

Couples In Bloom – How Is Your Love Life?

October 2010

We encourage couples to embrace God's design for marriage, including the fact that marriage is a holy but temporary shadow of the permanent picture of intimacy with God. We feel we would be grossly amiss to leave the Creator of marriage out of the marriage discipleship process. We hope the following message motivates new depths of intimacy.

How is your love life with God? If we are married, we may spend over 50 years with our spouse. Think of all the good we invest during that time. As the Bride of Christ, we will spend *eternity* with our Bridegroom! Our earthly spouse will be there (hopefully), but as part of *God's* bride. How *engaged* are we in this much *greater* relationship today?

Matthew 25:1-12 ⇒ “Then shall the kingdom of Heaven be likened to ten virgins, who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. The foolish ones took their lamps, but took no oil with them. But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom comes! Go out to meet him. Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, Give us some of your oil, for our lamps have gone out. But the wise answered, saying, No, lest there be not enough for us and you. But rather go to those who sell, and buy for yourselves. And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came. And they who were ready went in with him to the marriage, and the door was shut. Afterwards the other virgins came also, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answered and said, Truly I say to you, I do not **know** you.” *What does this scripture mean for us?*

What made the virgins foolish? Draw your own conclusion: ‘foolish’ translates *dull* or *stupid*, *maybe from an evil oath*; virginity represents purity in Christ; Jewish weddings had ten witnesses / virgins; oil represents the Holy Spirit / anointing; God and Jesus are seated in the heaven... it is the Holy Spirit who is now on the earth for us to **relate** to and who **relates** to us. Other scriptures say why God tells some people, “I do not **know** you.”

Notice the longing in God's heart to have intimacy with us, seen in His questions:

- Malachi 1:6 ⇒ *Where is My honor?*
- Matthew 26:40 ⇒ *Could you not watch with Me one hour?*
- Genesis 3:9 ⇒ *Where are you?*
- Matthew 26:50 ⇒ *Why are you here?*
- Matthew 14:31 ⇒ *Why did you doubt?*
- Mark 10:18 ⇒ *Why do you call me good?*
- John 20:15 ⇒ *Whom do you seek?*

God **created relationships** and deserves intimacy *more* than anyone else. He is our **hero** and **loves** to be with us. **Communication**, **romance**, and **intimacy** all originated with **HIM**, not with humans or Hollywood. **Why do we raise such personal topics?!** Two reasons: 1) **to testify** where credit is due to this lost world that **GOD** created everything good, and 2) **to help** people take ownership of the intimacy **they want** and **GOD deserves**.

Isaiah 65:17 ⇒ “For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.” **Love** our eternal Lover and Creator **now**, and not just His temporary creation. Foolish virgins neglect **the very reason they exist!**

Attention wise virgins: come celebrate the Bridegroom! ♥ Loren & Kathy Falzone