



## **‘O Men of Little Faith’**

Four times the disciples were upbraided for different reasons.

**In each instance there is a lesson for us.**

*(Read each text)*

MATTHEW 6:30 (24-34)

### **DISTRACTING CARES**

Upbraided for letting the cares of world becoming most important.

MATTHEW 8:26 (23-27)

### **PARALYZING FEAR**

Upbraided for being fearful.

MATTHEW 14:31 (22-33)

### **DEFEATING DOUBT**

Upbraided for doubting.  
(Peter was able, until he doubted.)

MATTHEW 16:7-12

### **FAULTY UNDERSTANDING**

Upbraided for not understanding what He meant by “leaven.”  
Pharisees voided the Word by traditions.  
Sadducees voided the Word by rejecting angels, spirit, bodily resurrection.

## **LESSONS FOR US**

### **DON'T LET**

**The cares of world distract you.**

**Fears paralyze you.**

**Doubts defeat you.**

**Faulty understanding cause you to misunderstand.**

# THOUGHTS ON MARRIAGE

## PREPARATIONS

Jeremiah's rhetorical question, (2:32) "*Can a virgin forget her ornaments, or a bride her attire?,"* came to mind the other day while I was in a restaurant. I overheard a young woman talking about the details of her upcoming wedding. Everything had to be just right; it must be a "perfect" wedding.

Yes, to the bride, the details of the wedding ceremony are very important. I wondered, though, if she and her prospective husband had thought much about making their marriage "just perfect."

Wedding preparations are fine, but what about marriage preparation? Many hours and days are spent in preparation for a wedding ceremony which is over in less than an hour. But the union is forever (that's the way it's supposed to be). How much time and thought are spent in preparing for it?



## VOWS

Many couples are very particular about the vows they make to each other. That is as it should be. Much thought is given to the content. Some write their own vows to make them more personal. But how much thought is given to keeping those vows of undying love and affection "until death do us part"?

It appears to many that their marriage vows fall into the category of "convenient items." That is, they will keep their vows as long as it suits their needs. When the union is no longer what they want, it is merely disposed of. Wedding vows are probably broken more often than all other vows. Proverbs 20:25: "*It is a trap for a man to dedicate something rashly and only later to consider his vows.*"

## BROKEN VOWS

Why is it so painful when couples divorce? Because a "body" is being torn apart. Mark 10:7-8: "*for this cause a man shall leave his father and*

*mother, and the two shall become one flesh..."* Marriages don't "break up," they are broken up by one or both parties. A "break up" implies that something beyond their control caused it. "It just happened to us." "We just fell out of love." "It just wasn't working out." Such ideology relieves those involved of any responsibility. Bodies need care and attention to remain healthy, and so does the marriage bond. Ephesians 5:33: "*Nevertheless let each individual among you also love his own wife even as himself; and let the wife see to it that she respect her husband.*" Proverbs 5:18-20: "*And rejoice in the wife of your youth. As a loving hind and a graceful doe. Let her breasts satisfy you at all times; be exhilarated always with her love. For why should you, my son, be exhilarated with an adulteress, and embrace the bosom of a foreigner?"*

## THE CYCLE MUST BE BROKEN

It's hard to convince children that marriage is for life when many parents are in their second or third union. Children are affected more by what parents and other adults *do* than what they *say*. It's tragic enough when worldly people freely divorce and remarry, but it's even worse when Christians follow in the steps of the worldly rather than in the steps of the Lord.

We may never see the end of divorce and remarriage among the population. But it can and must be stopped among those who follow Christ. Those who are married need to be determined to keep their vows at all costs. The union must be kept pure, Hebrews 13:4, "*Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral..."*

## SHOW AND TELL

Those who are unmarried need to hear this message. And it is the responsibility of parents and all concerned adults to show, as well as tell, the next generation the "facts of marriage."

# One Word Can Make a Difference



## ONE WORD LEFT OUT

In printing the King James Bible, 1631 edition, in Exodus 20 a very small word was forgotten by the printers. The word “**not.**” This changed the commandment to read “Thou shalt commit adultery!” The printers were fined 300 pounds (a lifetime of wages in those days). Most of the copies were recalled immediately. Only 11 are left today. The few copies that are left are sometimes referred to as “The Wicked Bible.” (One copy is said to be in the Bible Museum in Eureka Springs, Arkansas.)

## ONE WORD ADDED

The woman said to the serpent, “From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.’” The serpent said to the woman, “You surely will **not** die!” Genesis 3:1-4

## A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

The printer’s error resulted in a huge fine as well as embarrassment. The serpent by adding one word deceived Eve and as a result of sinning Adam and Eve were cast out of the garden of Eden. A great penalty that has affected all mankind.

Today there are some who are seeking to remove the “**not’s**” in the Bible (such as Galatians 5:19-21) where the deeds of the flesh are listed: *immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing.* Those who practice such things will **not** inherit the kingdom of God.

## ADMONITION

Do not be deceived. Removing or adding a “not” (or similar conditional words) to God’s word can have a devastating effect on one’s future—in this life and in the life to come.

*Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.*

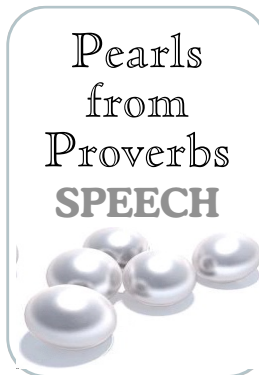
Galatians 6:7

## FLATTERY

**26:28** – *A lying tongue hates those it crushes, and a flattering mouth works ruin.*

**28:23** – *He who rebukes a man will afterward find more favor than he who flatters with the tongue.*

**29:5** – *A man who flatters his neighbor is spreading a net for his steps.*

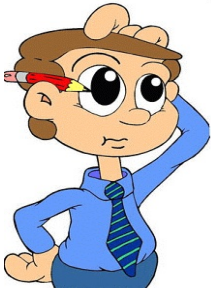


## HARMFUL WORDS

**12:18** – *There is one who speaks rashly like the thrusts of a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.*

**15:4** – *A soothing tongue is a tree of life, but perversion in it crushes the spirit.*

**16:27** – *A worthless man digs up evil, while his words are as a scorching fire.*



# Ponder This

## My 'To Do' List for Today

**I need to ...**

**love my neighbor, the unlovely, even my enemies;**

*The fruit of the Spirit is love*

**radiate the joy that comes from knowing my Lord;**

*joy*

**be at peace with myself, with others, and with the Lord;**

*peace*

**be patient while undergoing trials or tribulations;**

*patience*

**let goodness be my adornment;**

*goodness*

**be kind and gentle in my conduct towards others;**

*kindness*

**be faithful in my dealings with others, my word being my bond;**

*faithfulness*

**maintain self-control, in order to prevent harming myself and others.**

*self-control.*

Galatians 5:22-23

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**To do these things is a challenge, but with the Lord's help I'll give it my best shot!**



## WORD STUDY

enhance your  
Bible knowledge

### TEN THOUSAND

*A fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; Ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, and the books were opened.*

Daniel 7:10

**Ten thousand** (Hebrew: **rib-bo, rib-bo**) that is, an indefinite large number.

*Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand (myriads of myriads), and thousands of thousands.*

Revelation 5:11

**Ten thousand** (Greek: **urias**) by extension a "myriad" or indefinite number.

'Myriad' found in some English versions of the Bible is transliterated from the Greek word *myrioi*. It was the largest known number represented by conventional Greek numbers.

| Name of Greek Number | The Number |
|----------------------|------------|
| iota                 | 1          |
| pente                | 5          |
| deka                 | 10         |
| hekaton              | 100        |
| chilioi              | 1000       |
| myrioi               | 10000      |

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Articles written by others are duly noted.

Bible references are from the NASB except where another translation is referenced.

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