

The Right Time for Marriage Part 1

***“1 To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.”
(Ecclesiastes 3:1 KJV)***

In this topic, we will be going to discuss the right time for marriage. Therefore, for this reason, we will discuss the marriage of Joseph the son of Jacob in Egypt, and the marriage of David while he was under Saul’s leadership.

1. The marriage of Joseph the son of Jacob: “41 And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, See, I have set thee over all the land of Egypt. 42 And Pharaoh took off his ring from his hand, and put it upon Joseph's hand, and arrayed him in vestures of fine linen, and put a gold chain about his neck; 43 And he made him to ride in the second chariot which he had; and they cried before him, Bow the knee: and he made him ruler over all the land of Egypt. 44 And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, I am Pharaoh, and without thee shall no man lift up his hand or foot in all the land of Egypt. 45 And Pharaoh called Joseph's name Zaphnathpaaneah; and he gave him to wife Asenath the daughter of Potipherah priest of On. And Joseph went out over all the land of Egypt. 46 And Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh, and went throughout all the land of Egypt. 47 And in the seven plentiful years the earth brought forth by handfuls. 48 And he gathered up all the food of the seven years, which were in the land of Egypt, and laid up the food in the cities: the food of the field, which was round about every city, laid he up in the same. 49 And Joseph gathered corn as the sand of the sea, very much, until he left numbering; for it was without number. 50 And unto Joseph were born two sons before the years of famine came, which Asenath the daughter of Potipherah priest of On bare unto him. 51 And Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh: For God, said he, hath made me forget all my toil, and all my father's house. 52 And the name of the second called he Ephraim: For God hath caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction.” (Genesis 41:41-52 KJV)

As you know that Joseph was sold by his brothers to the Ishmeelites who took him down to Egypt and sold him to an Egyptian, as you read, ***“1 And Joseph was brought down to Egypt; and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him of the hands of the Ishmeelites, which had brought him down thither.” (Genesis 39:1 KJV)*** The Lord was with Joseph and he prospered. The Lord also blessed the household of the Egyptian man because of Joseph. The blessing of the LORD was on everything Potiphar had, both in the house and in the field. So Potiphar left everything he had in Joseph’s care; with Joseph in charge, he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate. In spite of all that honor the Lord bestowed on Joseph, he was still a slave and under a master that he was accountable to.

Speaking about the proper time of marriage, at this stage of Joseph’s life, although God was with him but he was still a slave and not yet stable and settled, and it would not be a proper time for him to get married. The Word of God telling us the following: ***“2 And the LORD was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian.” (Genesis 39:2 KJV)*** ***“The LORD was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man”***, but at that time God did not give Joseph a wife. Why? Because Joseph was not yet ready and he was not well settled for marriage. **Many people while they are under certain**

pressure and restrain they will go forward and bound themselves with marriage while they are still slave and bond with many restrictions of work pressure, financial constraints, debts, parents responsibilities, unstable political situations, fear of wars, actual wars, hectic national economic conditions, and all these will add more pressure and troubles on their marriages.

At this stage Joseph was young and was handsome, he was also threatened by his master’s wife who took notice of him, ***“7 And it came to pass after these things, that his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me. 8 But he refused, and said unto his master's wife, Behold, my master wotteth not what is with me in the house, and he hath committed all that he hath to my hand; 9 There is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back any thing from me but thee, because thou art his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God? 10 And it came to pass, as she spake to Joseph day by day, that he hearkened not unto her, to lie by her, or to be with her. 11 And it came to pass about this time, that Joseph went into the house to do his business; and there was none of the men of the house there within. 12 And she caught him by his garment, saying, Lie with me: and he left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out.” (Genesis 39:7-12 KJV)*** Joseph in spite of all this pressure and temptation he did not fall into sin because his mind was clear. The following was what in his mind that contributed to his stability toward that particular temptation:

- A. Sex is only for married people.
- B. No marriage unless he is well stable and settled.

Many people marry early because of temptations or driven by lust, but not yet the proper time for them to marry. Marriage would become ultimately the scapegoat of their temptations and lust. They marry at the wrong timing and with the wrong partner just as a result of temptation or sin.

Joseph in Potiphar house was promoted but yet he was still a servant; he was not yet settled and he was not in a stable condition or in a position for marriage. **Most of the temptations and trial to marry early in age is in this period. It is a false safe period to think about marriage.** Some persons other than Joseph might be tempted to think about marriage but that was not the right time for him.

- **Many when they will marry they will say I want to settle. But true settlement should happen at the right time and when things are well prepared and in God’s will.**
- **The settlement should precede marriage, because marriage itself will not bring settlement.**
- **If there is no settlement then there is no platform for marriage.**

If you will read further in **Genesis 39** then you will conclude that the position of Joseph in that house was not stable: ***“13 And it came to pass, when she saw that he had left his garment in her hand, and was fled forth, 14 That she called unto the men of her house, and spake unto them, saying, See, he hath brought in an Hebrew unto us to mock us; he came in unto me to lie with me, and I cried with a loud voice: 15 And it came to pass, when he heard that I lifted up my voice and cried, that he left his garment with me, and fled, and got him out. 16 And she laid up his garment by her, until his lord came home. 17 And she spake unto him according to these words, saying, The Hebrew servant, which thou hast***

brought unto us, came in unto me to mock me: 18 And it came to pass, as I lifted up my voice and cried, that he left his garment with me, and fled out. 19 And it came to pass, when his master heard the words of his wife, which she spake unto him, saying, After this manner did thy servant to me; that his wrath was kindled. 20 And Joseph's master took him, and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were bound: and he was there in the prison.” (Genesis 39:13-20 KJV) Therefore although God was with Joseph and he prospered, yet being in that house was not the right time for him to marry, to have a wife, and got settled with a family.

Those who marry in wrong timing, earlier than what God had ordained, when they are not yet settled or stable, their marriages and families will go into turmoil. That is why you find many who are married at the wrong timing their marriages and families are suffering. Joseph if he had married while he was in Potiphar's house and later on would he be put in jail, then his marriage and family would suffer much, and what will be happening to the wife and the children? Therefore you need to understand that there is a perfect time and stable condition for you to get married, and you need to wait till that time to come.

II. The marriage of David the son of Jesse: King David got married while he was not yet settled and stable. He got married while he was under the leadership of Saul who was tracking him to harm him. His first marriage failed and David ends up with multiple marriages.

“17 And Saul said to David, Behold my elder daughter Merab, her will I give thee to wife: only be thou valiant for me, and fight the LORD's battles. For Saul said, Let not mine hand be upon him, but let the hand of the Philistines be upon him. 18 And David said unto Saul, Who am I? and what is my life, or my father's family in Israel, that I should be son in law to the king? 19 But it came to pass at the time when Merab Saul's daughter should have been given to David, that she was given unto Adriel the Meholathite to wife. 20 And Michal Saul's daughter loved David: and they told Saul, and the thing pleased him. 21 And Saul said, I will give him her, that she may be a snare to him, and that the hand of the Philistines may be against him. Wherefore Saul said to David, Thou shalt this day be my son in law in the one of the twain. 22 And Saul commanded his servants, saying, Commune with David secretly, and say, Behold, the king hath delight in thee, and all his servants love thee: now therefore be the king's son in law. 23 And Saul's servants spake those words in the ears of David. And David said, Seemeth it to you a light thing to be a king's son in law, seeing that I am a poor man, and lightly esteemed? 24 And the servants of Saul told him, saying, On this manner spake David. 25 And Saul said, Thus shall ye say to David, The king desireth not any dowry, but an hundred foreskins of the Philistines, to be avenged of the king's enemies. But Saul thought to make David fall by the hand of the Philistines. 26 And when his servants told David these words, it pleased David well to be the king's son in law: and the days were not expired. 27 Wherefore David arose and went, he and his men, and slew of the Philistines two hundred men; and David brought their foreskins, and they gave them in full tale to the king, that he might be the king's son in law. And Saul gave him Michal his daughter to wife. 28 And Saul saw and knew that the LORD was with David, and that Michal Saul's daughter loved him. 29 And Saul was yet the more afraid of David; and Saul became David's enemy continually.” (1 Samuel 18:17-29 KJV) David was eager to get married. He was motivated to go and kill Goliath because he was told that the king had promised to give his daughter to the one who kills Goliath. “25 And the men of Israel said, Have ye seen this man that is come up? surely to defy Israel is he come up: and it shall be, that the man who killeth him, the king will enrich him with great riches, and will give him

his daughter, and make his father's house free in Israel. 26 And David spake to the men that stood by him, saying, What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine, and taketh away the reproach from Israel? for who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God? 27 And the people answered him after this manner, saying, So shall it be done to the man that killeth him.” (1 Samuel 17:25-27 KJV) David killed Goliath but he did not take seriously that Saul is jealous of him. David did not consider Saul's attempt to kill him, “6 And it came to pass as they came, when David was returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, that the women came out of all cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet king Saul, with tabrets, with joy, and with instruments of musick. 7 And the women answered one another as they played, and said, Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands. 8 And Saul was very wroth, and the saying displeased him; and he said, They have ascribed unto David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed but thousands: and what can he have more but the kingdom? 9 And Saul eyed David from that day and forward. 10 And it came to pass on the morrow, that the evil spirit from God came upon Saul, and he prophesied in the midst of the house: and David played with his hand, as at other times: and there was a javelin in Saul's hand. 11 And Saul cast the javelin; for he said, I will smite David even to the wall with it. And David avoided out of his presence twice.” (1 Samuel 18:6-11 KJV) David was eager to get married but he did not consider that this was not the right time for him to marry, for he was still not yet settled, and he was threatened by Saul who ultimately was using his daughters to trap David. Saul first offered him his elder daughter Merab but he tricked him, “19 But it came to pass at the time when Merab Saul's daughter should have been given to David, that she was given unto Adriel the Meholathite to wife.” (1 Samuel 18:19 KJV) David with such should be aware that Saul had a bad intention toward him, and he should avoid him and move away from him. But David with his desire to marry made him susceptible to be tempted again by Saul when he used his daughter Michal who loved David to trap him in giving her to him as a wife. In addition to that David was a poor man and he was not ready materially for marriage as he said, “23 And David said, Seemeth it to you a light thing to be a king's son in law, seeing that I am a poor man.” (1 Samuel 18:23 KJV) Upon what David said, Saul did not request money, but a hundred foreskins of the Philistines. “25 And Saul said, Thus shall ye say to David, The king desireth not any dowry, but an hundred foreskins of the Philistines, to be avenged of the king's enemies. But Saul thought to make David fall by the hand of the Philistines.” (1 Samuel 18:25 KJV) When David heard that, as he was eager to marry, he went and killed two hundred men instead of one hundred and brought their foreskins to the king. “26 And when his servants told David these words, it pleased David well to be the king's son in law: and the days were not expired. 27 Wherefore David arose and went, he and his men, and slew of the Philistines two hundred men; and David brought their foreskins, and they gave them in full tale to the king, that he might be the king's son in law. And Saul gave him Michal his daughter to wife.” (1 Samuel 18:26-27 KJV)

Many youths, like David, are eager to marry without being prepared well, without sufficient circumstances for settlement, without sufficient finances, and they marry a partner without God's approval.

My Dear and Beloved: Paul said to Timothy, “22 Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.” (2 Timothy 2:22 KJV) David should exercised self-control to control his desire to marry which was a Godly desire but it was at a wrong time and with wrong people. **Marriage should bring**

blessing in forming a new family but marriages done in wrong timing will be with wrong partners and will bring troubles to those who were got involved with.

* Now examine yourself and see if you are in stable condition and well prepared to go for marriage. * Do you have enough finances and stable job that you can support a family? * Are you free and under no one control that you can take care of your family after marriage or you are threaten every now and then with financial problems, evil people, political situations or enemies and so your marriage will be easily attacked and caused you separation? * Do not think that the pressure you are passing through from your emotions, hardship in life, financial constrains will improve after marriage, but instead will become worse if you are not prepared. * Don't make marriage a scapegoat of your troubles. If you are having difficulty to manage your own personal life with fewer resources that now you have, after marriage this pressure will be more and things will go worse. * There is a time for everything; therefore you need to have self-control, and to be patience so you can wait upon God till he come and relief you and make you ready to have a family with the partner that He prepared for you. 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 made me understand well about your will in my life and about marriage and the right timing for marriage. Lord thank you for all the corrections and the admonishments that I received in this message.*

Come now to God and confess and renounce all your sins. Confess and renounce your lack of patience and self-control. Confess and renounce your lust and your immoralities. Confess and renounce your wrong understanding and your wrong priorities in pertain to marriage, Confess and renounce your lack of faith in God and that you are insisting on doing your own will and plan in your life and not the will and the plan of God. Confess your worldliness, and your love for money and material things. Confess and renounce your pride, disobedience, non teachable spirit, and stubbornness. Confess your lack of reading God's Word and your lack of prayers. Confess and renounce your yoke with non believers, many friends and in bondage with the Media, News and games. 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 implement what I learned in this message. Lord I commit myself to go into the plan that you have for me in my life especially in pertain to marriage. Lord I commit myself to reproduce more fruit of the Holy Spirit; love, joy, peace, gentleness, kindness, faith, meekness, perseverance, self-control and long-suffering. Lord uphold me with your grace and provide for me so I will continue to walk in the good plan that you have for me and continue to serve you.

Lord thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented of their sins, and humbled themselves willing to follow your will and plan for them in their life. Lord I pray that you protect them and deliver them from all temptations of the evil ones. Devil I rebuke you in the name of Jesus, go away and don't come back to them. Lord bless them and continue to provide for them and use them to serve you. Lord I pray for others who still not repented and is doing their own will. Lord humble them, teach them your ways and grant them repentance so they will follow your will.

Lord, bless us as your church. and help us to continue to teach and implement the preparation for Godly marriage and to prepare your people to do your will and your plan in their lives, so when you come we are ready to take us. Lord I pray for more Godly marriages and Godly families to be formed in the name of Jesus. Lord we ask you to 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 more 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 take the message and spread it to reach all the members, workers, congregations, the families of the church, and others who need your Word. ' 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.

The Right Time for Marriage Part 1. Ecclesiastes 3:1. Genesis 41:41-52. Genesis 39:1-2, 7-20. 1 Samuel 18:6-11, 17-29. 1 Samuel 17:25-27. 2 Timothy 2:22.

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