

Samson's Women

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The Old Testament Judge Samson is an important person of faith to a Christian (Hebrews 11:32). He is known for his great strength, but also for his great weakness: women. In Judges 14, Samson sought for a wife among the Philistines. In reading chapter 14 we find out that this daughter of the Philistines was chosen for her looks. She was a worshipper of other gods, and as such was not given to his life purpose. In other words, this was a terrible decision, one which Manoah (Samson's father) lamented.

This lesson is all about choosing the right mate. If we want this important decision (indeed, the second most important decision in life, after our decision to follow Christ) to be made, we need to ask important questions. 1. Why we want a spouse? 2. Why we need a Godly mate? 3. How to learn about their character?

Why You Should Want A Spouse

There are right reasons and wrong reasons to seek to be married. The right reasons are God's reasons. In Genesis 2:18 God said it is not good for a man/person to be alone; this is a spiritual observation. The reason we ought to have a life partner is the value in spiritually enabling each other (1 Peter 3:1). When we consider the wrong reasons, Samson's reason comes to mind: physical attraction (Proverbs 31:30). Sometimes people want to get married because they see everyone else doing it; God was angry when Israel sought a king for such a reason (1 Samuel 8:19-20). Such is a poor reason to seek a spouse.

Why You Should Want A GODLY Spouse

Marriage is a partnership which is in its purpose meant to help each other get to heaven by enabling spiritual choices. This is what defines a successful marriage. In Scripture we see godly spouses enable one another (Ruth & Boaz, Manoah & his wife, Mary & Joseph). More enlightening are the negative examples, where one or both spouses had no spiritual ability to enable, and led one or both to destruction (Ahab and Jezebel, Nabal and Abigail, Ananias and Sapphira).

How You Can Find A GODLY SPOUSE

Finding a Godly spouse is accomplished in our society by dating & courtship. Therefore, the rules of Christian dating are of utmost importance to this vital decision. Solomon had a great deal to teach about dating:

1. Do not awaken love until it is ready (Song of Solomon 2:7, 3:5, 8:4) – Don't go looking for a spouse until the time is right. Solomon said in Proverbs 24:27 that a man should plow his field before building his house; this advice means that a man needs to have a profession to support a family before he starts one. We should let God have His time in finding our spouse.
2. Guard your heart (Proverbs 4:23, Song of Solomon 8:5) – Today it is fashionable to "fall in love" at the drop of a hat. But Scripture says this is foolish and dangerous. We need to guard our hearts (i.e. not simply allow emotional attachments to form to every person we encounter). We need

to hold our emotional commitment to people of value. Otherwise, there is only hurt on the horizon.

3. Only date someone you would marry (2 Corinthians 6:14) – if love is something we should not play with, this infers we ought to only pursue people who would enable us spiritually. In other words, only date someone that you would marry. Many people date rather loosely, as though they are “playing the field”. Such is not wise; on many occasions people have formed attachments to men or women whom they knew would not make good spouses, and are now married to someone in a marriage that is spiritually unsuccessful.

4. Make no opportunity for sin (Romans 13:14) – dating involves a close proximity that often stirs desire. Even if we are prepared to marry someone, sexual relations before marriage are sinful, and have dangerous consequences (Proverbs 6:27, 1 Corinthians 6:18). We need to observe an etiquette in courtship that makes no opportunity to fulfill fleshly desires. A marriage bed that is pure is blessed by God (Hebrews 13:4).

Conclusions

Samson leaves us some very important principles towards selecting a spouse. 1. Choose a spouse for the right reasons. 2. Choose spiritually enabling relationships. 3. Use Christian relationship standards