

The Right Time for Marriage Part 4

The Instruction of God to Jeremiah in Pertain to Marriage

“1 The word of the LORD came also unto me, saying, 2 Thou shalt not take thee a wife, neither shalt thou have sons or daughters in this place.” (Jeremiah 20:1-2 KJV)

We continue to discuss in this message the instructions of God to Jeremiah in pertain to marriage for God had told him not to get marry and not to have children in the land of Judah. You may ask why God had told him that and what he meant with these instructions and how to apply them in our lives? Now for Jeremiah being a servant of God to get married needed the following:

I. To get a Godly woman that would help him to raise a Godly family and children: Now if the land so corrupted with idol worship and wrong practices, then the possibility to find a Godly person is so difficult or not available, and that might made the Lord instructing him not to marry. There were no Godly parents and there were no Godly families so from where Jeremiah would get a Godly woman to marry? **Therefore, certain times you really need to wait upon God until He will find for you a Godly partner suitable for you.**

Besides that, God had the plan to punish and discipline the people of Judah for their wrongdoing: ***“13 Therefore will I cast you out of this land into a land that ye know not, neither ye nor your fathers; and there shall ye serve other gods day and night; where I will not shew you favour. 14 Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that it shall no more be said, The LORD liveth, that brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt; 15 But, The LORD liveth, that brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north, and from all the lands whither he had driven them: and I will bring them again into their land that I gave unto their fathers. 16 Behold, I will send for many fishers, saith the LORD, and they shall fish them; and after will I send for many hunters, and they shall hunt them from every mountain, and from every hill, and out of the holes of the rocks. 17 For mine eyes are upon all their ways: they are not hid from my face, neither is their iniquity hid from mine eyes. 18 And first I will recompense their iniquity and their sin double; because they have defiled my land, they have filled mine inheritance with the carcasses of their detestable and abominable things.” (Jeremiah 16:13-18 KJV)*** God wanted first to punish them for their wrongdoing and to discipline them before he would restore them. They sinned not only against God’s law, but they also defiled God’s land and inheritance, and for God to clean His land and His inheritance He needed to drive them away and put them into exile for seventy years before He would restore them. Therefore the Lord told Jeremiah not to take a wife and to have sons and daughters in that place.

II. To get stability and settlement for the marriage and for the family to function: Marriage needs an atmosphere of settlement and stability. For example, Joseph got married and had two sons in Egypt during the seven years of plenty. **The man who has the Spirit of God would marry during the stable time.** Joseph did not marry when he was a slave because he knew that he will face troubles, but he married during the period of plenty. **Some people will advise others and say ‘Marry so you can be settled’, but marriage will not bring settlement, but marriage will bring troubles, therefore the man who is led by the Spirit of God and instructed with His Word will marry when he is in stable financial, physical, and political situations.**

At that time of Jeremiah, Judah and Jerusalem were invaded by the Babylonian army and God allowed them to do that because He was punishing His people for their various sins and their idols worship. Famine, sword, death, and plagues were around and threatening the people. Death was around the place, ***“3 For thus saith the LORD concerning the sons and concerning the daughters that are born in this place, and concerning their mothers that bare them, and concerning their fathers that begat them in this land; 4 They shall die of grievous deaths; they shall not be lamented; neither shall they be buried; but they shall be as dung upon the face of the earth: and they shall be consumed by the sword, and by famine; and their carcasses shall be meat for the fowls of heaven, and for the beasts of the earth.” (Jeremiah 16:3-4 KJV)*** Therefore based on that, and in such circumstances, marriage was out of place in that place and at that period.

III. To has a Godly church that will be the base for a Godly society that the family should be linked with: Now when the foundation was destroyed and the church was corrupted including the priests and those in leadership then God will interfere by bringing His judgment to discipline His people to bring them to repentance. *** As you have read in Jeremiah 16, when God would start to do that then the chances of marriages are decline because God is in the process of cleansing and the process of renovation and building people and families in a Godly way. * Therefore those who are committed to the Lord when the church is passing through the same of what Jeremiah was passing through, their marriages will not be an easy process because of the multiple hindrances and for the lack of the Godly environment and the resources that are needed to raise Godly offspring.**

Apostle Paul in his letter to the Corinthians spoke about such things, ***“24 Brethren, let every man, wherein he is called, therein abide with God. 25 Now concerning virgins I have no commandment of the Lord: yet I give my judgment, as one that hath obtained mercy of the Lord to be faithful. 26 I suppose therefore that this is good for the present distress, I say, that it is good for a man so to be. 27 Art thou bound unto a wife? seek not to be loosed. Art thou loosed from a wife? seek not a wife. 28 But and if thou marry, thou hast not sinned; and if a virgin marry, she hath not sinned. Nevertheless such shall have trouble in the flesh: but I spare you.” (1 Corinthians 7:24-28 KJV)*** Paul mentioned the following about those who are going to marry: ***“28 But and if thou marry, thou hast not sinned; and if a virgin marry, she hath not sinned. Nevertheless such shall have trouble in the flesh: but I spare you.” (1 Corinthians 7:28 KJV)*** **Marriage is not a sin, but those who will get marry will face troubles. The troubles will come on them and will become more when they marry in the wrong atmosphere and at the wrong time.** Paul also mentioned in his writing to Timothy that there will be terrible times, ***“1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. 2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, 4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; 5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.” (2 Timothy 3:1-5 KJV)*** Jeremiah was living in the mid of such a terrible situation and place, therefore God instructed him not to take a wife and marry in that place.

God had outlined to the prophet Jeremiah the sins in the land, the current situation and the hazards that were about to take place, and the outcome of the marriage when He told him not to marry. *** Now to marry is not a sin, but if you marry and the outcome of your marriage is**

ungodly children or separation, divorce, remarriage or second marriage then those are sins, and you and the church should refrain from doing that. * From the circumstances and what is going on around you, it will be clear to you, that it is not God's will that marriage will take place if the situation is the same as that of what was going on at the time of the prophet Jeremiah.

The Lord told us in His Word, *"28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth."* (Genesis 1:28 KJV) The Lord requires us to increase and get multiplied but God wants us also to keep holiness and Godliness in what we reproduce.

Now, Jeremiah, his heart and mind was set to serve the Lord, as well as for you who set your heart and mind to serve the Lord and do His will and accomplish His purpose, you are required to behave and act as Jeremiah the prophet, and agree with God and go along with Him. The following outline will help you more to grasp the message of God:

A. Understand the circumstances and what the church is passing through: Jeremiah understood it well that he cannot make it into a family in that particular place and time. I am not telling to you not to marry at all. But when it is not applicable, timetable and place wise, then you should understand that you cannot marry at that time and in that particular place till circumstances become better or you move to another place.

B. Accept the condition of God's calling in your life: Jeremiah complied with God's will. Therefore, comply with God's will and plan, for the Lord had a good plan for you and you need to work it out with Him. Accepting the condition of God's calling will be your ministry and what God wants you to do, *"10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."* (Ephesians 2:10 KJV) God will reward you for every service, ministry, and sacrifice that you are called to do for Him.

C. Work out with God to build the foundation to build up a church and a Godly community that families can be kept secure and grow in a Godly and holy atmosphere: The Lord spoke through the prophet Jeremiah and told him to speak to those who were sent into exile the following: *"4 Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, unto all that are carried away captives, whom I have caused to be carried away from Jerusalem unto Babylon; 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. 7 And seek the peace of the city whither I have caused you to be carried away captives, and pray unto the LORD for it: for in the peace thereof shall ye have peace."* (Jeremiah 29:4-7 KJV) The Lord for those who were sent into exiles to Babylon, He directed them to build houses and settle and plant vineyards for living and provision, and then to marry and have children, and for their children later on to be married. God previously had inflicted punishment on them for their sins and brought them into exiles, but as they repented and accepted to bear the consequences of their sins, then the Lord put forward the plan of restoration and the foundation of Godly community and marriage to form families and to raise Godly children. So the same Jeremiah God used him to write to the exiles in Babylon to build houses, plant gardens, to take wives, to marry, to have sons and daughter and to take wives for

their sons and to give their daughters in marriages, so they will have children and they will increase and not decrease because those in exiles were already under discipline, were to stay in Babylon for seventy years and they had surrendered to that and to God, and so God was restoring them back to normal life and that was why he sent them that message. But those in the land of Judah have not yet repented and had not yet surrendered to God's will, and so God was still dealing with them. God wants you to be patient and to cooperate with Him to build new things that will last forever. This good plan of God for restoration will soon take place, especially if everyone understands and accepts and repent of his sins.

D. Do not be selfish: When everyone denies himself as Jeremiah did then God's plan will come true. Jeremiah accepted that he will not be marrying in that place and in that time for the reasons that God had put in front of him. * God wants everyone to accept the will of God in His life. * But when everyone behaves selfishly the plan of God will be delayed and the crises and the ungodly atmosphere will prevail and Godly marriages will be hindered. Those who are selfish don't have a love for others, and even they don't love themselves. Because those who go ahead against the will of God will not be blessed even.

E. From my experience in this matter in the church that I am pasturing: There were several who left the church because they were called to do as Jeremiah was told to do, to deny himself or herself for a while, to accept what God proposed to Jeremiah till the foundation of Godly families and marriages will be restored to the church, and circumstances become better and until God shall provide a suitable partner. But they went ahead with their own plans of marriage. But what the blessing they got from such decisions if they are not with us doing the *"Good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them"*? If they had stayed and patiently waited and accepted the principles of Godly marriages from God's Word, then they would by now having Godly marriages and their families would be a part of a Godly community, the Church of God, that others may take notice and would happily take part in and the church would increase and families would multiply in holiness and Godliness.

Over the years we were instructed by God through His Word about the preparation for Godly marriage. Because of failure and lack of preparedness of marriages we put criteria for marriage, it contains two aspects, *first*, the preparedness of the man and the woman materially and spiritually to be fit for the task of marriage, and *second*, the voice of the Holy Spirit to determine the partner that God had prepared for that particular man or woman. We started to apply that several years, but many of the young men and women, did not comply, and they went ahead to get married without preparation or got the wrong partner because they refused to wait upon God till He sends them the right partner or makes the circumstances suitable for marriage. Now to those who were not prepared, and those who would not wait upon God, they left the church to marry what they like, of their own choices, their own will, and following the pattern of the culture that they came from. Even for us, we were not willing to keep them in the church when they marry their wrong partner for they would be a bad example to others to follow. Now after they left the church and within 6-12 months, we noticed that God would send a person to the church who can be a fit partner to that man or to that woman who left or who had dismissed from the church because marrying their own will. We therefore would say if that person had stayed till now, now here is the partner that is for him. I even started to ask God, 'Why Lord you did not send that person earlier and relieve us?' He answered me, *"God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble."* (1 Peter 5:5 KJV) He told me also that they need to wait for Him till He would come and bless them.

My Dear and Beloved: God's will, will ultimately take place; with few or with many members who stayed with the Church of God, the Lord shall perfect His church, accomplish His plan, and prepare the atmosphere; even with few members, parents, families, or singles who would understand, accept and dedicate themselves as Jeremiah did. I invite you to commit your life to this ministry, the **"Good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them"**, in pertaining to Godly families and Godly marriages.

Come now to God, surrender your life and your will to him, be willing to agree with God and the good plan that he has for you. Be willing to wait upon God until the circumstances become better and until God would prepare you and prepare a suitable partner for your life. God wants you to stand with Him to declare His Word and His will to the people who are around you and be a good example to them by following His Word and doing His will. **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 clear Word to me that gave me deep understanding about your will in regard to marriage. Lord Thank you for all the corrections, the rebukes and the admonishments that I received in this message.*

Come now to God and confess and renounce all your sins. Confess your worldliness, and your love for money and material things. Confess and renounce doing your own will and plan in your life and not the will and the plan of God. Confess and renounce your stubbornness and lack of the fear of God. Confess your lack of reading God's Word and your lack of prayers. Confess and renounce your yoke with non believers, with 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 my life to follow you and to take part in the good works that you have ordained for us as a church that we should walk in them in pertains to marriage and family. Lord, I seek you and desire you more than other things. I am your servant and I trust that you have a better plan for me. Lord, take hold of me and lead me to do your will. This is my prayer in Jesus' name, Amen.

Lord thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented of their sins and committed themselves to walk in your ways, to do your will, your plan and the good works that you had ordained that we should walk in them. Lord provide for them and preserve them and use them to serve you and be good testimonies to others to follow you.

Lord, bless us as your church. and help us to continue to do the good works that you had ordained that we should walk in them. Lord help us to continue to teach and to implement your Word in the life of our families, the workers and members of the church congregations. Lord we pray for more Godly marriages and more Godly families to be formed in our church. 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 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 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 4. The Instruction of God to Jeremiah in Pertain to Marriage. Jeremiah 16:1-4, 13-18. 1 Corinthians 7:24-28. 2 Timothy 3:1-5. Genesis 1:28. Jeremiah 29:4-7. Ephesians 2:10. 1 Peter 5:5.

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