

Preparation for Godly Marriage Part 2

“5 Build ye houses, and dwell in them; and plant gardens, and eat the fruit of them; 6 Take ye wives, and beget sons and daughters; and take wives for your sons, and give your daughters to husbands, that they may bear sons and daughters; that ye may be increased there, and not diminished.” (Jeremiah 29:5-6 KJV)

“9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.” (1 Peter 2:9 KJV)

We continue in this message to speak about the preparation for Godly marriage and we will continue our discussion in point **V. God gave responsibility and authority to the man:**

Man has a responsibility inside the family as well as the woman. Man is to work and provide, the woman is to do the work inside the house and care for the children and raise them and discipline them in the fear of the Lord. That is their job description for the man and woman. Those who are preparing themselves for marriage should be aware of what life of marriage is and what family is all about. The Word of God is the highest authority over the husband and the wife inside the family. Both of them should be governed by it, keep instructed by God's Word, and not to be independent of one another or from God's Word, to maintain harmony between themselves and God as we can read here:

“3 But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God. 8 For the man is not of the woman: but the woman of the man. 9 Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man. 11 Nevertheless neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord. 12 For as the woman is of the man, even so is the man also by the woman; but all things of God.” (1 Corinthians 11:3, 8-9, 11-12 KJV) As man is important to lead the family, the same is the woman, she is important to help the man. As the woman was created from the man and for the man, the man also created from the woman (through pregnancy and birth) and for the woman (to marry her and lead her), but all things from God, and no pride to anyone of them in that; for both of them, they are created to achieve the purpose of God.

In the story of Christ's Birth, we can see how the Lord directed both of them before and after marriage. God sent His angel to Mary to inform her that she was chosen to be pregnant by the Holy Ghost with the Son of God and she will call her child Jesus, *“26 And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, 27 To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. 28 And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. 29 And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. 30 And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. 31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. 32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: 33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. 34 Then said Mary unto*

the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? 35 And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. 36 And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. 37 For with God nothing shall be impossible. 38 And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.” (Luke 1:26-38 KJV) The Lord spoke to her here and informed her directly about the details of the next stage of her life. Mary accepted the task to be God's servant and to do what God instructed her to do.

The Lord also spoke to Joseph in a dream and commissioned him to marry Mary, informing him that what she was pregnant with was from the Holy Ghost, and he told him to name the child Jesus, *“18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. 19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily. 20 But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. 21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. 22 Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, 23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. 24 Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: 25 And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.” (Matthew 1:18-25 KJV)* Joseph was a just man and was prepared to have a family. God explained to him from the Scripture in details of what is going on; that Mary was pregnant by the Holy Ghost according to God's promise, *“Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.” (Isaiah 7:14 KJV)* Joseph obeyed God and did exactly what God needed him to do.

After marriage, and as it is recorded in the Scriptures, God was directing the important affairs of this family through dreams. There are three more dreams recorded and as the followings:

A. A dream warning Joseph to escape to Egypt to protect the child from Herod: *“13 And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him. 14 When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt. 15 And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son.” (Matthew 2:13-15 KJV)* God explained here to Joseph this movement based on the Scriptures, *“When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt.” (Hosea 11:1 KJV)*

B. A dream instructing Joseph to go back to Israel after the death of Herod: *“19 But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, 20 Saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead which sought the young child's life. 21 And he arose, and took the young child and his mother, and came into the land of Israel.” (Matthew 2:19-21 KJV)*

C. A dream in which God redirected Joseph not to go to Judaea but to move to Galilee to protect the child and the family from persecution: “22 But when he heard that Archelaus did reign in Judaea in the room of his father Herod, he was afraid to go thither: notwithstanding, being warned of God in a dream, he turned aside into the parts of Galilee: 23 And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a Nazarene.” (Matthew 2:22-23 KJV) “1 And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots.” (Isaiah 11:1 KJV); a prophecy owned by the Jews themselves to belong to the Messiah, and which was now fulfilled in Jesus; who as he was descended from Jesse’s family, so by dwelling at Nazareth, he would appear to be, and would **“be called a Nazarene”,** or Netzer, the branch; being an inhabitant of Natzareth, or Netzer, so called from the multitude of plants and trees that grew there; **“a Nazarene”,** as one commentator says, ‘is one that is born in the city Netzer, which is said to be in the land of Galilee, three days journey distant from Jerusalem.’ So the family of Joseph reached here the city of Nazareth in fulfillment of the Scriptures.

In the three dreams that are recorded in the Scriptures, God spoke to Joseph and not to Mary. Joseph led Mary and she willingly led by him, and the family went smoothly through the trials and the ministry and the church continued. **The point here is that God is keen to keep the order inside the family, that the man should be the head of the wife and he is the one whose head is Christ, and need to lead the family to achieve the purpose of God.**

Paul wrote the following in describing his right, **“5 Have we not power to lead about a sister, a wife, as well as other apostles, and as the brethren of the Lord, and Cephas?” (1 Corinthians 9:5 KJV)** Paul did not say that he has the right to marry a wife, but **“power to lead about a sister, a wife.”**

The Greek Word that he used for ‘power’ is ‘exousia’, and the meaning of it can be the power of him whose will and commands must be submitted to by others and obeyed. So regarding marriage, the rule of the man is to lead a sister in the Lord into the will of God and the commands of God. **In preparation for Godly marriage, the man and woman need to prepare themselves to obey such vital truth. The man should be ready to lead his family, provide for them, and manage their affairs. The woman should be ready to be led by the man and not to live independently of him. A good number of men are not willing to lead and they want the wife to lead them and that is failing God. As well as, many women want to lead and go ahead of their husbands and in that they create disharmony and confusion in the family.**

Many men when their wives do as such because they do not want to stand firm and rebuke their wives, you find them moving away from God as Adam moved away from serving God and accomplishing His purpose. When a woman refuses to be led by her husband she is sinning. The worse of that is when the man refuses to offend his wife because he fears her anger and wants to please her.

Man preparing himself for marriage needs to realize and come to the point of maturity that after marriage he needs to be accountable to lead and care for his wife and family. True, the wife is the help meet for man, but that fact should not be abused by the man. The Word of God tells us the following, **“7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs**

together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.” (1 Peter 3:7 KJV) Husbands should know a fact that their wives are the weaker vessels. They are the help meet for them, but they have a certain capacity to bear the pressure of life; they are less in strength physically, mentally, and spiritually. Therefore, husbands should not put responsibilities on their wives more than what they can bear, otherwise, time will come, that they will break down, and troubles will start inside the family.

*** When wives are given more responsibilities than what is allocated to them, they will first get exhausted, second, they will start to have pride, third they will doubt why they need to submit themselves to their husbands, being their heads but are not doing their part, fourth they will get frustrated, react and might break down. * Husbands should realize that wives have a certain capacity to bear with them the pressure of life; when that load will exceed more than their capacity, then they will be liable to break down, and the fault will not be on the wives but on the husbands who abused them.**

It is the same when you hire a worker for a certain job but once he joins, you will ask him or her to do other works and more of what he or she agreed with you. He may bear with you for a certain time, but what you are doing is injustice and is abuse, and finally, he might depart from you. **Wives who are put with many responsibilities are liable to fail under the pressure and finally got broken.** And we should not forget that wives are the partners of their husbands in the grace of God to receive eternal life, **“and as being heirs together of the grace of life.” (1 Peter 3:7 KJV)**

If wives are abused, they will be hurt, and they may start to do evil. Therefore, the Lord will not be happy with their husbands because they had overloaded their wives, and in return to that, their prayers will be hindered and will not be answered by the Lord who had warned husbands to do well to their wives so their prayers will not be hindered: **“That your prayers be not hindered.” (1 Peter 3:7 KJV)**

Husbands should work and earn, manage the affairs and the transactions of the family outside the house. Husbands should be also responsible to hold and manage their finances. **Wife who works and earns should submit her salary and income to her husband who is responsible to hold and manage their finances. That is in general, but in a certain time the woman will be given certain limited freedom to keep some money with her that she can use for certain noble purposes to support her family as we can read here when she will buy food from far places with less cost, “14 She is like the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food from afar.” (Proverbs 31:14 KJV), and when she will buy a field to plant it, “16 She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard.” (Proverbs 31:16 KJV)** Women who stay home can do good useful things that they can sell, **“24 She maketh fine linen, and selleth it; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant.” (Proverbs 31:24 KJV)** Some of them are good in business and can help in income while they are home by selling house-made food, clothes, confectionery, bread, cookies, etc. **“18 She perceiveth that her merchandise is good: her candle goeth not out by night.” (Proverbs 31:18 KJV)**

With all these transactions and activities in pertain to finances woman should not act independently from her husband, but need to inform him and take permission from him in doing all these things. The man also, who is responsible for holding the finances for the family should be open and transparent to his wife and inform her and update her about the situation of the finances of the family.

My Dear and Beloved: Wives are responsible for the affairs of the family inside the house; they work inside the house caring for the children, watching them as watchmen, and caring for the affair of the whole household inside the house. They are responsible for the activities of cooking, cleaning, washing clothes, ironing, and other chores and needs inside the house, while the husbands are earning the living for the family outside the house. The husband is the one to link his family with the life of the surrounding world and with God's church. Husbands are also responsible to teach their wives and children from God's Word the ways of God and giving them clear guidelines and instructions on how to manage the daily activities inside the house.

Come now to God and reflect on the message that we received today about the responsibilities of the man and the woman inside the family, and start to apply in your life, in pertain to preparation for Godly marriages if you are still single and in pertain to family life if you are married and having a family. Let us pray

My Prayer: Father God, I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word that teaches me my responsibilities in pertain to the preparation for Godly marriage and how to live a family life pleasant to you. Lord thank you for the good plan that you have for me, and thank you for the teaching, the corrections and the admonishments that I received from this message.

Confess and renounce all your sins. Confess and renounce your lack of physical and spiritual preparations and your lack of resources but inspite of that you went for marriage. Confess and renounce your non willingness as man to lead your wife and you are afraid of her to correct her. Confess and renounce your non willingness to obey your husband and submit to him. Confess and renounce your bad stewardship and your lack of saving and your inefficiency to handle finances. Confess and renounce your lack of the fruit of the Holy Spirit to keep love, peace, joy, gentleness, kindness, humility, patience and perseverance inside the atmosphere of the family. Confess and renounce you are not willing to stand for God and do your responsibility well that God gave you as man to lead your family and children to do His will. Confess and renounce being a man not willing to work and provide for your family. Confess and renounce being a woman that you are not doing your responsibilities inside the house. Confess and renounce doing your own will and plan and not the will nor the plan of God, especially in pertain to marriage. Confess your lack of reading God's Word and your lack of prayers, and your lack of daily family worship. Confess and renounce your yoke with non believers, having many friends and in bondage with the Media. Confess and renounce your bad example and your non willingness to serve God and suffer for Him. Lord forgive me, I repent of the following sins _____.

Lord I commit myself to serve you and to live my life according to your plan and will for me and according to the teaching that we received in this message. Lord I am willing to go through the process of discipleship in pertain to preparation for Godly marriage to prepare myself for the kind of marriage and the family life that you had prepared for me.

Lord thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented of their sins, humbled themselves and committed to live according to your will and follow your plan for them and the teaching

that we received in this message in pertain to preparation for Godly marriage and family life. Lord equip them to accomplish the task that is ahead of them to do.

Lord, bless us as your church, and continue to raise people and make them mature to be willing to apply the teaching about the responsibilities of the man and woman inside the family. Lord lead us to people who are in need of this teaching of your Word. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the spiritual gifts that we need in order to go on and evangelize, and make new disciples and train new workers to go and plant new Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord we pray for more people to get water baptized and receive the Holy Spirit baptism. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God.' Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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