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"JESUS ON DATING"
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MATTHEW 19:3-12; I CORINTHIANS 13 (NASB)

SERIES BIG IDEA: What Jesus taught about marriage radically redefines not only marriage, but everything connected to it.

INSIGHT: People in the Bible didn't date.

A HUGE UNDERSTATEMENT: DATING IS COMPLICATED.

INSIGHT: This message is to help singles seek biblically healthy relationships with the opposite sex.

I. FOUR THINGS JESUS TAUGHT ABOUT MARRIAGE THAT SHAPE OUR APPROACH TO DATING

1. Marriage is friendship.

2. Marriage is permanent.

TRUTH: Jesus taught that divorce should be as radical and rare as the amputation of a body part.

INSIGHT: Divorce should only occur in very rare cases when one partner kills the relationship.

3. Marriage is not the apex.

4. Satisfying marriages require God's help.

TRUTH: Jesus wants you to have a happy marriage. He taught that marriage is great and fulfilling but so hard you can only do it well with His help, because marriage is heaven's idea.

LIFE LESSON: If you want something nobody else has, you must be willing to do what nobody else does.

II. PRIORITIZE CHARACTER OVER CHEMISTRY.

INSIGHT: The butterflies of physical attraction wear off in about 18 months. That's why many of the singles you know never have a relationship last longer than that.

Physical beauty fades in two ways:

1. The beauty itself fades.
2. The power of their beauty will fade on you.

INSIGHT: If your goal is to marry, you want to marry someone you love and who loves you.

III. A BIBLICAL DEFINITION OF REAL LOVE

TRUTH: Marriage is permanent companionship therefore character matters most of all.

*The Apostle Paul's definition of love is 1 Corinthians 13:

1. Love is patient...
2. Love is kind...

3. Love keeps no record of wrongs...
4. Love does not envy...
5. Love does not boast, is not proud...
6. Love does not dishonor...
7. Love never gives up...

INSIGHT: If you want a 1 Corinthians marriage for life then prioritize character in your dating above looks.

IV. DATE FOR CLARITY NOT INTIMACY.

TRUTH: Dating is a time to evaluate a particular person whether you want to join yourself to them for your life.

INSIGHT: Physical intimacy in dating keeps you from seeing what's really going on in the relationship and seeing who that other person really is... and that means you're in trouble.

Three guidelines for your dating to honor Christ:

1. Nothing in the dark
2. Nothing below the chin
3. Never lie down.

TRUTH: If you're not married but living together, you are in blatant sin.

INSIGHT: The purpose of biblical dating is to gain clarity on the character of the man or woman.

LIFE CHOICE YOU MUST DECIDE IN YOUR DATING: I will date for clarity not intimacy!