

# The Lord Seeks a Godly Seed

## CLASS ONE

### Why You Say, "I Do"

- **READING:** Malachi 2
- **SLIDE** - Introduce yourself and family - A Prophet is not without honor... History
- Explain versions of the Bible
- **SLIDE** explain [www.gelineau.org](http://www.gelineau.org) - Documents
- Tell the River Boat Captain Story...
- I'm glad that you asked me to come speak about this topic, because it is one dear to my heart, but, like the River Boat Captain, I don't stand before you as one who has never made a mistake
  - I am here because I've made most of the mistakes we'll talk about today
- I'd like to start our discussion today in the chapter we had read, Malachi 2
  - But, I'm not going to start off the day with the "**Lord hateth putting away**" verse
- I want to look at the few verses right before verse 16
- **SLIDE**
- Malachi 2:13-14 (KJV)
  - 13)** And this have ye done again, covering the altar of the LORD with tears, with weeping, and with crying out, insomuch that he regardeth not the offering any more, or receiveth *it* with good will at your hand.

**14)** Yet ye say, Wherefore? Because the LORD hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously: yet *is* she thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant.

- And look at the next verse...

- **SLIDE**

- Malachi 2:15 (KJV)

**15)** And did not he make one? Yet had he the residue of the spirit. And wherefore one? **THAT HE MIGHT SEEK A GODLY SEED.** Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth.

- Isn't it God that "made you one?"

- Isn't it God that invented Marriage in the first place?

- Why?

- Why did God "make you one?"

- Why did God bring together Men and Women?

- Why did God invent Marriage?

- **Because the Lord seeks a Godly Seed!!**

- Let's consider what God is trying to say to us here...

- Let's look at these verses in a fresh light with a modern version:

- **SLIDE**

- Malachi 2:13-15 (Message)

**13)** And here's a second offense: You fill the place of worship with your whining and sniveling because you don't get what you want from GOD.

**14)** Do you know why? Simple. Because GOD was there as a witness when you spoke your marriage vows to your young bride, and now you've broken those vows, broken the faith-bond with your vowed companion, your covenant wife.

- **SLIDE**

15) **GOD, NOT YOU, MADE MARRIAGE.** His Spirit inhabits even the smallest details of marriage. And what does he want from marriage? **CHILDREN OF GOD**, that's what. So guard the spirit of marriage within you. Don't cheat on your spouse.

- in the midst of this condemnation about Divorce, God is trying to explain to us **WHY** He instituted Marriage in the first place

- What does God want from marriage?

- **SLIDE**

- A Godly Seed! **CHILDREN OF GOD!**

- For too many years I read those verses in Malachi from the King James, and I saw the word "Seed", and my mind just skipped right over it

- I just thought that it was saying that God wanted us to raise our Children up in the Lord

- **NO!**

- That verse is **NOT** talking about having babies!

- It's ludicrous to think that the purpose God made marriage was to bring more people into the world

- God knew that the world we live in would quickly become populated with millions of people who don't know Him

- If He was just looking for warm bodies, there are already literally billions of people that we can preach the Truth to

- God didn't make Marriage just so that He could bring more babies into the World

- **SLIDE**

- The reason God made Marriage is because he wants **US** to become a **GODLY SEED!**

- **SLIDE**

- God understands that for Humans to succeed, they need **HELP**

- For us to grow, and change, and mature, and become the kind of people that He wants us to become it requires great effort

- While this is possible on your own, God understood from the very beginning that it is much better to have someone to help you

- Let's look at the words God used in the very beginning:

- **SLIDE**

- Genesis 2:18 (KJV)

**18)** And the LORD God said, *It is not GOOD* that the man should be alone; I will make him an **HELP MEET** for him.

- **SLIDE**

- The Hebrew word, **TOWB**, denotes Goodness in the Moral Sense, that which is Right, True, Correct

- We're familiar with the last verse of the first chapter

- **SLIDE**

- Genesis 1:31 (KJV)

**31)** And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, *it was very GOOD*. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

- **SLIDE**

- We base entire doctrinal positions on what "very good" means, and yet we skip right over the fact that God says, it is **NOT GOOD** that Man should be alone!

- So, what does God propose?

- **SLIDE**

- Genesis 2:18 (NIV)

**18)** The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. **I WILL MAKE A HELPER SUITABLE FOR HIM.**"

- God realizes that it is not good for us to be alone...

- God, therefore, came up with a wonderful, and beautiful plan:

- **SLIDE**

- God provides a **HELPER** to us - Someone who is **SUITABLE** for us
- Suitable for what?
  - Remember the verse we started with from Malachi?

- **SLIDE**

- Malachi 2:15 (Message)

**15)** GOD, not you, made marriage. His Spirit inhabits even the smallest details of marriage. And what does he want from marriage? **CHILDREN OF GOD**, that's what.

- Suitable to help us achieve God's goal of turning us into a Godly Seed!
- So, before we begin a day full of discussion on what it means to be married, and what the responsibilities are, and even what happens to you if you find yourself no longer married...
  - I want to make sure that we all have a clear foundation on **WHY** we get married in the first place

- **SLIDE**

- **Why You Say, "I Do"**

- Although it's a wonderful thing when it happens, we don't get married simply because we have fallen deeply in love, and we can't live without the other person
- Although sexual intimacy is a wonderful gift from God and is reserved solely for those who are married, that is not why we get married either
- Although we all know that children are a wonderful blessing, and those married couples who are able to have them can find fulfillment and happiness in raising a family, that is not why God calls us to marry
- Although it can be nice to have another set of hands around the house to help share the chores, that is not why we get married
- And it surely isn't because everyone else was doing it, and we felt left out...

- **SLIDE**

- We get married because we want, more than anything else, to be in **GOD'S**

**KINGDOM**, and we realize that we need whatever **HELP** we can get to achieve that goal

- It really is that simple!

- **SLIDE**

- **THAT** is why the selection of a spouse is so critically **IMPORTANT**

- It's not something that you leave entirely up to your heart
- A decision like that is so important you need to involve your head in as much of the process as possible
- What spiritual areas are you weak in?
- Where do you need development, encouragement and improvement?
- What type of person would be ideal to develop you in those areas?
- Who would you best respond to?
- What kind of Helper would be Suitable to you?

- ***What can you offer to someone else?***

- After honestly evaluating these questions, you make a commitment to someone
- At Simi Hills we require everyone who wishes to get married to go through eight weeks of Pre-Marital Counseling
- I've always felt that it would be better if we could make it Pre-Engagement Counseling
- The real purpose isn't to prepare the couple for Marriage
  - It takes a lot longer than 8 hour long sessions to prepare for that
- The real benefit of Counseling is to help the couple decide if they **REALLY** are the best choice for each other
- Too often, we marry for the wrong reasons
- It's not Empirical Evidence, but at last count Kellie and I have been involved in counseling sessions with over 16 different couples who were divorcing
  - 100% of them had one thing in common

- Can you guess what it is?
- They had **ALL** engaged in Pre-Marital Sex
- I'm not saying therefore, that everyone who has Pre-Marital Sex ends up getting divorced, but I am saying, that in my limited experience, everyone whose marriage ended up in Divorce had begun in Sin
- Why is that we feel that if you are a "*Good Christadelphian*" you need to get married to the bum who got you pregnant out of wedlock?
  - Or, somehow, if we've allowed our passion to get out of control and have committed Fornication while dating, that somehow if we get married now that will make it all right?
- Don't follow up one mistake with another!
- We can't allow a problem to continue to mess up the futures of our young people
- If we really want to help reduce the epidemic of Divorce that continues to sweep through our Brotherhood, then we need to open up clear and honest lines of communication with our young people
- Mistakes are made!
  - Let's be realistic!
- **Sin happens**
  - For an Ecclesia to pretend that this is not the case, is for the Ecclesia to deny it's role as an Ecclesia
  - Christ didn't establish Ecclesias to provide housing for the healthy, but as a hospital for the sick!
- Our young people are faced with an incredible challenge, and it's worsens every year
  - In my parents age University was where you discovered your sexuality
  - For my generation it was in High School
  - For our children it begins in Junior High, and even younger
- Let's talk to them!

- Let's come along side them in this struggle, and help them to see that if a person gets involved with Sexual Sins with you, by either encouraging you, or not stopping you, then they are probably not well suited for you as a Spiritual Mate
- Let's help them understand that we all make mistakes, but you don't have to compound the mistake that you have made by making another – even bigger - mistake!
- If you are not well suited – **A helper SUITABLE** – for each other, then why are you getting married?
- Part of our Pre-Marital counseling involves spending two hours with a licensed Marriage Counselor
- We have the prospective couple complete a psychological profile that has been designed expressly for engaged couples
  - It is called, **PREPARE**, and was designed by a team of Marriage Counselors at a religious university
- 50% of the people who take the test **DON'T** end up getting married
  - But, if you've already picked the date, and told all of your family and friends, it's pretty hard to go back at that point and change your mind
- We don't **TRY** to get a couple to break up before they get married, but it is a lot better to do it before than after!
- This commitment is vitally important, because it, in and of itself, is another manner in which God tests us to see if we are faithful
- We understand that this commitment is for life, and we will be judged on how faithful we are to that commitment
- When our Lord returns one of the things that will please him will be if we have been faithful to our commitments
  - If we have been faithful to our spouse
- Consider the rest of what God says in Malachi:
- **SLIDE**
- Malachi 2:15-16 (Message)



- 15) ... So guard the spirit of marriage within you. Don't cheat on your spouse.
- 16) "I hate divorce," says the GOD of Israel. GOD says, "I hate the violent dismembering of the 'one flesh' of marriage." So watch yourselves. Don't let your guard down. **DON'T CHEAT.**

- We'll talk more about this later on, but it's implicit from the very beginning that a commitment of this level is a commitment for life

- Isn't that how our Lord interpreted it?

- **SLIDE**

- Matthew 19:4-6 (NLT)

- 4) "Haven't you read the Scriptures?" Jesus replied. "They record that from the beginning '**GOD MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE.**'
- 5) And he said, 'This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.'
- 6) Since they are no longer two but one, let no one separate them, for God has joined them together."

- **SLIDE**

- Jesus acknowledges that from the **BEGINNING** God made Marriage

- There isn't even a recorded commandment regarding how it should come about, or even what the requirements are

- **SLIDE**

- **MARRIAGE**, like a few other important things in the Old Testament are at such a high level of importance, that they are just recognized as "being there"

- **SLIDE**

- God doesn't give specific instructions regarding **SACRIFICES** until the Law of Moses, but we know that Cain and Abel brought sacrifices to God, and some were clearly acceptable and some were unacceptable to the Lord

- **SLIDE**

- God doesn't give specific instructions about **TITHING** until the Law of Moses, but we know that Abraham offered Tithes to Melchizedek long before he was even able to have children and become the forefather of Moses

- Marriage, like sacrifices and offerings, must have been taught to the first people,

because it simply appears in the record

- And, it is held in that similar of a high regard in God's sight
- Something so important that God wanted His people to know from the very beginning
- And Marriage is to be held in high regard today also...

- **SLIDE**

- Hebrews 13:4 (NLT)

**4) GIVE HONOR TO MARRIAGE**, and remain faithful to one another in marriage. God will surely judge people who are immoral and those who commit adultery.

- From the beginning, God's purpose of putting a Man and a Woman together was not just to have children
  - But to **HELP EACH OTHER**
  - And not just to help each other weed the garden and peel the potatoes, but to help each other in the most important task of **becoming** Children of God
- Let's consider some of the ways that your spouse can help make you into a better person

- **SLIDE**

- **7 Ways Your Spouse HELPS You**

- **SLIDE**

**1)** By **CHALLENGING** You to be Better

- Ah... Right off, on the very first one, everyone is gritting our teeth!
- That is the hardest part about growing through a Marriage

- **SLIDE**

- The same things that help you and cause you to **GROW**, are also the same things that can **DRIVE YOU CRAZY!**
- Now, notice I **DIDN'T** say,
  - **NAG** you to be Better

- Complain and complain and complain until you get Better
- Criticize the way that you do it until you get Better
- I'm talking about challenging each other in a positive, loving way...
- I'm talking about the kind of advice that Paul gave Timothy:

• **SLIDE**

• 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 4:2 (MESSAGE)

- 2) Proclaim the Message with intensity; keep on your watch. **CHALLENGE**, **WARN**, and **URGE** your people. Don't ever quit. Just keep it simple.
- I would give the same advice to Married couples:
    - ***“Challenge, warn, and urge your spouse. Don't ever quit. Just keep it simple.”***
  - Your spouse knows you better than anyone else, and knows what you are capable of
  - Unlike any other boss, mentor or friend you've ever had, they are not satisfied with your half-hearted efforts
  - Your spouse wants the best from you
    - Be mature enough to accept it as a challenge and rise to the occasion!

• **SLIDE**

2) By Holding You **ACCOUNTABLE**

- 22 years ago, my wife and I returned from our Honeymoon late on a Sunday Night
- We spent all of Monday Night opening up Wedding Gifts that we had never had the opportunity to open since the Reception
- But, on Tuesday Night, we invited another young, married couple over for a giant, big meal of Cap'n Crunch Cereal!
- Complete and utter sugar-based junk food for dinner!

- We were going crazy!
- We were reveling in the fact that we were no longer accountable to our parents
- We could go wherever we wanted
- We could do whatever we wanted
- And we could **EAT** whatever we wanted
  - And that night we were having Cap'n Crunch!
- But, eventually, we grew up, and the relationship matured
- Soon after, we came to understand that we are accountable to each other
- There is no sliding into sin when your spouse holds you accountable
- There is no slipping back into bad habits when you have someone watching your every move
- Sure, it's aggravating, uncomfortable, and annoying...
  - But, it's good for you!

• **SLIDE**

3) By **COUNTER-BALANCING** You

- One of the beauties of a marriage is that one spouse can be **UP** when the other spouse is **DOWN**
- Your Spouse can encourage and strengthen you when you feel weak
  - Your spouse can come alongside you when you sin...

• **SLIDE**

• Galatians 6:1-2 (NLT)

- 1) Dear brothers and sisters, if another Christian is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself.
  - 2) **SHARE EACH OTHER'S TROUBLES AND PROBLEMS**, and in this way obey the law of Christ.
- You benefit from the **MUTUALITY** of two people sharing the same burden

- For example, if you both only feel like spending time with the Word **HALF** the days of the week, the odds are greater that **ONE** of you will feel it **TODAY!**
- No one is positive and thinking Christ-Like all the time
- Your Spouse can be there for you during your moments of weakness
- Paul described this process well to the Corinthians...

• **SLIDE**

• 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 1:4 (MESSAGE)

- 4) God comes alongside us when we go through hard times, and before you know it, he brings us alongside someone else who is going through hard times **SO THAT WE CAN BE THERE FOR THAT PERSON** just as God was there for us.
- Spouses also **COMPLEMENT** each others weaknesses with their strengths
    - Kellie would rather have elective surgery than stand up here and give a class – Something that I really enjoy doing
    - But when this class is over, she is the one that you will see mixing and socializing with everyone, while I kind of stand there looking kind of awkward and uncomfortable

• **SLIDE**

4) By **PRAYING** For You

- No habit serves a married couple better than praying for each other
- The power of a praying Wife for her Husband, and a praying Husband for his Wife is one the strongest assets in any marriage
- You spouse doesn't pray to gain control over you, your spouse prays to ask God to come into your life and control you
- Your spouse wants the same goal and results for you that God wants: For you to become a Godly person
- We are all familiar with the verse in James:

• **SLIDE**

- James 5:16 (NIV)

**16)** Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is **POWERFUL** and **EFFECTIVE**.

- Who knows you better than your spouse, and who, therefore, is better equipped to pray for you?

- **SLIDE**

**5)** By Giving You Someone to **PLEASE**

- I struggled with how best to word this one (I thought about “Giving You Someone to **SERVE**,” but, that is, in reality, what we are talking about
- As humans, we enjoy having a target of our affections, we rise to the occasion of trying to make someone happy
- Paul describes it as...

- **SLIDE**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 7:33 (KJV)

**33)** He that is married careth for the things that are of the world, how he may **PLEASE** his wife.

- We’ll talk later on today about that verse, and the implications that it has in our lives, but one thing is for sure, we can’t argue with Paul’s reasoning
- A married person **DOES** concern themselves with how they can please their spouse
- In a Godly marriage, this can also be healthy
- Sometimes we do our best work when we are trying to make someone else happy
- We **KNOW** that it makes our Lord happy to see us productive and busy, but sometimes it’s encouraging to have that immediate, physical response
- Sometimes I begin to wonder if I would ever do any yard work **AT ALL**, if I didn’t know that it pleases my wife more than anything else to see me out there sweating in the hot sun

- **SLIDE**

6) By Being **HONEST** With You

- In this world full of lies, one of the rarest commodities is **HONESTY**
- In a good marriage, you get someone who is **REALLY** going to tell you what you are like
- Every time I speak, well meaning people walk up to me and say, “*Good Exhortation.*”
  - But, on the way home, I find out whether it was **REALLY** good or not

• **SLIDE**

• Proverbs 28:23 (NLT)

**23)** In the end, people appreciate **FRANKNESS** more than **FLATTERY**.

- In the end, I benefit much more from my spouse telling me **HONESTLY** what it is that I need to improve, than by having a bunch of people tell me that I am doing good
- You often know you are doing good, but you want to do **GREAT**, and you need someone who is honest enough to tell you what needs work
- Which kind of connects to our last thought:

• **SLIDE**

7) By Keeping You **HUMBLE**

- This one was kind of HUMBLING for me...
- Kellie and I take a walk together every day and talk, talk, talk...
- Usually about the boys, sometimes about work, mostly about what is going on in our lives
- I was looking for help in putting together this list of 7 Ways Your Spouse HELPS You
  - This one was Kellie’s suggestion
- I’m thinking to myself, “*Why is it that she finds it humbling to live with me?*”

- *“Am I so bad that it’s humiliating to be with me?”*
  - But, that’s not what it’s about, is it?
    - That’s just my paranoia speaking...
  - By definition, a marriage is about giving up a part of your desires to please someone else
  - That’s often why people who stay single a very long time have a harder and harder time accepting marriage, because they have developed a self-centered lifestyle that doesn’t have to take anyone else into consideration
  - Marriage keeps you from thinking just about yourself
  - Humility is not thinking **LESS** of yourself, Humility is thinking of yourself **LESS**
  - In Marriage, you have an ideal opportunity to think of the good of someone other than yourself, and to think about yourself a little less
    - By it’s definition, Marriage should cause us to be a little more HUMBLES
  - If you are blessed with a wonderful partner like I have been, you will also realize that your spouse can keep you humble in other ways also
    - I don’t know of any one in the world who is a better person than my wife
  - I am humbled almost daily by how lovingly and patiently she deals with the issues that life throws at her
  - So, if you have found a Helper **SUITABLE** to you, then you are blessed by God
    - Your Spouse can **HELP** you in many ways to achieve your goal of becoming the kind of person that God wants you to be
- 1) By **CHALLENGING** You to be Better
  - 2) By Holding You **ACCOUNTABLE**
  - 3) By **COUNTER-BALANCING** You
  - 4) By **PRAYING** For You
  - 5) By Giving You Someone to **PLEASE**
  - 6) By Being **HONEST** With You



7) By Keeping You **HUMBLE**

• **SLIDE**

• **The Lord Seeks a Godly Seed**

• **SLIDE**

- The reason God made Marriage is because He wants **US** to become a **GODLY SEED!**
- God understands that for Humans to succeed, they need help
  - For us to grow, and change, and mature, and become the kind of people that He wants us to become it requires great effort
  - While this is possible on your own, God understood from the very beginning that it is much better to have someone to help you

• **SLIDE**

- God provides a Helper **SUITABLE** to helping you in this lifelong task

• **SLIDE**

\* **THAT** is *Why We Say "I Do"*

- Because we have found a helper suitable to help us in our goal of pursuing a lifetime of discipleship, transformation and improvement
- Next, we will consider what happens **AFTER We Say "I Do"**