

└ Introduction

└ A Husband in the Wild

A Husband in the Wild



09:30

1. Today we talk about God being our husband.
2. Your husband may be this guy.
3. That's not what God is.
4. God's a perfect husband to His people
5. And, as our loving husband He tries to persuade us to love Him back

└ Introduction

└ God wants a relationship with people

God wants a relationship with people

Jeremiah 31:31-34

31 Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, 32 not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord. 33 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 34 And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

6

09:33

1. I will be their God, and they will be my people
2. God has always made covenants (with responsibilities, and rewards) with us as a guarantee of our relationship with Him.
3. One modern covenant we think about is marriage. And, indeed, God sees himself as our husband, in both the OT and the NT (through Jesus).

└ Introduction

└ Goals

Goals

- Examine what a husband is and how God is a husband to His people
- Elaborate on how God's love motivates us
- Consider practical ways to recognize and respond to God's love

09:36

1. Today we talk about, what God meant when he said He was husband to the children of Israel.
2. We'll start by examining the marriage relationship in general.
3. In some ways it seems like God created marriage just so he could show us how He loves us.
4. And, while much of God's love was made available long before we could ever return love to him. . .
5. He still hopes that his love can motivate us to love Him back and to follow Him.
6. We need to sensitive in listening to God's call and responding to it.

└ God has a husband's love

└ Marriage *is* love

Marriage *is* love
Genesis 2:25-24



The first marriage had...
• Companionship
• Closeness
• Commitment

09:38

1. **Companionship:**
2. Initially, man was alone (v20)
3. He needed a helper (v20)
4. **Closeness:**
5. She was created from his rib – 'bone of my bone' (v21-23)
6. This is similar to God who created man in His image (Gen. 1:26)
7. **Commitment:**
8. Leave father and mother and cleave to his wife (v24)

└ God has a husband's love

└ God was husband to the Israelites

God was husband to the Israelites

Jer. 31:32



- Unlike human husbands, God's love is perfect (Matt. 7:9-11; Heb. 12:11)
- God offered Israel a direct relationship at Mt. Sinai (Ex. 20:18-21)
- The Israelites were afraid and refused.

09:41

1. If your son asks for bread, you wouldn't give him a stone (Matt 7:9-11)
2. Earthly Fathers discipline as they see fit, God disciplines for our good. (Heb 12:11)
3. Of course, the same would apply to God's role as husband to the Israelites.
4. And, while we say that the trappings of the Old Law provided a separation between God and the Israelites. . .
5. God initially tried to communicate His will directly to them at Mt. Sinai.
6. God came to them in all His holiness, on purpose, I'm sure, and the people of Israel were afraid.
7. I suppose that's unsurprising.
8. God continued to love Israel like a husband, even though they refused His initial offer.

└ God has a husband's love

└ Christ is husband to the Church

Christ is husband to the Church
Heb 12:2, Eph 5:25



Headship means sacrifice.
Jesus ...
• 'Endured the cross'
• 'Despised the shame'
• 'Hostility against himself'

09:45

1. 'Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,' Eph. 5:25
2. Headship is really about sacrifice on the part of the husband
3. Look at all the things Jesus did for the church
4. He could have come to earth and *demand*ed respect from people
5. But he wanted us to choose Him voluntarily (as we've already studied).
6. Some men worry a lot about respect.
7. And, they don't worry enough about companionship.

└ God tries to motivate us with love

└ You can't make someone love you, but you can try and persuade

You can't make someone love you,
but you can try and persuade



We all do this in marriage

- Things you give...
 - Communication
 - Kindness
 - Work around the house
 - Take care of the kids
 - Do your job(s)
 - etc.
- Responses you want...
 - Appreciation
 - Kindness
 - Closeness
 - etc.

09:48

1. Just as Jesus sacrificed Himself for us when we He wasn't loved in return, we should also give unselfishly to our spouse.
2. Just like Jesus, though, we can hope that by our loving deeds, love will be returned.
3. We do the same thing in marriage.
4. God uses his acts of love to try and motivate us to love Him back, to live righteously, and to endure in our faith.

└ God tries to motivate us with love

└ Jesus' sacrifice motivates us

Jesus' sacrifice motivates us

Heb. 12:1-4



- Gifts
 - Endured the cross
 - Ignored the shame
 - Endured hostilities from sinners
- Response
 - Do not grow weary or faint-hearted

09:51

1. We turn to the big passage in our reading.
2. Previously, in chapter 11, the writer recounted a host of people who lived faithfully and says, 'run with endurance'
3. Now, the writer turns us toward Jesus, whose love for us should motivate us to be strong and courageous in the face of persecution.

└ God tries to motivate us with love

└ God, the husband, tried to motivate the children of Israel

God, the husband, tried to motivate the children of Israel

Heb. 12:18-21



- ▶ Gifts
 - Mt. Sinai direct relationship
 - Emphasized that God is holy
 - The Old Law
 - Physical Blessing
- ▶ Response
 - Love
 - Obedience
 - Faithfulness

But, they were too afraid of God to listen to Him!

09:55

1. There's a good illustrations of freezing up here.
2. I never thought that people actually give up.
3. But, they do all the time
4. Reminds me of the parable of the talents and the man who hid is talent in the ground.
5. There's certainly a part of this that's on purpose. We need a dichotomy between the Old and New Covenants.

└ God tries to motivate us with love

└ God, the husband, motivates Christians

Gifts – Spiritual Mt. Zion

- ▶ Pleasant and happy
- ▶ Innumerable angles in festal gathering
- ▶ Assembly of the firstborn
- ▶ Spirits of the righteous made perfect by Jesus
- ▶ Jesus, and His blood which is MORE innocent than the blood of Able
- ▶ Grace (v 15)

Response

- ▶ Don't refuse Him
- ▶ Thankfulness for a unshakeable kingdom
- ▶ Reverence and awe

09:58

1. God's revelation of Himself at Mt. Sinai was terrifying.
2. It was the same for Isaiah, and really the same for John.
3. If you had to stand before God by yourself, you'd be afraid, too.
4. But, unlike the children of Israel, we have Jesus.
5. So, coming to Mount Zion is a happy and wonderful thing.

└ Recognize and respond to God's love

└ God's love shown in Jesus

God's love shown in Jesus
1 John 4:9-10



- ▶ Gave His own Son . . .
- ▶ When we didn't love him back.

10:03

1. Needed an excuse to show this picture, again
2. Just replace this, in your mind, with you and your own Son
3. That's a sacrifice.

└ Recognize and respond to God's love

└ Our response to God's love

If you've ever thought,
*"Someone should
do something."*
remember...
you're someone.
Zeno Deen

- Love God back
- Love the brethren
- Then we know God

10:04

1. Left out 'keep His commandments'. But, that's in other parts of I John.

└ Recognize and respond to God's love

└ Questions for us

- Am I listening for the ways God is loving me?
- Am I sensitive in responding to God's Love?

10:06

1. Can you think of some other places we see God's love?
2. How does it motivate you?

└ Review

└ I was a husband to them

I was a husband to them

- God loves his people as a husband loves his wife
- His love should motivate us to live righteous
- We need to see God's love in our everyday life
- We need to keep our heart softened so we can feel and respond to God's love.

10:12

1. Israel was unfaithful.
2. We'll discuss that next week in 'My covenant they broke'