixed on this list that you miss who God has for you. Sometimes our desires can get skewed! Many times singles desire to meet someone that is perfect. That is not going to happen! But God places desires in our hearts when we delight ourselves in Him. He wants to hear these desires expressed back to Him in believing prayer. If your desires are off line, then He will show you that. It is important we give God something to work with! If you want to have a tall husband, then tell God that! If you have a desire to marry a minister tell God that. Write down the desires of your heart and bring them to God. God will give you the desires of your heart, not the lusts of your flesh! You will be able to separate these by delighting yourself in the Lord!

Where is My Mate?

Chapter 3- Searching For A Mate

I thought God was through talking to me about why many singles have been waiting for their mate. However, later on God spoke another thing to me that really surprised me. He said, **“I don’t want singles searching for a mate, I want them preparing for their mate”**

I think many single men feel it is their job to conduct a wife search! I also think that many single women think that it is their job is to be found! They are like a person on a deserted island trying to be rescued, waving their arms, “Here I am! Here I am!” Some even try to make smoke signals! Of course I am joking, but the truth of the matter is that most singles are on a search for a mate! Men are searching. Women are searching. Young singles are searching. Old singles are searching! The search is on! Well, if you are searching for a mate, I want you to stop for a second and turn your attention to the Word of God. What does the Word have to say about finding a mate? Does it teach us that we are to search for our mates? Let’s see God’s design from the very beginning!

Gen 2:21 And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place.

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

Here we see the creation of Eve. God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept. Do you know why men can't figure out women? It is because man was in a deep sleep when God made the woman! We have no idea how you ladies are put together! We are clueless! Now, if we re-wrote this account in Genesis to line up with our modern practices today it would go something like this.

“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 in the garden. He caused the man to awake from His sleep and informed him that He had a made a surprise for Him but He must go find what it was. 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.”

That is not how it happened! What did God do when He made Eve? The Bible says that God **brought Eve to Adam**! God had prepared Adam for Eve and He prepared Eve for Adam. He then orchestrated their meeting. They did not have to search for one another! This is backwards to what many believe today! Let's look further at God's pattern for finding a mate.

Gen 24:1 Now Abraham was old, well advanced in age; and the Lord had blessed Abraham in all things.

Gen 24:2 So Abraham said to the oldest servant of his house, who ruled over all that he had, "Please, put your hand under my thigh,

Gen 24:3 and I will make you swear by the Lord, the God of heaven and the God of the earth, that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell;

Gen 24:4 but you shall go to my country and to my family, and take a wife for my son Isaac."

Abraham knew it was time for His son Isaac to be married. God knows when it is time for you to be married! Abraham also knew that Isaac did not know enough to pick the right mate! I am sure he thought that if he left it up to Isaac that he would bring home some Hittite or parasite! No, Abraham sent out his trusted servant to find a wife for Isaac. Isaac stayed at home while the servant went out to get his wife! Now, in biblical typology Abraham is a type of God the Father, Isaac is a type of Christ, and the servant is a type of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit of God is now preparing the bride, the church, and will guide her and present her to the Son. You can also take this story and apply it to your life! The Holy Spirit will find your mate for you, prepare them, and guide both of you to meet. Later we will look at what Isaac was doing at home while the servant was gone to get him a wife. Let's now look at Esther.

(Est 2:16) So Esther was taken to King Ahasuerus, into his royal palace, in the tenth month, which *is* the month of Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign.

King Ahasuerus sent out servants to find him a bride. He did not go looking for himself. Esther was brought unto the palace and went through preparations to meet the King. We will look more closely at these preparations later. But notice for now that she was brought to the king. Ladies, God wants to take you to a king! He wants you to marry royalty. So, if the man you are dating does not act kingly or treat you like a queen, then give him his walking papers! God has better for you! This is the pattern God is also using for Christ and His bride, the church!

(Eph 5:27) that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

Jesus died for the sins of the world, was resurrected the third day, and ascended into heaven. He has sent the Holy Spirit to prepare Him a bride! One day the trumpet will sound and the Holy Spirit will escort the bride to meet Jesus and we will be presented to Him! Jesus is not out trying to find His bride. He has left that up to the Holy Spirit! What is Jesus doing? Jesus is preparing for us! He is preparing dwelling places for us. **John 14:2** Jesus is preparing for us and we are being prepared for Him. One day we will be led to meet Him for marriage!

Take a look at our modern marriage ceremony. We do not hide the woman somewhere in the church and have the groom go looking for her! Neither is the woman placed down at the altar and the man led to her. No, the woman is escorted down to be presented

to her husband. This is God way! He leads a prepared woman to a prepared man. That is why I believe God told me that He did not want singles searching for a mate, but that He wanted them preparing for their mate. In the next chapter I want to look at how God prepares women for marriage. If you did not notice, men and women are different! Therefore, men and women prepare differently for marriage.

Now let's look at verse in the Bible that many men have hung their wife search upon.

**(Pro 18:22) *He who finds a wife finds a good *thing*,
And obtains favor from the Lord.***

This verse appears to back up the practice of wife searching because of the word “finds” However, we need to understand that this word “finds” in the Hebrew is just like our English word “finds”. There are two types of finding. There is a finding by searching like with your car keys in the morning or there is a finding like a twenty dollar bill on the sidewalk. One find is by searching and the other find is a pleasant discovery. The Hebrew word for find here is **matsa**. This word has been translated in the Old Testament both ways. There are places where this Hebrew word has been translated “to meet”. Here is just one example.

(1Ki 13:24) When he was gone, a lion met him on the road and killed him. And his corpse was thrown on the road, and the donkey stood by it. The lion also stood by the corpse.

This is the story of a disobedient prophet. He was told by God to go and deliver His word and return without speaking or eating with anyone. However, a man met this prophet and convinced him to eat with him. When the prophet got up from eating and left the Bible says he “**met**” a lion in the way and it killed him! The word “met” here is the exact same Hebrew word *matsa*! I am sure this prophet was not out looking for this lion! It just ran into him in the way. This is what this word “finds” in Proverbs 18:22 means. When we interpret scripture we need to look at the rest of the Bible to see if there is supporting verses for our interpretation. There is not a single verse in either the Old Testament or New Testament that teaches that singles should find their mate by searching for them. There are no supporting scriptures for searching for a wife, but there is a scripture that tells us not to seek a wife! The Bible plainly says in the New Testament not to seek for a wife!

(1Co 7:27) Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be loosed. Are you loosed from a wife? Do not seek a wife.

Many today feel like they are bound to their wives! Well, do not seek to be loosed! The verse goes on to say that if you are loosed from a wife either by divorce or by your spouse dying that you are **NOT** to seek a wife! I do not believe that this wisdom and direction is just for divorced and widowed singles. I believe it is God’s wisdom and direction for all singles. Do not seek a wife! Why? Because this is God’s job! He has been doing it for a long time and He has a great track record. He can do a much better job than

you can. He can do a much better job of it than other people can with computers! Dating services will take hundreds of your hard earned dollars for something God offers for free! I don't know about you but I will pick God over people and computers! God does not want you searching for a mate; He wants you preparing for your mate! If you will get into faith concerning your mate and will prepare for a mate, God will surely do His part and bring you and your mate together! Do you believe this?

Where Is My Mate?

Chapter 4: Preparation of the Woman

How a woman prepares for marriage is different than how a man prepares for marriage. We can see how God prepares a woman for marriage from two women in the Bible. They are Esther and Rebekah. Let's look at the preparation of Esther.

(Est 2:12) Each young woman's turn came to go in to King Ahasuerus after she had completed twelve months' preparation, according to the regulations for the women, for thus were the days of their preparation apportioned: six months with oil of myrrh, and six months with perfumes and preparations for beautifying women.

Esther had to go through “days of preparation” As a woman of God you also must go through days of preparation! Ladies, how would you like to go to a one year spa! Esther did! I wonder why it took so long to get these ladies ready and smelling nice. Did they stink back then? They must have been slippery the time they got to the king with all that oil that got rubbed on them! Esther went through six months of oil of myrrh treatments. The oil of myrrh is symbolic and gives insight in how God wants a woman to prepare for marriage. Oil is a type of the Holy Spirit. Myrrh is a substance that was given to people to dull pain and alleviate suffering. Jesus was offered but refused wine mixed with myrrh at the cross to help dull the pain. **Mark 15:23** Six months of treatments of oil of myrrh speaks of God's desire to heal the wounds of a

woman's heart and to heal her emotional pain. Many women come to marriage emotionally wounded. Many are wounded by their fathers. Many women have been physically, emotionally, or sexually abused. These women need to have their wounds healed by God before they get married or their marriage will suffer. Such healing does not happen overnight. There must be a prolonged period where God gives treatments of oil of myrrh to a woman's heart. If these wounds are not healed then problems will crop up in marriage. There will often be emotional or physical distance between her and her husband and she will not know why. God desires to soothe and heal a woman's wounds with the oil of myrrh. Jesus came to heal the broken hearted. **Luke 4:18** A healthy marriage is the blending of two whole and healthy hearts. If one or both of the people in a marriage have broken hearts then the marriage will probably end up broken as well.

Next, Esther went through six months of perfume treatment. Perfume in the Bible speaks of worship, praise, and prayer. **Rev. 8:4** The incense that was burned in the Old Testament was nothing more than perfume! After a woman has had God heal her emotional wounds she needs to learn to give her entire heart to God in trust. Often women are emotionally hurt because they have looked to others for their security and love. When men have failed them they were hurt. God wants each of His daughters to learn to trust in Him to be their all in all. In this season of perfume a woman learns to worship God alone and to draw from God the love and acceptance that she was created to crave. These desires are not wrong; they just need to be received from God. The perfume preparation is necessary because in marriage the husband will not

always treat her like she needs to be treated. The husband will not always meet her every need. She needs to know that she can come to God to have all her needs met by God. She knows this because God did it when she was single! Often in marriage the husband and wife look to each other to meet each other's needs and draw from one another. It will not be long before the marriage is drained of life. If both people in a marriage will draw upon God each day and give to each other from what they received from the Lord, then the marriage will stay strong and full of life! The days of perfume are days of testing. Many women skip this stage and end up with the wrong man because they can't stand being single and do not trust God to meet their emotional needs. Don't skip this stage of preparation ladies. Fulfill all your prescribed days of perfume. It will pay off greatly in your marriage!

We also see how God prepares a woman for marriage in the person of Rebekah. Abraham sent out his servant to find Isaac a wife. Again, Abraham did not send Isaac out to search for his wife. He sent his trusted servant. This servant was also very wise. He decided to pick a wife for Isaac based more upon character than upon looks. He had a character test that a woman would have to pass to be Isaac's wife! I find that very few singles have character tests for a potential mate. Many only have one test. It is the breathing test! If they are breathing then that is good enough! You need more than just the breathing test! If your future mate passes the character test they will take your breath away! The servant had a character test for Isaac's future bride. The test was that she had to be willing to give him a drink and also water his camels. Now, it did not take much water to quench the

servant's thirst, but let me tell you that it took A LOT of water to quench the thirst of a camel. The biblical story mentions that the servant had camels [plural]! That would take a lot of work to water more than one camel! We see that the servant finally found the woman that passed the test in Rebecca.

Gen 24:14 Now let it be that the young woman to whom I say, 'Please let down your pitcher that I may drink,' and she says, 'Drink, and I will also give your camels a drink'--*let her be the one* You have appointed for Your servant Isaac. And by this I will know that You have shown kindness to my master."

Gen 24:15 And it happened, before he had finished speaking, that behold, Rebekah, who was born to Bethuel, son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother, came out with her pitcher on her shoulder.

Gen 24:16 Now the young woman *was* very beautiful to behold, a virgin; no man had known her. And she went down to the well, filled her pitcher, and came up.

Gen 24:17 And the servant ran to meet her and said, "Please let me drink a little water from your pitcher."

Gen 24:18 So she said, "Drink, my lord." Then she quickly let her pitcher down to her hand, and gave him a drink.

Gen 24:19 And when she had finished giving him a drink, she said, "I will draw *water* for your camels also, until they have finished drinking."

Rebekah was willing to give Abraham's servant some water but she did not stop there. She also offered to water his camels until they stopped drinking! She must have been heavily sweating by the time the last camel stopped drinking! Abraham's servant just stood there and watched her work with a smile on his face. He knew he had found the right woman for the young man Isaac! What was the test Abraham servant employed for Isaac's future wife? It was the **servant hearts test**! She had to have a servant's heart. This also is what God wants every wife and mother to have. To be the wife God wants you to be and the mother He intends you to be you must have a servant's heart! Feeding a hungry husband and taking care of children sometimes seems like watering a bunch of camels! Rebekah did this with an eager and willing heart! No one made her do it. She wanted to. Ladies, you need to learn to serve others. If you are not yet serving in your church by volunteering then pray and find a place. Start focusing on the needs around you and start helping others. Besides the oil of myrrh and the perfume preparations, a servant's heart preparation is key to being ready to meet your mate. If you are willing to water a camel for the Lord, then that camel will take you to your husband! Notice, that Rebekah watered all of the camels of Abraham's servant. She even watered the very camel that she rode on all the way back to where Isaac was! If she was not willing to water those camels, she would have never got to ride the camel that took her to her husband!

The last preparation we see in Rebekah is in learning to be led. Again, Abraham is a type of God the Father and the servant is a type of the Holy Spirit. Rebekah had to first believe the servant's report about

Isaac and then had to trust and follow the servant's guidance all the way back to where Isaac was. She was willing to follow.

Gen 24:56 And he said to them, "Do not hinder me, since the Lord has prospered my way; send me away so that I may go to my master."

Gen 24:57 So they said, "We will call the young woman and ask her personally."

Gen 24:58 Then they called Rebekah and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" And she said, "I will go."

Rebekah was willing to go with the servant. Women often are more sensitive to the leading of the Lord than men are. That is why the woman is often the one led to the man! I find that most of the times when a man and a woman meet that it is the woman who knows first that they will be married. This was the case with Rebekah.

Gen 24:64 Then Rebekah lifted her eyes, and when she saw Isaac she dismounted from her camel;

Gen 24:65 for she had said to the servant, "Who *is* this man walking in the field to meet us?" The servant said, "It *is* my master." So she took a veil and covered herself.

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

It was revealed to Rebekah first that Isaac was her mate. The servant [a type of the Spirit] told her that the man in the field was to be her husband. She then covered and hid herself. Ladies, if God tells you that a

certain man is going to be your husband you need to cover yourself and keep your mouth shut. If it was God, then God will also reveal it to the man in due time. Notice it says afterwards that the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. Isaac found out later.

Ladies you need to learn to follow the promptings of the Spirit in your heart. You need to learn to yield to them quickly. If you will allow God to take you through the preparations of the oil of myrrh, and of the perfumes, and of a servant's heart, and lastly of being led by the Spirit, God will surely lead you to your husband! Your man is waiting for you in the field where God has called him to!

Where Is My Mate?

Chapter 5: The Preparation of the Man

A man's preparation for marriage is different than for a woman. While a woman is being prepared by God for her husband, a man is being prepared by God for his wife. Now, a man's preparation is not as complicated as the woman's. He does not have as many areas of preparation. This is because guys can only handle one thing at a time! God keeps it pretty simple for the man so he does not mess things up! Ladies, the matter of the fact is, us guys need help! That is why God said that it is not good for the man to be alone because we need help! We see how God prepares a man for marriage in Isaac. In the last chapter we saw that Abraham sent out his servant to find a wife for Isaac. Well, in this chapter we see what Isaac was doing back at the ranch. Was he sitting around eating cheetos? Was he looking out his window with binoculars looking for a woman on the horizon? No, let's see what Isaac was doing.

Gen 24:63 And Isaac went out to meditate in the field in the evening; and he lifted his eyes and looked, and there, the camels *were* coming.

This verse tells us that Isaac went out in the field in the evening to meditate. Isaac went out to spend time with his God. He went out to meditate on God and to pray. He was focused on God at the time when his wife showed up. Notice he was in the field meditating and praying. What is the significance of the field?

(Pro 24:27) Prepare your outside work, Make it fit for yourself in the field; And afterward build your house.

The wisdom of proverbs shows how a man is to prepare for marriage. He is first to prepare his work outside and make it fit in the field. This means he needs to have a job before he gets married! The main preparation for a man is to find the gifts, calling, and field of work God for which He has called him. First a man must find where his gifts lay. This is a key to his destiny and calling. **God always gifts a man for the thing for which he is called to do!** I know what I am gifted at and what I am not gifted at. If you give me a hammer and a saw, I am about to get stupid! I am not gifted as a handy man. However, I am gifted as a minister. The question a man needs to ask himself is, "Am I working in the area of my gifting?" You need to be. Ask God to open up a job to you that you can use your gifts at. You need to know your calling as a man of God. What has God called you to? Again, your gift is a clue to your calling. Your gift will make room for you! **Prov. 18:16** Another key to your calling is what you are interested in. God will put an interest in the area that you are called to. Another word for your calling is your **FIELD!** What field of work has God called you? You need to find that field and start working in it. You need to develop your occupation or ministry before you build a house. Building a house refers to getting married and having children. The wisdom of Proverbs teaches that a man needs to prepare His work in the field first and then build his house. Isaac went out and was praying in his field. He was pondering over and praying over his business and the calling God had given to him. He

was not out searching for a mate. He was being faithful in his field that God had given to him, and God brought him a woman to that field! He happened to look up and saw the camels coming over the hill! Gentlemen, if you will find your gifts, and start fulfilling God's call on your life, then one day you will look up and see the camels coming over the hill! Your camels are coming! They are coming to the field God called you to. Are you in the field? If not, get there man! If you do not know where that field is, get on your face, and start seeking God! He will lead you to the field!

A woman is called to be a help mate for you man. However, if you are not using your gifts, or fulfilling your calling, or walking out your destiny, then you are giving nothing for the woman to help with! God is not going to waste his precious daughters on men who are clueless, directionless, or lazy! If you will find the field God has for you and start working it, then God will send you a help mate! Simply put, if you do not have a job, then you are not a candidate for marriage in God's eyes. God gave Adam a job before he ever made the woman and gave her to him. God made sure Adam was prepared for Eve before he prepared Eve for him. So, if you have been waiting for a long time for a help mate, check to see if you are in the right field!

The last thing I want to look at in the preparation of the man is found in Gen. 2:24

(Gen 2:24) Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

This verse teaches several important things for a man who is thinking about getting married. First it says

that a man must first leave his father and mother. This means that when you become a man you leave your father and mother's house. This means you move out on your own. If you consider yourself a man, then it is time to leave your parents house and start supporting yourself! I believe that if parents do the right job as parents that when a child graduates high school they should be ready to move out to go to college, or go into the military, or move out and find a job. Leaving implies that you can support yourself and eventually a wife and family. Guys, do you have a savings account? If you do not, then you are not preparing for marriage. A wife takes money! You should just name your savings account "wife account" because that is who is going to get that money when you get married! Guys do you know how to balance your check book? Do you even know where your check book is? A man who is preparing for marriage is preparing financially. Guys, are you in debt? If you are then get out of debt before you get married!

The next thing this verse tells a guy is that he is to "cleave" to his wife. Cleave in the Hebrew means to "glue to". The tendency of men in the fallen state is to not cleave to his wife. The natural flesh tendency of men is to let your eyes stray to greener grass on the other side of the fence. What you need to realize is that greener grass on the other side of the fence is either astro-turf (it is not what it appears to be), or you do not know what it is fertilized with, or it has to be mowed! A good marriage takes a lot of work! Being able to cleave to your wife means that your are committed to sexual purity in your marriage. Many young men have trouble with sexual sins. They are fooled into thinking that when they get married that all

these problems will just go away. They will not! You will just bring them into your marriage and possibly destroy your marriage. If you struggle with pornography or find yourself in bed with women before marriage you need to get serious with God and possibly get some counseling and find freedom before you get married. Guys, are you cleavable? If not, then God will not allow one of His daughters to be hurt by you.

So the men need to find their gifts, calling, and field. They need to start preparing financially and develop sexual purity in their lives. If a man will do these things, then your camels are on their way!

Where Is My Mate?

Chapter 6: What about Dating?

I find that most singles are searching for the right mate by the process of dating. Many singles approach dating like my wife approaches shopping for a dress. She tries on one dress after another until one looks and fits just right. Sometimes she will even go back to one she tried on earlier and put it on again! Likewise, many singles are going from one dating relationship to another trying to find the right fit! Before you go on your next date, I want you to see some things about the modern practice of dating.

The modern practice of dating that we see today actually is a new invention. Couples did not start to go out alone on dates on a regular basis until around the 1950's. What did couples do before that? Before dating couples went through what is called courtship. In courtship a couple spent time together with their family and friends. When a couple would go out it usually was in a public setting. Often dating involves getting together in private. In courtship a couple had an open relationship in which parents and friends could view the relationship and provide guidance and wisdom. Most dating relationships today are closed and exclusive from others.

There is a connection between the heart and the eyes. There is a tendency in relationships that when the heart is opened, the eyes close! Many couples become blinded to character flaws in another person when they are romantically involved with them. Allowing mature and respected individuals such as parents, spiritual advisors, and good friends to give

you input on your relationship will provide safety. This is why courtship is wise.

The modern practice of dating also promotes a relationship to move way too quickly. When a couple gets ready for a date, they will dress their best and worry about what they will do and say. The issues of whether there will be physical contact [i.e. hand holding, kissing] are contemplated. It is not uncommon now for couples to do the three “go to’s” on the first date. They will go to dinner, then they go to a movie, and then they go to bed! This should not be the case among Christians!

Dating often moves a relationship to a romantic and physical level from the very beginning. Once you become emotionally and physically attached to someone then it can really blind you to the faults in that person. Too many girls have given their heart away to a man just to find out that he was a real jerk! Too many guys became attached to a woman to find out that she was as shallow as a piece of paper! The fact of the matter is that relationships today tend to **move way too fast**. Too many couples give their heart away and find out later they have different values, aspirations, and callings in life. At that point they have a decision to make. Many decide to break up. Breaking up with someone causes a broken heart. Going from one break up to the next actually is practicing for divorce! When you learn to break up with dating relationships that don’t work out then it is a lot easier to end a marriage when it looks like it isn’t working out either! Breaking up before you get married is better than marrying someone that is wrong for you, but God has a better plan for you than going from one break up to another until you find the right person!

Dating also creates an artificial environment for evaluating a person. When a couple goes on a date they try to look their best. They watch what they say and do. They make themselves look as good as they can. They tend to hide their faults and negative traits. They put their best foot forward. Men will often spend above their normal means to impress a girl. A girl thinks that this is the norm. It will be until they get married! It is possible to keep up false impressions for a few months. Sad to say that is as long as it takes many couples to say I do in marriage. Once they get married the real person is revealed! I advise the singles I teach to wait at least one full year before getting married. It is important to see the person you are going to marry in all four seasons of life. It is very hard to hide your faults and negative traits for an entire year! I advise this even if you are convinced that this is “the one” for you. You still need to take your time and get to know “the one”. You are building a foundation for your marriage. Addressing problems before you get married makes your marriage more likely to succeed. Many marriages are failing today not because they were not “the one”, but because they could not work through problems! Many think having “the one” is the key to a successful marriage. It is not! The key to a successful marriage is being able to work through problems together. This is why I advise that single couples attend pre-marriage counseling and deal with problems in the relationship before you get married. Marriage intensifies problems in a relationship!

I don't advocate going from one romantic relationship to the next trying to find the right person to marry. The fact of the matter is that our modern dating practice does not work. The divorce rate rose

dramatically at the same time dating started in the 1950's! There is a connection between the two. Well, if dating does not work, then what does? I am glad you asked!

Instead of developing a romantic relationship, what works is building a **friendship**. Courtship is focused on building friendship before romance. By in large most couples skip building a friendship before they become romantic with each other. The friendship stage of a relationship involves sharing interests, commonalities, and values. Friendship is built upon what is shared in common and showing mutual respect. If you have nothing in common, then a friendship is not possible. The Bible says it this way,

(Amos 3:3) Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?

The book of Amos states that two can only walk together if they are agreed. This is friendship! If a couple will commit themselves to building a friendship before becoming romantic then it will save them a lot of heartache later. It takes a while to really develop a friendship. There are four stages to a friendship. Stage one is the acquaintance stage. This is where you have met someone and see them from time to time. You know their name and a few things about them. The next stage is the casual stage. Casual friends spend more time talking and may do things with one another from time to time. The next stage is the close stage. In this stage one shares more of their ideas, thoughts, and plans with another person. More details about their lives are shared and the amount of time spent together increases. The last stage is the intimate stage. In this

stage you bear your heart to another person. You share your dreams, your fears, and your hopes with them and you spend a lot of time together. Again, it takes time to develop an intimate friendship. However, many singles get physical right away and to coincide with the physical closeness they will open up their heart and become emotionally intimate right away as well. They will bear all their heart with someone they just met in an all night chat session! This is all before any true friendship has been established!

It takes maturity and character to hold off from becoming romantic with the opposite sex and develop a friendship first. It is possible to be attracted to a person and decide to work on a friendship first. It is possible to have desires for physical intimacy, but a mature person can keep them in check! I am not saying it is easy! Neither is marriage! You must be able to say no to yourself and be patient to develop a friendship first before romance. Many singles have trouble with this. Often single guys will pressure a woman to become physically intimate before marriage. This reveals a lack of character. It is important to know that the character it takes to wait to become physically intimate is the same character it takes to make a marriage work! If you lack character before you get married then you will lack the character to make a marriage work after you are married! Developing a friendship does not mean that you stop going out to movies, or to dinner, or other fun places with someone. It just means that instead pursuing a physical and romantic relationship, you place your focus on getting to know the other person spiritually and intellectually.

Often, God will bring two people together and they do not know it! This happened with me and my

wife. That is why it is important to cultivate friendships in your life. Your future mate might be closer than you think! Start with making acquaintances. Then move to casual friends. If you find commonalities with someone then slowly become closer. If over time there is a real connection and an interest in both parties then an intimate friendship should develop. There is no certain time in which you move from one stage to another. It is like a growing plant. It should just blossom over time naturally and unforced. It took over three years for me and my wife to move from friendship to where we talked about marriage. [I was a bit slow!] However, you cannot really go from acquaintance to intimate friends in a short time. Intimate friendship is born out of knowledge and experience. Both take time to acquire!

A great place to build friendships with the opposite sex is at church. Most churches provide many activities in which you can interact with the opposite sex in a group environment. Seeing how someone interacts with others is important and also helps the relationship grow more slowly and naturally and allows others to view the relationship and provide input. Once a friendship is established then there will come a time that a couple will sense that God is drawing them together for marriage. At this point they should make a deeper commitment to one another. I believe a couple should only become romantically involved and show physical affection to one another at the point of engagement. In biblical times a kiss meant betrothal. This was like our engagement! So ladies if a man wants to put his lips on yours, then make him put a ring on your finger first! There are no hard fast rules in the Bible about kissing, but kissing always takes a relationship to the next level. The important thing is

that you begin your relationship with friendship. Simply put, it will save yourself a lot of heartache if you wait to show physical affection until you are convinced you are with the one God and you want to marry and become engaged. Once there is a commitment for marriage romance has a foundation. Romance is very fickle. It comes and goes in a marriage. What makes a marriage strong is friendship. If a relationship is built on physical attraction alone then a marriage will not last. Build a strong foundation for your marriage and work on building friendship before romance. Your marriage partner should be your best friend!

So, instead of trying to find your mate by dating, you need to start praying for your future mate. Then you need to start preparing for you mate and trust God to bring you and your mate together and then work on building a friendship.

Where Is My Mate?

Chapter 7: My Story

The things that I have shared in this book are the things the Lord shared with me about singles. As I look back at being single myself, I see how the Lord took me and my wife through the process of preparation that He shared with me in this book. As I shared earlier, I would fluctuate between saying I wanted to be married and then saying I was going to be single all my life. God challenged me to be honest with my heart and to get into faith concerning a mate. I remember times as a single when I prayed for my mate. I must confess I should have done this on a regular basis. I did not know then what I know now! The one reading this book should not be ignorant now about this either! God also took me through a process where he redirected my focus from looking for a mate to preparing for my mate. As a young man I remember constantly looking and praying for a mate. Every time I would see a pretty girl I would wonder, “Could she be my mate?” It really got into bondage. I was so focused on looking for my mate. I did not want to miss her! I started teaching singles in 1995. I remember wondering if each new girl that joined my class was “the one”. Finally, God got through to me to stop worrying about finding my mate and just start loving Him and serving Him with the gifts he gave me. I just decided that I would faithfully serve Him in the place He had opened to me. So, I gave myself fully to seek God and to use my gift of teaching. I did this for a few years. One day I looked up and my future wife came through the door of my singles class. My lovely wife,

Joann was led by the Lord to visit my class. I must confess that I did not know at that time that she was my wife. Joann just was a faithful member of my class. She was quiet and sweet. She was the epitome of what Peter talked about in his letter when he said that a woman should have a quiet and peaceable spirit. **1 Peter 3:4.** Joann and I became friends. We simply enjoyed being friends for a few years before God opened my eyes that I was supposed to marry her! Joann had been prepared by God to meet me. She was from back east but followed the Lord's call to ORU. She then followed the Lord to the church we now attend. She then followed the Lord to my class. Then finally, she followed the Lord in marrying me. We now are following the Lord together in the plan he has for the two of us. We both married for the first time later in life, but it was worth the wait! She has been prepared for me and I was for her! Marriage takes work, but it is much easier work when each one has been prepared properly for the other! From personal experience I know what the Lord has shared with me in this book works and it works well. I have a wonderful marriage to a wonderful wife. My prayer is that you to will allow God to prepare you for your mate. If you will start praying for your mate and start preparing for your mate, then God will do His part! It will be all to His glory. Amen.

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