

Save Yourself Some Heartache: Listen

Striving for purity, patience, and pleasuring God

Personal Story: I have been blessed and hurt by the relationships I had with girls prior to getting married. Some of them were good. Some of them were bad. Most of them were unhealthy. I rarely got anyone's input on the girls I dated. The input I did receive mostly came from my friends who had very little perspective on life. After the Lord saved me at 22 years of age, I decided I had to do something different in the area of relationships with the opposite sex. I can honestly say that I struggled from time to time in my singleness. I felt lonely at times, but God was always faithful to give me opportunities to build better relationships. I prayed for mentors who could walk life out with me. I wanted to be wise, so I waited until God brought some older men after His heart into my life. I talked to my parents, spent time with my church family and friends, and learned to embrace my singleness and strive for purity.

God blessed me. From the time the Lord saved me until the time I got married, I only spent limited time with three different girls. The first was a relationship with a girl from college. I thought this relationship was going to be the "one." She lived in another state, went to a different-type of church, and was not going in the same direction as me. This relationship was good at times and provided a lot of growth, but eventually, it ended peaceably and respectfully. There was another relationship I got involved in with a girl from a church in the area in which I lived. I actually called her father and talked with him about spending time with his daughter. We spent time at church functions together and where she worked. This relationship never really went anywhere. I am so grateful that God closed these doors.

I prayed and learned to trust God with this area of my life. I used this time to get to know the Lord by reading His word, spent time with church friends, played in basketball leagues, and went on mission trips. I did not have a lot of responsibility except for work and paying my bills. Otherwise, I had a lot of free time. This is something I really enjoyed when I was single.

I knew the Lord knew exactly where I was and would bring the right person to me in His time. I had many conversations with my mom, and she encouraged me that God was preparing someone for me. Was He ever?! In July 2004, I went on a mission trip with my church to Jamaica. This was my first mission trip after being saved. I was pumped to be able to go and serve other people in a foreign country. When I was there, I met several new people. One of whom was Jenna Warren. We served peanut butter and banana sandwiches to the children during the music training. I got to know her some from a distance, but she ended up starting a relationship with another guy. At the time, I was not interested. However, over the next few years, we found ourselves in the same circle of friends. She started coming to the church where I went, attended my Sunday School class, and eventually joined the church where I started my first pastorate.

I was still oblivious to what the Lord was doing as He brought us together to organize and teach VBS together. After a while, I began wondering if something was going on between us. One night I asked her to meet me at Starbucks to talk. After a three hour conversation over white chocolate mocha on a cold January day, we realized that there was an "us." God spoke to both of our hearts. We sought wise counsel from mentors and friends. They all agreed that this seemed right in the eyes of the LORD. There is safety in taking wise counsel from others.

They are able to see things that you are not able to see. Eight days later and following God's plans, I proposed to Jenna, and we were married two months following. The story of our lives together is still being written.

Scripture Memory: Proverbs 4:23 Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.

Theological Backdrop: God is All-Knowing (Omniscient), Ever-Present (Omnipresent),

Scripture Text: Genesis 39

Begin with the End in Mind - Pleasing God

Up to this point in our studies on relationships and sexuality, we have unpacked how to be *"Single and Happy."* God wants you to embrace your singleness knowing you were made in His image and for Him. You are a work of God. Second, we discussed "the birds and the bees" in the topic of *"Safe Sex: Naked and Unashamed."* Third, we looked at *"Satan's Traps"* and the problems of sexual temptation. Today, we are going to discuss, *"Save Yourself Some Heartache."* The goal of this lesson will be to teach the importance of pleasing God by striving for purity and guarding your heart. In the life of David, we discovered how the lusts of his heart led him down the wrong path. David had an internal problem. His heart was filled with lust. Next, we are going to look at the life of Joseph. He faced external pressures to give in to the pleas of a woman. This world is filled with temptation, and you are going to be exposed to peers who have very little standards. Therefore, you are going to have to develop some convictions in this area of your life, so when temptation comes, you can say, "no!" Let's dive into Genesis 39 to see how Joseph lived his life.

1. Joseph faced injustice in his life. Life is not always easy (1).
2. Joseph was prosperous in all he did because the Lord was with him (2-3).
3. Joseph was trustworthy. He was faithful in the small things and was promoted to overseer over his master's house (4, 6).
4. Joseph was blessed by the Lord and was a blessing to others (5).
5. Joseph was handsome in form and appearance (6).
6. Potiphar's wife cast her eyes on Joseph. The lust of her heart overtook her to the point of asking Joseph to "lie with me." She wanted to cheat on her husband and sleep with Joseph (7).
 - a. We live in a world of people who are filled with lust and have very little standards in regards to sexuality. If you look at commercials, billboards, and magazines, the world is sex-crazed.
7. Joseph refused to sleep with her. He could be trusted and respected her husband even though she didn't respect him (8).
 - a. Joseph was not afraid to say, "No!" He stood on God's Word.

- b. If you will start viewing those around you as someone's future wife or husband, you will be wise and respectful in your relationships.
- 8. Joseph realized to sin in this way was a great wickedness in God's eyes (9).
 - a. Joseph's ultimate desire was to please the Lord.
- 9. Joseph was tempted by Potiphar's wife day after day (10).
 - a. The temptation to sin with her was continuous. She did not let up on him.
- 10. One day, Joseph was in the house alone with Potiphar's wife. She caught him by his garment and demanded that he sleep with her (11-12).
 - a. If you remember, King David had one of those days when temptation gripped his heart. As the temptation grew stronger and stronger, he responded in the wrong way but Joseph did not.
 - b. Potiphar's wife may have enticed Joseph saying, "No one is in the house. No one will ever know."
 - i. The problem with this mentality is that God sees everything we do. There is no place we can go to hide from His presence (Psalm 139:1-6).
- 11. Joseph made a wise choice by finding the way of escape. He ran away from sin and out of the house (13).
- 12. Joseph was lied about and suffered for doing the right thing (14-23).
 - a. If you are talked about because you have decided to honor God with your life, then rejoice because God is well-pleased and will comfort you.
 - b. 1 Peter 3:14 But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled;
 - c. 1 Peter 3:17 For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing.

I wanted us to look at Joseph's response in order to see his attitude toward sexual immorality. He was able to remain pure and guarded his heart. He had plenty of opportunities to sin. Every day we are faced with temptations. Joseph took the wise route and ran. I hope you will decide in your heart today to be like Joseph and honor God.

Boundaries - Taking Proactive Measures

Now that we have established the priority of purity in your heart, let's look at God's Word to discover how you can put these truths into practice. God created man and woman. Naturally, there is an attraction between the two. However, if we want to honor God we need to discover how to navigate the waters between being single and dating. A couple of words are used to describe this. One that my grandparents used to use was "courting." Courtship is a relationship between a man and a woman who are actively and intentionally together to consider marriage.¹ Others have used the term "dating." Wikipedia defines dating in the following way:

¹ Joshua Harris, *Boy Meets Girl: Say Hello to Courtship*, (Sisters: Multnomah, 2005) p. 27.

It is a form of courtship consisting of social activities done by two people with the aim of each assessing the other's suitability as a partner in an intimate relationship or as a spouse. While the term has several meanings, it usually refers to the act of meeting and engaging in some mutually agreed upon social activity in public, together, as a couple.

Many view dating as a social activity which has no purpose. Some just live for the thrill to be able to change their relationship status on Facebook. From the outset, you should consider if the person you are choosing to date is a possible candidate for marriage. If not, then you are wasting your time and will end up being hurt or hurting someone else. Before thinking about dating, let's consider some other areas of your life to determine your level of maturity.

- Am I being a Christ-like person as a son/daughter to my parents?
- Do I respect my teachers and coaches at school?
- Am I joyfully attending the house of God and learning from my Sunday School Teacher and Pastor?
- Am I being a good friend to those at church, school, and in my neighborhood?
- If you have a job, do you listen to your boss and work with excellence?

I want you to think about these areas of your life, because these are the roles in which you find yourself in today. Marriage is life-long commitment, and the more you allow God to work on your heart now, the better off your marriage can be in the future. Here are some areas of growth you should consider:

Character

How is your character? Let's go back to Genesis 39 to gain insight into Joseph's character.

- Joseph trusted God despite the injustices in his life.
 - a. Life is not always easy. You may have had a tough upbringing. You may not have a dad and mom in the home. You may have been raised by a relative or someone else. Despite your upbringing, you can trust God and make a difference for the future of your family.
- Joseph's focus was to please the Lord.
 - a. Ephesians 6:6-7 Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; 7 With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men:
- Joseph was a hard worker.
 - a. The Lord blessed him in all his work. His aim was to work with excellence in all he did.
 - b. Do you strive for excellence in all you do at home, school, church, or work?
- Joseph was a man who could be trusted.
 - a. Can your parents, teachers, or friends count on you to do the right thing?
- Joseph had a servant's heart.

- a. Are you developing a servant's heart in your home and school? Are you finding ways to serve others in your church or community? Or, are you living to be served?
 - b. Jesus set the example for us to be servants to others. Mark 10:45 For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.
- Joseph was faithful in the small things and was given responsibility over greater things.
 - a. Are you being faithful and loving to your parents? Do you obey them completely, immediately, and with a joyful heart?
 - b. Luke 16:10 He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.
- Joseph was a blessing to others.
 - a. Are you someone who is a blessing to your parents by your attitudes and actions?
- Joseph resisted temptation.
 - a. Are you someone who sets a godly example for others to follow? Your family and school friends need a godly example. You may be the only godly influence they have in their life. Your strength through the help of the Lord might be what opens up their eyes to their need of a Savior.

Friendships

One of the first points in our study was that God made us for relationship and to have a sense of belonging within a community. One of the greatest challenges as a teenager is to select good friends. Here are a few principles to think about.

- You were not made to live in isolation. Those who seek to be alone all the time do so in order to fulfill selfish desires.
 - Proverbs 18:1 Through desire a man, having separated himself, seeketh and intermeddleth with all wisdom.
- You need to be wise in the selection of your friends.
 - Do they lead you closer to the Lord or will they pull you away from serving Him?
 - Psalms 1:1-6 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. 2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. 4 ¶The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. 5 Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.
 - 1 Corinthians 15:33 Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners. (Bad company corrupts good morals).
- You need to be the kind of friend you desire to have.

- Proverbs 18:24 A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.
- Matthew 7:12 ¶Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.

Communication

God speaks. He spoke and the universe was created.² He allowed man to have a language in order to speak with one another. Communication is how we express ideas and let others know how we think or feel. It is part of our everyday life. There is no getting around this topic. In order to have healthy relationships whether within your family, with friends, or in a dating relationship, this area is vitally important. Drawing from the scriptures, let's consider the following:

- Am I a good listener?
 - Do I think that I am the only one who has something important to say or am I willing to listen and learn?
 - James 1:19 Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:
- Do I speak the truth in love? (Eph. 4:25)
 - God hates a lying tongue (Prov. 6:16-17). Those who do not speak the truth in love are deceitful.
- Do I use anger to reveal a conflict and work to solve it today? Otherwise, when we let the sun go down on our wrath, the anger increases, unforgiveness is harbored, and bitterness sets in (Eph. 4:26).
- In conflict, do I attack the problem or the person? It is important, in conflict, not to attack the person's character but to properly deal with the problem at hand. (Eph. 4:30).
- Do I speak with hatred or am I kind, tenderhearted, and forgiving (Eph. 4:31-32)?

Finances

Understanding how to use money properly is important in growing up. I remember wanting my dad to pay \$50 to \$75 for a pair of jeans, so that I could impress others at school. I was way too concerned about my self-image and based my image on how I dressed instead of the condition of my heart. My dad helped me get a job mowing yards at an early age. I remember making \$15 for mowing a yard. When I realized how many times I would have to mow a yard or how many hours I would have to work for \$4.25 in order to buy designer clothes, it changed my perspective. I had to learn to be responsible with money. Some important factors to consider:

1. Is my life revolving around money? Do I love money for than I love God?
 - a. 1 Timothy 6:10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

² Genesis 1, Hebrews 11:3

2. Do I live within my means? Do I get upset when my parents can't or will not buy that new pair of tennis shoes or new outfit?
 - a. As you continue to take on more responsibility, you will have to start paying for your own bills—rent/mortgage, water, electric, cell phone, car insurance, etc?
3. Do I enjoy giving to the church? Have I considered giving?
 - a. 2 Corinthians 9:7 Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.
4. Do I save some of the money I make for the future?
 - a. Proverbs 21:20 There is treasure to be desired and oil in the dwelling of the wise; but a foolish man spendeth it up.
 - b. A foolish person spends everything he or she makes.

As you look for someone to date, you need someone who does not ignore the need for money nor worships it. Finances, and the use of them, are going to continue to be an area you will grow in. Seek wisdom and watch for how people use their money.

Faith

This is one of the most important areas when considering someone to date. I grew up in a Missionary Baptist Church. Most of the people at the church where I grew up were my relatives. There were not any options on dating anyone at church. Many people had warned me to find someone who believed the truth of God's Word. I ended up dating girls who were from different religious backgrounds. This was not wise and the relationships never went anywhere. Here are a few truths to consider:

- Loving, worshipping, and giving God pleasure is the ultimate purpose in our lives.
- We can worship God in our singleness, but when it comes to marriage, the goal of the marriage is to paint a picture of Christ and the Church. If a man and woman are not in agreement on how to worship God and do not do so together, then how can this relationship portray the oneness and intimacy which Christ has with His church and a husband has with his wife?
- Seek the Lord for salvation if you are not saved. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." Jesus is the only one who can save a person from their sins.
 - Proverbs 1:7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.
- Know what you believe according to the scriptures. It is good to listen to your parents and grandparents, church family, and pastor, but you need to be able to explain what you believe and why you believe it according to God's Word. Otherwise, someone could easily pull you away from the truth.
 - 1 Peter 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:
- Know where the person stands with God before you consider them as a person to date.

- They need to love God and desire to serve Him instead of just following you to church.
- Make sure that you have similar doctrinal beliefs in regards to where you attend church.
 - I met my wife on a mission trip to Jamaica. She grew up at Victory MBC in Hendersonville, TN, and I grew up in a small country church two hours away near Clarksburg, TN. I moved to Nashville for a job after college, began attending McFerrin MBC, was saved, and was called into the ministry. I didn't get married until I was almost 27, but it was definitely worth the wait. The Lord orchestrated it all, and it is a great blessing to be serving the Lord together in His church.

The Blunders of “Missionary Dating”

There is a term that I have heard growing up called “missionary dating.” This is the idea that a believer dates an unbeliever in hopes that he/she will change and start following the Lord. Some are on a mission to try to change the other person. Please do not lower your standards. There have been many who have lived by this philosophy. In some situations, God has been gracious and saved the individual. There are several others who end up marrying an unbeliever against God's will and suffer the consequences for years. One of the key components in marriage is not outward beauty, but the ability to worship and please God together. If this foundation is not established, then a relationship will have a weak and superficial foundation. For this reason, please take note of the following:

- Do not date someone who is rebellious.³
 - Proverbs 13:1 A wise son heareth his father's instruction: but a scorner heareth not rebuke.
 - Romans 13:2 Whosoever therefore resisteth the power (*authority*), resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.
 - A rebellious person will not listen to authority and do not like to abide by the rules. You can tell if this person is rebellious by how they speak of their parents, how they treat their teachers in school, if they go to church, and by their attitude at their job.
 - A good rule of thumb is to watch how a young man treats his mom or how a young girl treats her dad.
- Do not date someone who is selfish.
 - Philippians 2:3-4 Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. 4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.
 - A person who is selfish will use you to get what they want. They will either be aggressive or they might be a good manipulator to get their desires met. Marriage is a commitment to serve one another. It is not for getting all your needs met at the expense of the other.

³ These points came from *Biblical Principles of Love, Sex, and Dating: High School Version*, (Faith Resources) p. 73-81.

- Do not date someone who is perverse.
 - Proverbs 4:24 Put away from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee.
 - Proverbs 14:2 He that walketh in his uprightness feareth the LORD: but he that is perverse in his ways despiseth him.
 - Proverbs 28:18 Whoso walketh uprightly shall be saved: but he that is perverse in his ways shall fall at once.
- Do not date someone who is sexually immoral.
 - 1 Thessalonians 4:3-4 For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: 4 That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;
- Do not date someone who is an angry person.
 - Ecclesiastes 7:9 Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry: for anger resteth in the bosom of fools.
 - Colossians 3:8 But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.
- Do not date someone who is an unbeliever.
 - 2 Corinthians 6:14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?
- Do not date someone who is a fool.
 - Psalms 14:1 The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good. (The fool has said in his heart that there is no God)
 - Proverbs 1:7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction. (The fool has no respect for God and does not want to do things God's way)
 - Proverbs 12:11 He that tilleth his land shall be satisfied with bread: but he that followeth vain persons is void of understanding. (The fool is lazy)
 - Proverbs 14:16 A wise man feareth, and departeth from evil: but the fool rageth, and is confident. (The fool is reckless and careless)
 - Proverbs 15:5 A fool despiseth his father's instruction: but he that regardeth reproof is prudent. (The fool dishonors and disrespects his/her parents)
 - Proverbs 17:10 A reproof entereth more into a wise man than an hundred stripes into a fool. (The fool does not listen to correction despite the consequences)
 - Proverbs 17:12 Let a bear robbed of her whelps meet a man, rather than a fool in his folly. (A fool in his/her folly is more dangerous than a bear that has been robbed of her cubs)
 - Proverbs 17:21 He that begetteth a fool doeth it to his sorrow: and the father of a fool hath no joy. (The fool gives grief to his/her parents)
 - Proverbs 20:3 It is an honour for a man to cease from strife: but every fool will be meddling. (The fool loves quarelling)

- Proverbs 29:11 A fool uttereth all his mind: but a wise man keepeth it in till afterwards. (The fool gives full vent to his spirit)

Ultimately, you will not be able to change another person. The Lord will have to do that if the person is willing to repent and put their faith in Jesus. We are called to influence the world as salt and light, but it would not be wise to be in a relationship with an unbeliever. Set your standards and trust the Lord.

Boundary Statements

- 1. I will focus on growing in Christ each day, and if it is God's will, I know that living and loving like Jesus will prepare me for marriage when the time comes.**
 - a. 2 Peter 3:18 But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.
- 2. I will be modest in dress, because this is attractive in God's eyes.**
 - a. Remember, you want to save yourself for marriage. This means that you should dress modestly in order to honor God. People should be drawn to your face and heart first.
 - b. 1 Peter 3:3 Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; 4 But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.
- 3. I will make a covenant with my eyes, in order to guard my heart from immoral thoughts and actions.**
 - a. Job 31:1 I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid?
- 4. I will seek the advice of my parents and other mentors in choosing someone to date.**
 - a. Remember, dating has a purpose. It allows you to get to know someone better and also exposes areas of your life that you need to work on. It is important that you allow wise people to speak into your life in this important area. If you are wise in your own eyes and do not listen to advice, then you are foolish and could be getting involved in a dangerous relationship.
 - i. Proverbs 11:14 ¶Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.
 - ii. Proverbs 15:22 ¶Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counsellors they are established.
 - iii. Proverbs 24:6 For by wise counsel thou shalt make thy war: and in multitude of counsellors there is safety.
- 5. I will honor God in my body and spirit by saying "No" to anyone who wants to engage sexually with me prior to the commitment of marriage.**
 - a. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.
 - b. See Proverbs 5:3-14

- c. In a 2005 Kaiser Family Foundation study of US teenagers, 29% of teens reported feeling pressure to have sex, 33% of sexually active teens reported "being in a relationship where they felt things were moving too fast sexually", and 24% had "done something sexual they didn't really want to do". Several polls have indicated peer pressure as a factor in encouraging both girls and boys to have sex. The increased sexual activity among adolescents is manifested in increased teenage pregnancies and an increase in sexually transmitted diseases.⁴

Practical Advice

Below are a few things that I did that really helped me in preparation for marriage:

- Join a church and be faithful to God's people.
- Learn what your gifts are and find a place to use them while serving in the church.
- Start a journal and write to your future spouse when you think of them. This would be a unique and treasured gift for your spouse.
- Guys - Set aside money each month for the ring.
 - I started a mutual fund in high school which automatically drafted \$50 from my bank account. I did this through high school and most of the way through college. When it came time to purchase an engagement ring, I cashed out the fund and paid cash for it.
- If you have student loans from college, pay them off prior to marriage, so you can enter your marriage debt free.
- Save money for a down payment on a house.

Please Listen...

It is my hope and prayer that you have gained some valuable wisdom from these lessons on "Relationships and Sexuality" that will enable you to live a successful life before God. I believe we have covered some important truths which could radically change your life if you will listen. It is my prayer that you will value wisdom and live your life according to God's Word. When writing the Proverbs, King Solomon addressed the young man as "My son" in Proverbs 1:1, 8, 10, 15; 2:1; 3:1, 11, 12, 21; 4:10,20; 5:1, 20; 6:1, 20; 7:1; 10:1. Solomon desired for young people to live according to wisdom instead of what was right in their own eyes. He knew the dangers associated with not living according to wisdom. Jesus, in the Sermon on the Mount, also knew the value of wisdom. He spoke of the wise and unwise in Matthew 7:24-27:

Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: 25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. 26 And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:

⁴ Accessed October 5, 2012 [online] http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Teenage_pregnancy

27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

If you build upon the solid rock of Jesus Christ and His Word, your house will stand. However, if you fail to listen to God's instructions, your house will have a faulty foundation, and when the pressures and storms of life pound on your house, it will collapse. Be wise so when you hear these words, *"Dearly Beloved, we are gathered here in the sight of God, and in the presence of this company to join together this man and this woman in holy matrimony,"* you will be overflowing with joy and gratitude for God's love, wisdom, holiness, and knowledge.