

Let God Choose Your Mate
TS003

A Prudent Wife Is from the Lord
4079

I. Prov. 18:22; 19:14

- A. Matt. 19:3–6—Jesus’ standard of marriage at the beginning
 1. God *decided* Adam was to have a wife
 2. God *formed* Eve for Adam
 3. God *brought* Eve to Adam
 4. God *determined* the nature and purpose of their relationship
- B. *Marriage was totally initiated by God*—humanism or fake religion always lower the standards. *God attaches much greater importance to marriage* than most Christians do
- C. Revelation given to Jimmy Moore of six cities (about 1965):
 1. Reno, Nevada – Breakdown of American home
 2. Hollywood, California – Licentiousness and perversion
 3. New Orleans, Louisiana – *Witchcraft* (Mardi Gras)
 4. Chicago, Illinois – Viciousness and violence
 5. Boston, Massachusetts – False religion
 6. Miami, Florida – Political confusion
 7. The door was opened through (1) (above) for all the rest
- D. Eph. 5:31–33—Unless the church understands marriage it cannot understand its relationship to Christ

II. Personal

- A. Conversion—calling to Israel, etc.
- B. Called as a teacher
- C. Lydia—same “yoke” and “harness”
 1. All the natural reasons against
 2. Result: Unity, esp. in *prayer* and *ministry*
- D. Bereavement – how to handle it (Job 1:21)
- E. Willing to live single
- F. Revelation about renewed call to Israel
- G. Vision of road with Ruth, etc.
 1. Personal prayer
 2. Counsel of brothers
 3. “Grace of yielding”
 4. Ruth and I both yield
- H. To New Zealand and Australia—to pray (Ps. 61:2)
 1. “What dies in fall will be resurrected in spring”
 2. Why always death and resurrection?
 3. Approval of brothers
 4. Relationship with Ruth—unity and harmony
 5. “To God and to each other for Jerusalem, for Israel and for God’s people everywhere”
- I. New commitments I could not handle alone—Radio, etc.

How to Find the Right Mate 4080

I. Matt. 19:3–6

- A. Jesus' standard of marriage at the beginning
 1. God *decided* Adam was to have a wife
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 4. God *determined* the nature and purpose of their relationship
- B. God started human history as a *matchmaker*—He is still in the business today!
- C. Prov. 18:22; 19:14—A father can give his sons homes and riches, but only the Lord can give them understanding wives.

II. How Can You Find Your God-Appointed Mate?

- A. *First*, distinguish between *general* and *special* guidance
 1. *General guidance* comes primarily from the Scriptures—Ps. 119:105
 2. We only qualify for *special guidance* if we are obedient to *general guidance*
 3. One basic principle of Scripture: 2 Cor. 6:14–16—It is wrong for a believer to marry an unbeliever
 - a. The *yoke* is primarily *marriage*.
 - b. If you are converted after marriage, that is different.
- B. *Second*, remember the initiative is with God. On this basis, some practical suggestions:
 1. Believe in God's purpose for your life (Rom. 1–17, Heb. 11:6)
 2. Commit your life totally to Him (Rom. 12:1–2)
 3. Be prepared for death and resurrection (John 12:24–25)
 4. Walk in the light of God's Word (Ps. 119:105)
 5. Cultivate fellowship with God's people (1 John 1:7)
 6. Realize your value as a child of God (Eph. 2:10). Don't make yourself cheap – don't accept second best
 7. Be prepared to wait (Ecc. 3:1–8)
 8. Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:14)

III. Responsibility of Parents

- A. Gen. 24—*Abraham* obtains a wife for *Isaac*
- B. 1 Cor. 7—*Christian fathers* decide for their *daughters*; this is still the *ideal*
- C. *Elders* should act only where they have legitimately taken over the responsibility of parents.