



Berean Christian Fellowship

DEVOTIONAL 50.0

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Keep Watch and Pray

“Surely as a woman treacherously departs from her lover, so you have dealt treacherously with me, O house of Israel,’ declares the Lord” (Jeremiah 3:20).

Many people attend Church and take Christ’s name as their own—they go through the motions and may even love Him, but they are not satisfied by His love and secretly long for something different, something more. Over 70% of Americans identified themselves as followers of Jesus in 2012, yet sin pervades our culture. How is that possible if they truly are followers of Him? Christians today treat their relationship with Jesus the same way they treat their marriages. Is it a coincidence that nearly half of the American population has also been divorced? A people faithless in their human relationships cannot be faithful to God. Idolatry is the spiritual equivalent of adultery.

Throughout His Word, God uses the picture of marriage as the picture of His relationship with Israel, *“for your husband is your Maker...Who is called the God of all the earth”* (Isaiah 54:5). God bound them to Himself in covenant, a *“covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them,” declares the Lord*” (Jeremiah 31:32). Christ’s relationship to the Church is also illustrated this way (Ephesians 5:25-27). Why did God use marriage as a metaphor for His relationship with each of us? Marriage by its very nature is the most intimate relationship God gave to mankind. It begins in a pledge of faithfulness and love to live as if we are ONE forever—to always be PRESENT for each other regardless of the circumstances. The only thing that can break this bond on earth is death. How does it happen then that some marriages end before death? Marriage requires faithfulness and

presence (time, energy, and love) to survive, let alone thrive. Many things can intervene in a marriage and cause problems by preventing our presence going to our partner. Anything that comes between a husband and wife can threaten their marriage. If this something is someone else, it is called adultery. Jesus said, *“everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart”* (Matthew 5:28). Intent or even desire to “cheat” is adultery before God.

As in marriage, our relationship with Jesus isn’t healthy and happy just because we once gave ourselves to Him. Just like married couples who have adulterous thoughts about other people or plan a life without their partner, idolatry endangers our relationship with God. Jesus told His disciples to *“keep watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation”* (Matthew 26:41a). In other words, “keep up the relationship, so you don’t get into trouble.” Many Christians today don’t bother keeping a watch on their hearts. Distractions consume their lives. They watch movies and TV, surf the internet, listen to music, go out with “friends,” hang out, drink, etc. Every moment is exercised “Broadband Jamming” God, filling their lives with “business” or “other pleasures” instead of prayer and conversing with Jesus—unsatisfied with His Love. *“You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God”* (James 4:4), whether you dabble in sins, taking Jesus for granted, or harbor a “secret” life in parallel to their life with Christ. No human marriage would survive this double-mindedness, and it is only by the grace of God that their relationship with Him does not fail. May the love and faithfulness of Jesus be more than satisfying in our lives. Amen.

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