

## CouplesInBloom.com – Forsaking For What?

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“From this time many of His disciples went away into the things behind, and no longer walked with Him” ⇒ John 6:66. **At what cost would we stop trusting God?** People who saw Him do miracles right before their very eyes stopped trusting Him after He said this: ‘Your (selfish definition of) humanity has zero value. Life and spirit come from Me’ ⇒ John 6:63. Intimacy with God and in marriage must define humanity as other-centered.

Read John chapter 6. Jesus exposed hidden trust limits of His followers with a parable. Those who fully trusted Jesus replied, ‘**We do not understand but we’ll trust anyway**’ and **kept following Him to find out what they had yet to learn about** ⇒ John 6:68-69. Those whose humanity felt more important than God’s divinity got offended and left.

**God is speaking the same prioritizing parable today... just in different ways.** When God sees we motivationally hold a blessing dearer than we hold Him, His love for us allows us *loss*, which in turn prompts us to cry out to Him. **The important lesson: CRY OUT FOR HIM, NOT FOR WHAT WAS LOST.** If we cry out for what we lost, we will be crying for a long time without receiving because we missed the point: **HIM!** God wants US and our heartfelt intimacy. He will do everything to help keep us **HIS**:

- Zechariah 8:2 ⇒ “So says Jehovah of Hosts: I was **JEALOUS** for Zion with great **JEALOUSY**, and I was jealous for her with great wrath.”

- 2 Corinthians 11:2 ⇒ “For I am **JEALOUS** over you with a **JEALOUSY** of God. For I have promised you to one Man, to present you a pure virgin to Christ.”

These are two of many verses that show intimate marriage characteristics having their origin in relationship with God. **How does this prioritizing parable relate to marriage?**

Loss happens in marriage relationships: decreases in romance, time and effort invested, intimate desire, caring, sharing, prayer and fasting, discipleship, having fun, many things. Typical responses are, ‘you don’t romance me like you used to’ or ‘you don’t smile at me anymore.’ Unfortunately, these comments alone prioritize what was lost *over* the spouse. It is saying, “What I consider important is MORE important than who you are.”

You may retort, “*But I didn’t say that!*” Consider this: the first thing out of your mouth *was* **what** you lost, **not** **who** you love. Therefore, *you* tipped the scale towards selfishness. It is better to come from Peter’s perspective ⇒ John 6:68-69 which **values the person**:

1. “Lord” his first word **honored** the person within their intimate relationship.
2. “to whom shall we go?” his first sentence states the person’s **exclusivity**.
3. “You have...” he states good the other **has**, not a description of what is missing.
4. “We believe and know that you...” he states his **trust** in the very midst of distrust.

Here is how we can apply Peter’s perspective to our intimate relationship of marriage:

1. “Honey” the first word **honors** the person within their intimate relationship.
2. “You are my one and only” the first sentence states the person’s **exclusivity**.
3. “You have...” state good the other **has**, not a description of what is missing.
4. “I believe and know that you love me” state **trust** in the very midst of your loss.

**Now** build needed blessings on **this** foundation of loving **who** you love! ♥ Loren Falzone