

I remember talking with a 31-year-old woman whose youngest sister had just gotten married. Although she was happy for her sister, she still felt undesirable and unbelievably lonely. She told me, "I'd do anything to get married."

I hope not. I hope she doesn't say yes to just anyone who comes along. She has what some call a "marriage infatuation." She's in love with marriage. She's sure that falling in love and marrying will end all her problems.

She, and you, need to be extremely careful. Marriage could be disastrous. How much better to take your time, to be cautious. How much better to be sure.

Besides, there are advantages to singleness this young woman may not be thinking about. As an independent single, she can develop her own interests. She can do things she perhaps couldn't do if married. She can give undivided attention to her spiritual development. And it is far better to be single than to be in a bad marriage.

Don't be in a rush to get to the altar. Slow down and make sure. Enjoy and take full advantage of your single days. Then you won't find yourself saying, "What was the hurry?" --DE

## REFLECTION

- Do I think a person has to be married to be happy? Do I feel I would be willing to marry just anybody?
- How am I taking advantage of these years while I am single?
- What standards do I have for the person I will marry?

**A good marriage is worth waiting for.**



# OCTOBER 13, 2019

## What's the Hurry?

Here's a quick one-question quiz about a topic that I'm sure you do a lot of thinking about.

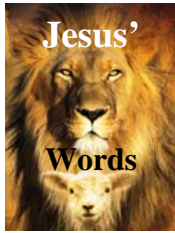
Which is the worse of two possible situations?

- a. Being single when every one else is married.
- b. Being in a bad marriage.

If your answer is b, you are right. Being single may have its lonely moments, but marrying someone you cannot get along with is the absolute pits. Contrary to what you might think, marriage in itself is not a guarantee of happiness.

I know it seems that way when everyone else is going to the altar and you're left holding the bouquet.





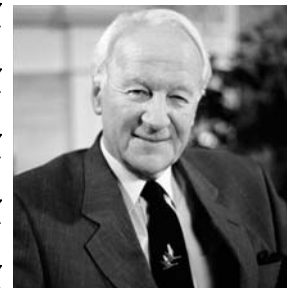
# Family Matters II

There are four issues regarding families that come up as Jesus begins His trek to Jerusalem:

1. **Unsaved relatives**, John 7:1-10
2. **Divorce**, Matthew 19:1-9
3. \_\_\_\_\_,  
Matthew 19:6, 10-12, 1  
Corinthians 7:1-2, 6-9, 26-28

**(Matthew 19:12)** *Some people are unable to marry because of birth defects or because of what someone has done to their bodies. Others stay single for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. Anyone who can accept this teaching should do so.* (CEV)

**(Matthew 19:12)** *There are different reasons why some men don't marry. Some were born without the ability to produce children. Others were made that way later in life. And others have given up marriage because of God's kingdom. This is for anyone who is able to accept it.* (ERV)



John Stott

**(Matthew 19:12)** *For example, some men are celibate because they were born that way. Others are celibate because they were castrated. Still others have decided to be celibate because of the kingdom of heaven. If anyone can do what you've suggested, then he should do it.* (GW)

Some things for hurting \_\_\_\_\_ to remember and do:

◆ Find the \_\_\_\_\_ available,  
**(1 Peter 5:7)** *"casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you."*

**(Jeremiah 29:11)** *"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope."*

**(Jeremiah 31:3)** *"The LORD has appeared of old to me, saying: "Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you."*

**(Job 23:10)** *".. When He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold."*

**(Revelation 21:4)** *"And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."*

- ◆ Find \_\_\_\_\_,  
**(Philippians 4:11-13)** *"Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: {12} I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. {13} I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."*
- ◆ **(Philippians 3:8)** *"Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ"*
- ◆ **(Hebrews 13:5)** *".. be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."*



- ◆ Draw \_\_\_\_\_,  
**(James 4:8)** *"Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. ..."*
- ◆ \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord,
- ◆ Know: there is \_\_\_\_\_ with you,
- ◆ \_\_\_\_\_ for marriage,
- ◆ Understand that marriage won't \_\_\_\_\_ all your \_\_\_\_\_,
- ◆ Look for \_\_\_\_\_ with other believers,
- ◆ \_\_\_\_\_ is important,  
**(1 Thessalonians 4:3)** *"For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality;"*

Some things for \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ to remember and do:

- ◆ Don't assume all \_\_\_\_\_ are unhappy,
- ◆ Please be \_\_\_\_\_,
- ◆ Remember to \_\_\_\_\_ singles in \_\_\_\_\_ activities,
- ◆ Many singles long to be included in \_\_\_\_\_,
- ◆ Don't \_\_\_\_\_ on singles,  
**(Proverbs 18:22)** *"He who finds a wife finds a good thing, And obtains favor from the LORD."*
- ◆ We should not assume that singles have more \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_,