

## Marriage -- And the Qualities of Lasting Relationships [2/15/12, DKeeler]

Wed Svc [Hymns 58, 157, 178]

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

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### SECTION I

#### BIBLE

##### 1 | Ps. 133:1

1 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

##### 2 | Gen. 24:2(to,),3-5(to:),6(to,),7,9(to servant), 9 sware, 10-11,15-19,21,23-28,32-34,40,48,54,57-58,60(to,),61,63-67(to:)

2 And Abraham said unto his eldest servant of his house,

3 And I will make thee swear by the Lord, the God of heaven, and the God of the earth, that thou shalt not take a wife unto my son of the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell:

4 But thou shalt go unto my country, and to my kindred, and take a wife unto my son Isaac.

5 And the servant said unto him, Peradventure the woman will not be willing to follow me unto this land:

6 And Abraham said unto him,

7 ¶The Lord God of heaven, which took me from my father's house, and from the land of my kindred, and which spake unto me, and that sware unto me, saying, Unto thy seed will I give this land; he shall send his angel before thee, and thou shalt take a wife unto my son from thence.

9 And the servant

9 sware to him concerning that matter.

10 ¶And the servant took ten camels of the camels of his master, and departed; for all the goods of his master were in his hand: and he arose, and went to Mesopotamia, unto the city of Nahor.

11 And he made his camels to kneel down without the city by a well of water at the time of the evening, even the time that women go out to draw water.

15 ¶And it came to pass, before he had done speaking, that, behold, Rebekah came out, who was born to Bethuel, son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother, with her pitcher upon her shoulder.

16 And the damsel was very fair to look upon, a virgin, neither had any man known her: and she went down to the well, and filled her pitcher, and came up.

17 And the servant ran to meet her, and said, Let me, I pray thee, drink a little water of thy pitcher.

18 And she said, Drink, my lord: and she hastened, and let down her pitcher upon her hand, and gave him drink.

19 And when she had done giving him drink, she said, I will draw water for thy camels also, until they have done drinking.

- 21 And the man wondering at her held his peace, to wit whether the Lord had made his journey prosperous or not.
- 23 And said, Whose daughter art thou? tell me, I pray thee: is there room in thy father's house for us to lodge in?
- 24 And she said unto him, I am the daughter of Bethuel the son of Milcah, which she bare unto Nahor.
- 25 She said moreover unto him, We have both straw and provender enough, and room to lodge in.
- 26 And the man bowed down his head, and worshipped the Lord.
- 27 And he said, Blessed be the Lord God of my master Abraham, who hath not left destitute my master of his mercy and his truth: I being in the way, the Lord led me to the house of my master's brethren.
- 28 And the damsel ran, and told them of her mother's house these things.
- 32 ¶ And the man came into the house: and he ungirded his camels, and gave straw and provender for the camels, and water to wash his feet, and the men's feet that were with him.
- 33 And there was set meat before him to eat: but he said, I will not eat, until I have told mine errand. And he said, Speak on.
- 34 And he said, I am Abraham's servant.
- 40 And he said unto me, The Lord, before whom I walk, will send his angel with thee, and prosper thy way; and thou shalt take a wife for my son of my kindred, and of my father's house:
- 48 And I bowed down my head, and worshipped the Lord, and blessed the Lord God of my master Abraham, which had led me in the right way to take my master's brother's daughter unto his son.
- 54 And they did eat and drink, he and the men that were with him, and tarried all night; and they rose up in the morning, and he said, Send me away unto my master.
- 57 And they said, We will call the damsel, and inquire at her mouth.
- 58 And they called Rebekah, and said unto her, Wilt thou go with this man? And she said, I will go.
- 60 And they blessed Rebekah,
- 61 ¶ And Rebekah arose, and her damsels, and they rode upon the camels, and followed the man: and the servant took Rebekah, and went his way.
- 63 And Isaac went out to meditate in the field at the eventide: and he lifted up his eyes, and saw, and, behold, the camels were coming.
- 64 And Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac, she lighted off the camel.
- 65 For she had said unto the servant, What man is this that walketh in the field to meet us? And the servant had said, It is my master: therefore she took a veil, and covered herself.
- 66 And the servant told Isaac all things that he had done.
- 67 And Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent, and took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her:

**3 | Col. 3:19**

- 19 Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them.

**4 | Eph. 5:28 He,29(to,),31,33 let**

- 28 He that loveth his wife loveth himself.
- 29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it,

31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

33 let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.

**5 | Prov. 31:10-12,26-28**

10 ¶Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies.

11 The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil.

12 She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.

26 She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.

27 She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.

28 Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her.

**6 | Prov. 21:9**

9 It is better to dwell in a corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman in a wide house.

**7 | Prov. 16:24**

24 Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones.

**8 | Prov. 12:4(to:)**

4 A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband:

**9 | Prov. 14:11**

11 The house of the wicked shall be overthrown: but the tabernacle of the upright shall flourish.

**10 | Prov. 6:12-13(to 1st ),14,16(to:),18-19**

12 ¶A naughty person, a wicked man, walketh with a froward mouth.

13 He winketh with his eyes,

14 Frowardness is in his heart, he deviseth mischief continually; he soweth discord.

16 ¶These six things doth the Lord hate:

18 An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief,

19 A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

**11 | Ps. 112:1 Blessed,2-3,4,5 he,7**

1 Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord, that delighteth greatly in his commandments.

2 His seed shall be mighty upon earth: the generation of the upright shall be blessed.

3 Wealth and riches shall be in his house: and his righteousness endureth for ever.

4 Unto the upright there ariseth light in the darkness: he is gracious, and full of compassion, and righteous.

5 he will guide his affairs with discretion.

7 He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the Lord.

**12 | I Cor. 13:4,5,7,8(to:)**

4 Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,

5 Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;

7 Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

8 Charity never faileth:

**13 | Col. 3:12-15**

12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.

14 And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.

15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

**SCIENCE AND HEALTH**

**1 | SH 60:4-6,16**

Kindred tastes, motives, and aspirations are necessary to the formation of a happy and permanent companion-

6 ship.

**Permanent  
affection**

Marriage should improve the human species, becoming

a barrier against vice, a protection to woman, strength to

18 man, and a centre for the affections. This,

**Centre for  
affections**

however, in a majority of cases, is not its

present tendency, and why? Because the education of

21 the higher nature is neglected, and other considerations,

— passion, frivolous amusements, personal adornment, display, and pride, — occupy thought.

**2 | SH 59:1-6,11-16,23-24,17-22**

59:1 Matrimony should never be entered into without a full recognition of its enduring obligations on

3 both sides. There should be the most tender

**Differing  
duties**

solicitude for each other's happiness, and mu-

tual attention and approbation should wait on all the years

6 of married life.

Fulfilling the

12 different demands of their united spheres, their sympa-

thies should blend in sweet confidence and cheer, each

partner sustaining the other, — thus hallowing the union

15 of interests and affections, in which the heart finds peace and home.

After marriage, it is too late to grumble over incompati-

24 bility of disposition.

Tender words and unselfish care in what promotes the

18 welfare and happiness of your wife will prove more salutary

in prolonging her health and smiles than stolid

**Trysting  
renewed**

indifference or jealousy. Husbands, hear this

21 and remember how slight a word or deed may renew the old trysting-times.

**SH 58:31-1**

"She that is married careth . . . how she may please her husband," says the Bible; and this is the pleasantest thing to do.

**4 | SH 57:10-21, 31-11**

Both sexes should be loving, pure, tender, and strong. The attraction between native qualities will be perpetual only as it is pure and true, bringing sweet seasons of renewal like the returning spring.

Beauty, wealth, or fame is incompetent to meet the demands of the affections, and should never weigh against the better claims of intellect, goodness, and virtue. Happiness is spiritual, born of Truth and Love. It is unselfish; therefore it cannot exist alone, but requires all mankind to share it.

**Affection's demands**

Marriage is unblest or blest, according to the disappointments it involves or the hopes it fulfils. To happify existence by constant intercourse with those adapted to elevate it, should be the motive of society. Unity of spirit gives new pinions to joy, or else joy's drooping wings trail in dust.

Ill-arranged notes produce discord. Tones of the human mind may be different, but they should be concordant in order to blend properly. Unselfish ambition, noble life-motives, and purity, — these constituents of thought, mingling, constitute individually and collectively true happiness, strength, and permanence.

**Chord and discord**

**5 | SH 61:4-6**

The good in human affections must have ascendancy over the evil and the spiritual over the animal, or happiness will never be won.

**Ascendancy of good**

**6 | SH 568:1(only)**

Innocence and Truth overcome guilt and error.

**7 | SH 62:29-30**

Our false views of life hide eternal harmony, and produce the ills of which we complain.

**8 | SH 65:7-8,10-12**

If the foundations of human affection are consistent with progress, they will be strong and enduring.

The union of the sexes suffers fearful discord. To gain Christian Science and its harmony, life should be more metaphysically regarded.

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**SH 248:13-17,19-21,26-29**

We are all sculptors,  
 working at various forms, moulding and chisel-  
 15 ing thought. What is the model before mortal  
 mind? Is it imperfection, joy, sorrow, sin, suffering?  
 Have you accepted the mortal model?

**Mental  
sculpture**

Do you not hear from all  
 mankind of the imperfect model? The world is holding  
 21 it before your gaze continually.

We must form perfect  
 27 models in thought and look at them continually,  
 or we shall never carve them out in grand and  
 noble lives.

**Perfect  
models****10 | SH 582:14-20**

**BRIDE.** Purity and innocence, conceiving man in the  
 15 idea of God; a sense of Soul, which has spiritual bliss  
 and enjoys but cannot suffer.

**BRIDEGROOM.** Spiritual understanding; the pure con-  
 18 sciousness that God, the divine Principle, creates man  
 as His own spiritual idea, and that God is the only crea-  
 tive power.

**11 | SH 249:1-5**

249:1 Let us accept Science, relinquish all theories based on  
 sense-testimony, give up imperfect models and illusive  
 3 ideals; and so let us have one God, one Mind, and that  
 one perfect, producing His own models of excellence.  
 Let the "male and female" of God's creating appear.

**12 | SH 64:17(only)**

Marriage should signify a union of hearts.

**13 | SH 201:17-18,7-12**

The way to extract error from mortal mind is to pour  
 18 in truth through flood-tides of Love.

We cannot build safely on false foundations. Truth  
 makes a new creature, in whom old things pass away  
 9 and "all things are become new." Passions, selfishness,  
 false appetites, hatred, fear, all sensuality, yield to spirit-  
 uality, and the superabundance of being is on the side  
 12 of God, good.

**14 | SH 58:21-23**

21 Home is the dearest spot on  
 earth, and it should be the centre, though not the bound-  
 ary, of the affections.

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