**The Sermon on the Mount Applied to Marriage [Cleveland, TN (5-17-13)]**

**INTRODUCTION**

Tonight I want us to use scriptures from the **“Sermon on the Mount”** and apply them to marriage. This is a simply concept that Dan mentioned in his sermon Sunday afternoon. If we treat our wife or husband the way the Lord tells us to treat our brethren and our enemies; our marriages are going to be on the right track. I think going through these will also be a good way to summarize this week’s teaching on marriage; for those of us who are married and for those of us who may get married.

Brethren have requested to use the notes from this sermon so they could share with Christians and non-Christians in order to help them in their marriages. The fact of the matter is that I am simply trying to point out teachings from the most revolutionary teacher this world has ever seen; Jesus Christ! He deserves all the glory, the honor, and obedience we can muster. Because He truly knows what is best for you and I!

**SERMON ON THE MOUNT APPLIED TO MARRIAGE**

1. **Basics that can help a marriage** (**Matthew 5:3-12**) – All of these are qualities a Christian is to have.

2. **Hindrances to spouses** (**Matthew 5:22-24**) – A Christian works out problems and does not want to revert to losing their temper, name calling, or telling others how foolish their spouse is. Talking about ANYBODY that way will cost us our souls. Many times when spouses are so quick to anger something else is wrong. Jesus basically says fix your problems with one another before you worship God (**Ephesians 4:26**).

3. **Not lusting for others** (**Matthew 5:27-32**) – This is much different than people in the world today. Christians take this very seriously and are content in their hearts and in their eyes with their spouses.

4. **Honesty in marriage** (**Matthew 5:33-37**) – You want to stick out in the world today; simply be honest. You want to have a building block for your marriage, always be honest!

5. **Unconditional Love** (**Matthew 5:38-48, 7:12**) – This is the cornerstone of Jesus and His love toward us. If we are commanded to love our enemies, certainly we can love our spouses even if at times it seems as if they are our enemies. This relates to the golden rule in **Matthew 7:12**. Many people talk about the “golden rule” but do not really grasp what the golden rule is. Man tends to treat others well, only if they are treated well. We insert conditions and make this unconditional command of our Lord conditional. Let us read closely **Matthew 7:12**. **“Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets”.** The only condition in this verse is that we do unto them as we would want them to do to us. I know of friends and family members who have severed ties because someone crossed the line. That person did something that caused a grudge to be formed between one or both parties. Now these loved ones no longer follow the golden rule with one another unless the other one apologizes or repents first. Even after that, sometimes grudges are so deep that the relationship is severed forevermore. Sometimes marriages end the same way. A spouse will tolerate the imperfections of the other until their mate crosses the line. Once that line is crossed, they no longer follow the golden rule. This many times ends terribly in divorce and much pain for many innocent victims. When someone wrongs us does this rule say that is ok? Absolutely not! However, it also does not say if we are wronged, that we then have the freedom to treat them in a way that we would not want to be treated. Sometimes what happens is one spouse treats the other badly, and then the other responds in kind just to get back at them. But Jesus tells us not to even treat our enemies that way, much less our spouse! It doesn’t matter how our spouse treats us, we are to treat them (to the best of our ability) as if they’d never done anything wrong. And in doing that, we will often find they stop what they’re doing and treat us better because of the goodness we are showing them.

6. **Forgiving our spouses** (**Matthew 6:12-15**) – Forgiveness is often a difficult thing to offer anyone who has wronged us. It is more difficult to forgive a spouse because the hurt is greater because we tend to expect more from our spouse than we do strangers and friends. We almost expect friends and strangers to let us down. But when it is our soul mate, it hurts deeply. And because of the deeper hurt we feel, we also feel justified in holding that trespass over their head for a while (and possibly forever). But Jesus doesn’t view things that way. He warns us that if we want God to forgive us, we must forgive others (including our spouses) and with the forgiveness try to forget. Forgiving 70 times 7 even applies to husbands and wives (**Matthew 18:21-22**)! If they keep making the same mistakes over and over again, remain willing to forgive! In fact, your husband or wife should be the first one you are willing to forgive, above all others. Part of "dwelling with your wives with understanding" (**1 Peter 3:7**), and "submitting to your husbands as to the Lord" (**Ephesians 5:22**) is forgiving them.

7. **God is to be number one** (**Matthew 6:19-21, 24, 33-34**). This is a challenge as spouses seek to be the number one priority of the other. However if we really understand this, if God is number one, spouses will treat one another as number of all on this earth!

8. **Humble prayer in a marriage** (**Matthew 7:7-11**) – One of the greatest blessings of a marriage is that you can pray together and for one another.

9. **Hearing and doing what Jesus says** (**Matthew 7:21-24**). This sums up everything about marriage. If we hear and do what Jesus says, things will go well in our marriages, we will set the proper example for others, and the light of Jesus will shine brightly!

If we apply the Sermon on the Mount to the marriage relationship we end up with a triangle with God at the top and spouses at each corner. As they grow towards God, they grow closer to one another. Marriage is a wonderful institution, created by God for man!

**What does one do if they are in a marriage to a non-believer?**

I have three thoughts of encouragement for you.

* If you want your spouse to be converted to Christ, you need to make Jesus your first priority. If your non-Christian spouse sees you not putting Christ first in your life, you will never convince them to make Christ first in their life! (**Matthew 6:24, 33, 10:37-38, Galatians 2:20).**
* Overcome with good (**Romans 12:17-21, 1 Peter 3:1-2**).
* The believer sanctifies the unbeliever and may save their souls (**1 Corinthians 7:12-14**).

A good question for us all to ask ourselves is:

***AM I HELPING MY SPOUSE GET TO HEAVEN OR AM I A HINDRANCE?***

**INVITATION**

All are not commanded to get married. Many single Christians dedicate their lives to the Lord and these should be appreciated!

All must be spiritually married to Jesus in order to have their sins washed away and to have eternity to look forward to (**Ephesians 5:30-32**).

To be married to Christ you must keep His commandments (**John 14:15**). Believe Him, Confess that He is the Son of God, Repent of your sins, be to Baptized to wash away your sins, and then Live your life for Him!

**How about you (Revelation 22:17)?** **The Spirit and the bride say come!**

I believe this has been a good week. Good lessons that can help us who are married and those who may be married one day. I believe brother Mark has posted the audio files of this meeting at michiganavenueroadchurchofchrist.com

I also want to let you know that anyone is free to use all the material posted at oakridgechurch,com. You can even view our TV programs from the website!

Let us all determine to honor marriage as the wonderful institution God intends it to be!

If we can help you please make it known while we stand and sing!