

If You Marry, Choose Wisely

Judges 14:1-3

Introduction:

- A. Samson typical of too many young people.
 - 1. Listen to hormones rather than head.
 - 2. Listen to no one, just “get her for me.”
- B. “If you marry” – one can choose not to marry and remain celibate.
- C. Except for choosing to serve God, choosing a mate is most important decision one can make.
 - 1. Only get one shot at it.
 - 2. Affects life physically, spiritually and emotionally.
- D. Let’s look at some things that will help folks choose a mate wisely.

Discussion:

I. Be Patient.

- A. Avoid too serious, too soon – be “likers”, not lovers.
- B. Avoid too steady, too soon.
 - 1. Need time to look over the field, reduces temptation to play around later.
 - 2. Too easy to take “liberties” when going steady.
- C. Avoid intimacy too soon.
 - 1. God did not ordain marriage to “legalize” a pre-existing relationship.
 - 2. Premarital sex is as sinful as extra-marital sex (Heb. 13:4; Rev. 21:8)
 - 3. Such intimacy clouds one’s judgment in making a wise choice.

II. Be Defensive.

- A. Pray often “lead us not into temptation..” (Matt. 6:13).
- B. Avoid wrong company (1 Cor. 15:33; Psa. 1:1).
- C. Avoid situations where yielding would be easy (cf. 1 Cor. 6:18)
 - 1. Home alone.
 - 2. Parked car – be honest tell yourself and friend why do not need to park.
- D. Create situations where pure heart is easy (Matt. 5:8).

III. Be Sensible.

- A. Study the scriptures dealing with marriage.
 - 1. Those that deal with consequences of failed marriage.
 - 2. Those that show not all lawful marriages are wise (1 Cor. 7)
- B. Pray for wisdom (Jas. 1:5).
- C. Seek and hear wise, experienced, and objective counsel (Prov. 12:15; 19:20)
- D. Wise enough to know that while you are not marrying a family, will have to deal with the family.
- E. Do this before becoming blinded by emotions (cf. Brother Elam’s letter).

IV. Be Selective.

- A. Date the kind of people you would want to marry.
 - 1. Not necessarily the person, but the kind of person.
 - 2. The kind of person that you want to be parent of your children.
- B. Date and marry a faithful Christian.
 - 1. No, mixed marriages are not unlawful – but are unwise (Cf. 2 Cor. 6:14; 1 Cor. 7:13, 14)
 - 2. Share in more, differ in less
 - 3. Dating is poor evangelism – may “convert” to win you.

Conclusion:

- A. Parents assume your children will marry, do your best to prepare them.
- B. Young people be patient, defensive, sensible, and selective.

