

“What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate” (MARK 10:9).

MARRIAGE

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHTS:

Marriage is such a hard gem to polish. So often, when we get to stare at it lived out in real life, it seems so full of imperfections. This results from the fact that marriage always involves two people prone to sin. In the worst cases, we see husbands who abuse their wives in the name of exercising power. We see women who belittle their husbands in the name of creating humor. In less crass examples, we watch as both husbands and wives seem to bend marriage in ways that best serve them.

But we cannot forget the jewel that marriage is just because it so often is scuffed and clouded by sin. Marriage is God’s glorious creation, and when placed back in His hands, it is gorgeous. His cleansing reveals its true luster. He washes it with the precious forgiveness of Jesus.

So many in our world want to throw out this beautiful treasure because they have seen so many scratches placed upon its surface. They have watched as people seek to split this gem in two through the brute force of divorce. They have seen others remain in the same home while not really sharing life together. They have listened as the precious stone of marriage cried out in argument after argument.

The problem is not with marriage itself. No, God’s wisdom from the beginning is true. It is not good for man or woman to be alone. Oh, there are some who are set apart by God to walk with Him alone in life without a spouse. But for most, a companion is a welcome blessing.

Marriage shines in so many ways when it is cleaned by God and held up in the light of His Son, Jesus. Husband and wife get to work together. They get to mourn together. They get to create life together. There is laughter and joy. There is love and passion. There is quiet and tenderness. Marriage is a beautiful gem handcrafted by God. May we always put it before the world as such.

SCRIPTURES:

Genesis 2:18, 21–23

“Then the LORD God said, ‘It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.’ So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, ‘This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.’”

Hebrews 13:4

“Let marriage be held in honor among all.”

Proverbs 18:22

“He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the LORD.”

CONVERSATION POINTS:

- What benefits does marriage give to each spouse?
- How can you speak positively about marriage in a world often opposed to it?