

MARRIAGE ...
Honoured by all.



Indian Churches of Christ

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Lesson - 1

AHAB & JEZEBEL - PART# I

Couple Profile:

Ahab was the king of Israel who ruled Israel for 22 years. He got married to Jezebel, the daughter of the king of Sidon. They both were supposed to take care of God's people (1Kings 20).

Life Assessment:

1. After their marriage, Ahab was led astray to worship Baal by his wife, something that God detested
2. Jezebel dominated his life in many ways and Ahab too allowed her to do whatever she felt like doing
3. There was no Godly fear in Ahab's life, his heart was filled with pride, selfishness and he was not content with what he had
4. Both Ahab & Jezebel compromised and were involved in all kinds of sin and Ahab was considered as the most evil king in the eyes of God
5. In their greed and hatred, they falsely accused Naboth and sentenced him to be stoned to death
6. They both had a miserable death and all their sons and relatives were brutally killed as prophesied by the prophet Eliza

Lessons to Learn:

- Be careful to *SERVE GOD ALONE* as a family (at times, our jobs, people, worldly matters etc can become a Baal to us)
Beware of *GREED* (don't focus on what we do not have)
Watch out for any *EVIL INTENTION*
Never *TOLERATE SIN* amongst yourselves

Lesson 2

URIAH & BATHSHEBA - PART# II

Couple Profile:

Uriah was a faithful and loyal soldier of the army of King David. He was married to a beautiful woman by the name of Bathsheba. They lived close to the king's palace in Jerusalem (2 Samuel 11:1-28).

Life Assessment:

1. Uriah had deep convictions to fight for God's army and was willing to be away from his wife. He was so concerned for the Ark of God and for his fellow soldiers, that he refused King David's offer of being with his wife for sometime. He did not think about his personal interests during the time of battle. All he wanted was to go back and bring victory for the Lord
2. Bathsheba, on the other hand, was beautiful and attractive from the outside but on the inside, she was ugly and unspiritual. Her conviction about purity was low and she didn't mind getting exposed. She didn't refuse the King's desire. She never felt any remorse after committing adultery and was not ashamed to send the news of her pregnancy to the king through someone
3. Bathsheba's compromised life and her casual attitude towards adultery led to the murder of her great husband

Lessons to Learn:

- Never *COMPROMISE* with any kind of impurity
Watch out and be *CAREFUL* as to what we read, watch and think
Keep a *STANDARD OF PURITY* in our marriage
(Ephesian5:2)

Lesson 3

ADAM AND EVE - PART# 1

Couple Profile:

They were the first couple of the world. God ordained their marriage. It was God's choice that Adam received Eve as his wife. As family responsibility, Adam was supposed to work and take care of the Garden entrusted to his care. He lived in close proximity to God. Eve was to be a helper to Adam, taking a lower role than Adam and a spiritual co-partner to him, helping each other stay faithful to God and uphold His instructions. They had sons and daughters (how many is not recorded in the Bible). Prominent among their children are Cain, Abel and Seth.

Scripture Reading:

Adam's view of his wife and the very reason as to how they become an independent family – Read Genesis 2: 23-24

How their relationship with God and with each other got strained:

- a. Instruction by God to Adam - Genesis 1:28-29, Genesis 2:15-17
- b. Fall of the first couple - Genesis 3

What went wrong with Adam & Eve: (thoughts to consider?)

Adam:

1. Adam's understanding of God's word could be one of the reasons. Had he been serious about the depth of understanding and commitment to God's word, he wouldn't have led Eve astray (Hebrews 2:1)
2. Cave into pressure exerted by Eve. God destined man to be the head of his wife (Ephesians 5:23)

3. He was unaware of Eve's friends. Here she associated herself with someone crafty and Adam was not aware (1 Corinthian 15:33)
4. When Eve fell into sin, Adam did not lead her to the path of repentance (did not confront her with regards to what she did) rather he also along with her, enjoyed the pleasure of sin
5. He hid the truth from God. He still had the opportunity to confess to God and be repentant. God was not upset because of *WHAT* he did, but because of his *DECEIT* - the very thing that made God banish both of them from His garden
6. When disciplined, Adam shifted the blame rather than accept his personal responsibility which led to sin

Eve:

1. Woman who gave into greed
2. Worldly relationships
3. She lacked understanding of God's instructions
4. She was leading rather than being submissive and allowing her husband to lead and make decisions

PERSONAL ASSESSEMENT:

Based on what you learned from Adam and Eve, write down the weaknesses you see in yourself.

Husband:

Lesson 4 CAIN AND ABLE - PART# II

Profile of first brothers:

We all know the story of Cain and Abel - the sons of Adam and Eve. What we fail to look into in the story is the influence of parents on children who lived different lifestyles. The objective of analysis of this story is to help each of us understand hidden things we overlook as parents.

Scripture Reading:

Sibling Rivalry: Genesis 4:1-10; 1 John 3:12

Hidden Principles on Parenting:

1. Do not take sides when it come to children
2. Do devotionals to build their relationship with each other
3. Teach them to revere God and give him their best not the left over. Make sure our kids attend devotions and church services
4. Disciple kids with firmness and with the word of God. Deal with the heart issues. Children cannot throw tantrums

PERSONAL ASSESSEMENT:

Based on the above study, which areas have you been neglecting in your Children. Write it down below:

As Father: _____

Lesson 5

JACOB AND RACHEL

Scripture Study:

Genesis 28: 1–32

INTRODUCTION

Jacob ran from his brother Esau who threatened to kill him for stealing his birthright (position) and blessing (money). Jacob received God's promise at Bethel. "Behold I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised to you" (Gen. 28:15 NIV).

- a. Jacob was the deceitful deal maker
- b. Rachel was the beautiful girl with a selfish spoiled attitude

THEY MEET AND THEY MARRIED

1. Outward beauty - What did Jacob first notice about Rachel? "Beautiful of form and face" (29:17 NIV). "Beautiful and well formed" (28:17 KJV).
2. Love at first sight - What was Jacob's response to Rachel? "Rolled the stone from the well and watered the flock" (29:10). "Jacob kissed Rachel and wept" (28:11). Just showing off.
3. Not long enough - How long before Jacob commits to marry Rachel? "Jacob stayed with Laban one month" (29:14). "I will serve thee seven years for Rachel thy youngest daughter" (29:18).

HOW LONG BEFORE PROPOSING?

- To know her well enough to make a life-long commitment
- To know it's true love and not sexual lust
- To know God's will
- To know the person, not our mental image of them

4. Yes, but it takes time - Can a marriage that begins with physical attraction grow into lasting love? Hint: You don't know if it is true love until you endure the first squabble!

5. Absence makes the heart grow fonder - Did Jacob lose his feelings in seven years of service? "Jacob served seven years for Rachel and they seemed unto him, but a few days, for the love he had for her" (29:20). Hint: You don't know if it's true love until you endure a limited separation.

MARRY IN HASTE, REPENT IN LEISURE

- Infatuation is in a hurry because it's self-centered
- Infatuation says I must marry because you make me feel good
- Love says I can wait to make sure this is good for you

6. The trickster got tricked - The sly Laban substitutes Leah for Rachel on the wedding night. You hurt a marriage when you "trick" a person to marrying you for sex, a baby, money, fun, or "empty promises"

7. Give Leah a honeymoon - What was Laban's explanation? "Complete this bridal week (honeymoon) . . . and we will give you the other (Rachel) for the service for another seven years" (29:27 NIV)

TWO ALTERNATIVES

- Jacob could have rejected Leah (and lost Rachel)
- Jacob could have accepted Leah as God's will

8. One man for one woman for one lifetime - Does God's will include bigamy? No!

a. God uses people where He finds them

b. Sometimes the Bible describes not prescribes

1. Her jealousy was manifested - When Leah had children, Rachel complained to Jacob, "Give me children, or else I die" (30:1)

2. What is wrong with Rachel's jealousy?

- a. Rachel not Leah had the beauty
 - b. Rachel not Leah had the husband's love
 - c. Rachel had everything but children, so she became envious, jealous, selfish, demanding and discontented
 - d. Rachel's jealousy got her husband mad at her. "Jacob's anger was kindled against Rachel, am I in God's stead" (30:2)
3. Sin of discontented wife - Wants children, rejects a pregnancy, home-maker, wants to work, working mother wants to stay home, doesn't like home, job, money husband makes, husband's habits, even the husband himself
4. Sin of discontented husband - Criticizes the way she keeps house, dresses, treats children, gains weight, wastes time, spends money, or disciplines the children
5. How can you deal with discontentment
- a. Talk it out
 - b. Change expectations
 - c. Look at reasons
 - d. Look at spouse's good qualities
 - e. Plan to "crucify" your discontentment - "Godliness with contentment is great gain" (I Tim. 6:6).
 - f. Re-educate your desires, "I have learned in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content" (Phil. 4:11)
6. Schemed like her grandmother Sarah - How did Rachel deal with her childlessness"Rachel told Jacob, 'Sleep with my servant Bilhah and she shall bear children for me'" (30:3 ELT)
7. A contest for Jacob's affection - How did Rachel relate to her sister"With many wrestlings, I have wrestled with my sister, and

I have indeed won" (Gen. 30:8 ELT)

8. Traded sex for salad - Rachel always wanted something that wasn't hers. Reuben found special roots growing and brought them to Leah. Rachel begged for them. Leah angrily replied, "Wasn't it enough that you stole Jacob's love, now you will steal my son's roots" (30:15). Rachel said, "I'll let him sleep with you tonight if you give me the roots" (30:15 ELT).

9. Wanted one more son - Was Rachel content when she finally gave birth to a son? Named him Joseph, which means "may he add." Then said, "May the Lord give me another son" (30:24 ELT).

10. Stole her father's inheritance - How else did Rachel show her nature when she left her father's family? "Rachel had stolen the images that were her father's" (31:19). Idols were symbolic of inheritance right

11. Lied to father - When Laban caught up with Jacob and the family returning to the Holy Land, he searched for them. Sweet beautiful little Rachel was an ill-tempered "demon."

DID THEY LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER?

1. Gave Rachel protection - When facing danger, Jacob gave Rachel more protection than the rest of the family. (33:2)

2. God gave her one last request - Rachel had another son with severe labor pains. Before dying she named him, "Son of my sorrow." Jacob re-named him Benjamin. "Son of my right hand."

3. Protected "Ben" like "Rachel" - Did Jacob ever get over Rachel? No!

4. Irony - What can be said about their burial? Jacob buried next to Leah, but Rachel lies alone by the side of

the road

PRACTICAL TAKE AWAYS

1. Is your discontentment destroying your family
2. Is discontent a cancer that keeps you from enjoying life
3. Does discontentment keep you from relating to people
4. Does discontentment lead to loneliness
5. Our greatest contentment is found in God - "Be content with such things as ye have, for He hath said, I will never leave thee or forsake thee" (Heb. 13:5)

Family relationships aren't always fair. My mother used to say, "LIFE isn't fair." I got tired of hearing that.

Lord, when I think life isn't fair, remind me that I am not always fair to others. Sometimes I show more attention to one grandchild than another. I know I've been guilty of responding more to the family member who does things "my way or to the one who agrees with ME. I pay attention to people who pay attention to me.

Help me appreciate the way You lead even when I don't understand or even see the end result.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Sometimes we need to confess our sins or weaknesses to paper. Write out the selfish or mean things you do that have hurt your spiritual growth, or harmed your relationship with your spouse.
2. Describe a person who has made a positive influence on you or your marriage. How did they do it Were they selfish or mean What were their good qualities
3. Describe some changes in your life that would strengthen your marriage.

4. Describe some changes in your spouse that you'd like to see happen. What can you do to influence a change in his/her life? Remembering fussing will not open them up to change, but rather, fussing will close them to your suggestions.

PRAYER FOCUS

- RAISING A FAMILY WHO WILL ALWAYS DO THINGS GOD'S WAY IS OUR GOAL
- TEACHING GODLY CONTENT AT HOME STARTS WITH BEING THE SAME TOWARDS EACH OTHER IN OUR MARRIAGE
- APPRECIATING EACH OTHER'S PRESENCE IN OUR LIVES MORE OFTEN WILL INSPIRE CHILDREN ALSO TO VALUE EACH OTHER AND NOT BE LOST IN SIBLING RIVALRY, ENVY AND BITTERNESS



CASE STUDY FOR THE MARRIEDS'

Lesson 6

CASE STUDY 1: NABAL & ABIGAIL 1 Samuel 25

Profile:

Nabal was a wealthy man, but foolish, surly and mean in his dealings. His wife Abigail was wise, God-fearing and beautiful. Nabal got into trouble with King David by insulting the men David had sent. Abigail, with all her wisdom and humble spirit rescued Nabal from death.

Abigail's qualities:

- Abigail was submissive, in spite of a foolish husband - was considerate - wise - God-fearing and humble.
- She's not frustrated - not complaining, but accepted things in her stride.
- She saved her husband and her family from the attack of

David with her wise decision and humble heart.

- Abigail was not quitting - not blaming her husband for her situations - wise with words
- She spoke to her husband with humility and at the right timing.

Questions:

- If your spouse is un-spiritual, how are you handling the situations - are you blaming / complaining / feeling victimised
- Are you grateful to God for your spouseIf you are complaining / blaming - you are not spiritual and ungrateful.
- Are you handling the spouse God has given you in a spiritual way
- Do you do spiritual things togetherWhat do you do
- Do you get frustrated by any character of your spouse

Biblical principles:

- 1 Cor. 7: 12-16
- Galatians 6:1
- Mark 10:14
- 1 Timothy 4:16

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Lesson 7

CASE STUDY 2: NOAH & FAMILY

Genesis 6-9

Profile:

Noah was a righteous man - living among evil and corrupt people. God used Noah to build an ark to save his family and the animals. Noah obeyed God and did exactly what was said. God destroyed the earth and all that's in it by water but obeyed Noah's family.

Noah's qualities:

- Noah was righteous - blameless among the people of his time.
- He walked with God and feared him. Though the earth was

corrupt and full of violence - he was found righteous in the eyes of God.

- He did not allow his family to slip into the standard of the world.
- It's a great responsibility as a parent especially the father to raise the family in Godly fear for God.
- Noah's sons believed and entered the ark though it sound foolish. Noah has put in the fear of God in the hearts of his sons
- Noah 'd invested considerable amount of time to teach about God and his righteousness as the whole community he lived with is corrupt and evil in every way.

Questions:

- How is your practise of righteousness in your home
- Do your children find you compromising in your honestyDo your children find you righteous and blameless
- How much time do you invest in a week to teach your children about God and his ways
- What are the efforts you are making towards your family to bring righteousness and spirituality
- Do you believe in Biblical discipline towards your kids

Biblical principles:

- Deuteronomy 6:4-9
- Deuteronomy 6:1, 2
- Matthew 6:31-33
- 1 Timothy 3:4-5
- Proverbs 22:6, 23:13, 29:15
- Mark 10:14
- 1 Timothy 4:16

Lesson 8

CASE STUDY 3: ELI & SONS

1 Samuel 2:12-36

Profile:

Eli was a priest in the temple of God. His sons Hophni and Phinias also served as priests to the Lord. Eli's sons were wicked men and had no regard for the LORD. The sins of the young men were very great in the LORD'S sight, for they were treating the LORD'S offering with contempt. They even committed adultery with a woman who served in the entrance of the Tent of Meeting. Eli failed to restrain them. God brought in discipline by killing both the sons on the same day.

Lesson:

- Eli's sons did evil though they were priests of the Lord.
- V13, 22: Eli knew about it, but failed to restrain them.
- We can see lack of discipline towards the sons and lack of indignity toward sin made Eli not to restrain his sons from their sins.
- The whole of Israel knew about this wickedness, but Eli failed to take any action.
- The words of discipline were too soft.
- As a father Eli failed in the role of disciplining his sons - and he failed to teach and impress on them the Laws of God.
- Though coming from priestly family, Eli failed to protect the sanctity of the offerings and protect those serving the Lord.

Questions:

- What's conviction about Biblical discipline for your children
- How consistent are you in your discipline
- Do you know your children's friends
- Are there frequent complaints about your child's misbehaviour from those outside How are you handling them
- Do you spend constructive time with your children every week - teaching them from the Bible
- Does your wife / disciples feel you are too soft with your children's discipline

Biblical principles:

- Ephesians 6:4
- Proverbs 22:6
- Proverbs 23:13, 14



Lesson 9 ISAAC AND REBEKAH

SCRIPTURE STUDY

Genesis 24: 1-35
Genesis 24: 1-29; 35

INTRODUCTION

Isaac was the son of a powerful father and Rebekah was from the right family. They began their marriage right but drifted apart over the years and ended up hurting one another.

TENDER BEGINNING

1. What is the first step to marriage? "You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites . . . go to my country . . . take a wife for my son" (Gen. 24:3, 4) - Separation - Canaanites were immoral, filthy, and doomed for destruction
2. While we do not choose our children's mates, we must teach them it is imperative to marry believers. (I Cor 7:30; II Cor 6:14)
3. What is the best way to ensure our children get the right mate? "And he said, 'O Lord God of my master Abraham, I pray thee, send me good speed this day'" (Gen. 24:12) - Prayer

WHAT WERE REBEKAH'S QUALITIES?

- a. Beautiful (v.16)
- b. Virgin (v.16)
- c. Energetic (v.17)
- d. Friendly, outgoing (v.17)
- e. Unselfish (v.18)
- f. Hard worker (v.19)
- g. Decisive (v.58)

WHAT WERE ISAAC'S QUALITIES?

- a. God-fearing (26:25)
- b. Quiet and non-confrontational (26:22)
- c. Inherited money and position (24:36)
- d. Meditative and reserved (24:63)
- e. Sense of divine purpose (26:24-29)

DESCRIBE THIS MARRIAGE?

OPPOSITES ATTRACT

WHAT DID THEY DO RIGHT?

- a. Respected customs (24:65)
- b. Respected family (24:67)
- c. They loved one another (24:67)
- d. They were always tender to each other (26:8)

THEIR MAIN PROBLEMS

1. What was their first problem? She was barren (25:21) - Lack of children

- a. Children never solve a problem
- B. Children sometimes accentuate a problem
- c. Children can bring together

2. What compounded their problem? Her bubbling personality and his retiring ways led to no communication

- a. He never wanted to talk about it
- b. She was driven to desperate measures

3. What were the results of the violent pregnancy? "The children struggled together within her; and she said, 'If it be so, why am I thus?'" (25:22)

a. As an answer to prayer, she was told, "The older will serve the younger" (25:23) - She never told Isaac

b. Silent husbands makes wives react

- (1) Nag
- (2) Secretive
- (3) Complain

4. How can couples build better communication?

- a. You talk but do not push. Give an opportunity to talk
- b. Do not judge when he does talk

- c. If you disagree, be kind, respectful, without sarcasm
- d. Try to understand him instead of being understood
- e. Do not jump to conclusions
- f. Do not nag (it's the number one communication killer)

USING CHILDREN TO SATISFY YOUR NEED

"Isaac loved Esau, because he did eat of his venison: but Rebekah loved Jacob" (25:28)

1. Where did it start□"Sarah . . . my son, (i.e., Isaac)" (21:10).
"Abraham . . . his son, (i.e., Ishmael)" (21:11) - The problem of the parents resurfaces in the children.

2. Isaac took pride in Esau's rugged ways and vicariously withdrew. Rebekah enjoyed companionship with Jacob that she never had in her husband - Pathetic arrangement

3. What happened to the parents□A dominant mother and a passive father.

4. What happened to the children□Parental favoritism results in personality problems.

5. How did the parents treat each child□
a. Their child pampered and over indulged

b. The other child criticized and rejected

6. How did each boy rebel against his parents□

a. Jacob stole the birthright (26:29-34)

b. Esau married two Hittite women

C. Non-confrontational Isaac just sat eating his venison -
Retreated

- d. Perfect time to talk it over
- e. If parents won't face a problem, it gets bigger

7. The problem returns

- a. Isaac secretly plans to bless Esau (27:1-4)
- b. Rebekah still hasn't told her husband Isaac is God's chosen (Rom 9:12)
- c. The home was built on dishonesty and deceit
- d. A home flourishes on love and honesty

8. The awful results

- a. Timid Jacob is afraid his father will find out, and then curse him rather than blessing him. Rebekah said, "I will take the curse" - Sounds sacrificial but is emotionally sick
- b. Isaac trembled but would not reverse himself - "By faith, Isaac blessed Jacob" (Heb. 11:20)
- c. Esau hates Jacob, vows to kill him (27:41)
- d. Rebekah still covers up - "I am tired of living with the daughters of Heth, if Jacob takes a wife from the daughters of Heth . . . what will my life be to me" (27:46 NIV)
- e. Rebekah alienates her husband, estranges her first-born son, and sends Jacob away but never sees him again

LESSONS FOR HUSBAND AND WIVES TO TAKE AWAY

- a. It does not matter who is at fault - Stop drifting apart
- b. Turn around and say I need you

- c. Share your ideas and dreams with your mate
- d. Talk about problems and struggles

PRAYER FOCUS

Lord, as I look at Rebekah, I'm so sorry for times I've just used my own selfishness and jealousy of someone to overtake my thoughts and my decisions. Please forgive me. Thank you for my husband's love.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Write some occasions where you've had great communication in the past. Why was it wonderful
2. What are some outward things that block communication between you and your spouse
3. What will you do differently to more aggressively communicate with your spouse this week
4. What are some of your traits that make for good communication Or Poor communication

PRAYER FOCUS

HELP US UNDERSTAND THAT WE ARE RESPONSIBLE TO RAISE A GODLY GENERATION. WHAT WE SOW IS WHAT WE REAP. "SAVE YOURSELF FROM THIS CORRUPT GENERATION" - STARTS FROM OUR LIVES AS PARENTS AT HOME
AMEN!

Lesson 10

ABRAHAM and SARAH

INTRODUCTION

Abraham and Sarah are known to be one of the greatest couples in the bible.

Abraham was a friend of GOD & talked with God face to face.

Rom 4:17 - As it is written, I have made you a father of many nations. He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believes

Rom 4:17 - As it is written, I have made you a father of many nations. He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believes. He is the father of faith & Sarah is known to be a godly and submissive to her husband.

1Pet 3:6 - Like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her master, you are her daughter if you do what is right and do not give way to fear.

THEIR STRENGTHS

- When called to leave his comfortable life [Gen 12:1- ..], Abraham trusted God & walked with faith to be led by God.
- He trusted God wholeheartedly because of his great walk with God.
- Sarah was submissive to God and her husband, allowing him to lead her [1 Pet 3:5-6]
- When parting with Lot, Abraham again walked by faith and not by sight unlike Lot, trusting fully in God [Gen 13:1]
- Abraham could even persuade God to change his mind and not destroy Sodom & Gomorrah through his earnest prayers [Gen 18:16-33]

- In order to obey God, Abraham went ahead to sacrifice his only son [Gen 22 & Heb 11:17-19]
- Abraham believed without doubting GOD' promises

THEIR WEAKNESSES

- Abraham agreed to Sarah's plans & slept with a slave for descendants
- Sarah doubted God' promise of motherhood; she laughed at God
- They considered their physical weaknesses to be bigger than the power of God's promise & future plans
- When confronted by God, Sarah lied to God instead of apologizing. She wanted to look good before God and feared looking bad

PRACTICE IMPLEMENTATIONS

- Abraham & Sarah were united in their faith & walk with God. They helped each other to be godly
- They were warm & hospitable and God was pleased by these qualities. God blessed them by removing their barrenness [Gen18:1-10]
- They were willing to sacrifice their most treasured possession - their only son to obey God
- They are the best example of a godly family, trusting God in everything

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. As a family, how much are you devoted to God? What are you doing about it?

This week involve a family in your life by being hospitable and be open about your barrenness.

2. Are you known to be sacrificial? Is your family demonstrating sacrifice or compromise towards God' standards?

How is your TITHING going on?

THIS WEEK, SACRIFICE SOMETHING YOU LOVE TO DO FOR GOD

