

## **A Marriage That Called Attention to God**

### **Text: Various verses from the Prophet Isaiah**

The preacher and church in today's society is called upon to speak prophetically (a declaration of the words, will and ways of God), yet with compassion. It is apparent that family life is quite distinct from the time I first started preaching. In my first pastorate there was one divorced and remarried lady. In my ministry in San Francisco the family of origin being together was in the minority.

So in audiences today of 50 or more people there might be people who have experienced divorce, a remarried person, a widow, and a career single, a single waiting for that Mr. or Ms. Right. A person in an abusive marriage either verbally or physically, a single parent, a person who questions the viability of a wedding, a marriage contract (Surprisingly many older people whose spouses have died are living with someone, in order to avoid the legal problems that might develop or the family schism it might provoke) What a challenge to speak about God's plan for marriage and yet communicate with sensitivity and understanding.

Regardless, as a called minister of the Gospel I am compelled to speak of the nobility of marriage and to celebrate it as a divine creation. I have found a family tucked away in one of the Major Prophets that show the kind of marriage that draws attention to God.

### **What qualities did that family possess?**

- It had a worship dimension.
- Isaiah saw the Lord in His glory, v.1
- Isaiah saw himself in his fallen, v,5
- Isaiah sought for cleansing, v.7
- Isaiah saw God's plan for his life, v.8
- Isaiah was commitment to the Word of God, 8: 3
- Isaiah 40:8, 55:10-11.

2. The marriage had a romantic dimension. 5:1 and 62: 4-5. The prophet used a loving marriage as an analogy to Jehovah's love for his people. The story of the Genesis couple has a touch of romance. Genesis 2

3. The marriage had a witnessing dimension. 8:18 Children are gifts. We need to know that good marriages are grounded in the practice of love more than the words of love.

4. The marriage had a serious dimension. 7:3 and 8:3-4. [Here the communicator studies the meaning of the names of Isaiah's sons. Judgment is inevitable. A remnant will be saved. Those were not easy days to raise children, Ch. 5, "the woes."

5. The marriage was fueled by hope. 7:14 and 9:6

CONCLUSION: Jesus performed His first miracle in Cana. He didn't want that marriage to start with a disappointment. He saves us so that we might worship God; receive gifts from the Holy Spirit and empowerment to do His will.

Sobering words from John Carvey: "It could be that in time marriage seen as a sacrament, and lived as if it were a mystery of grace, will become nearly as radical a choice as monasticism, a counter-cultural thing. Maybe it is already, understood properly"

### **What can the church do?**

- Celebrate marriage.
- Send anniversary cards.
- Encourage testimonies of how God is empowering families to carry out ministry.
- Have renewal of vows at 5, 10, 15, 25 years.
- Pray for the spouse or child that is the only one in the family who knows Jesus. Remind them that they are the agents of life, love and light. I Corinthians 7:1