

How To Find A Good Man

Sermon Title: **How To Find A Good Man**

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(Music.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: Amen, amen. As Brother Ivan was singing that song, I saw even the policeman look inside of that door to see what's going on, and that is the kind of vibration that we want to exude from the church; at first it even gets the policeman to see what's going on in the House of God, and after that we get the criminal who want to see what's going on ...

(Applause.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: ... in the House of God. Bow your heads.

Oh, Lord, anoint my mouth and heart this morning to let Thy Word go forth. I pray that it go forth to at least the one, whether or not to the masses, at least the one, for I know whenever I am given a message there is always at least the one; let it go to that one and anoint that one and pull them him up, for there is great rejoicing in the Kingdom over one who is lost that is found. We pray this in Thy Son Jesus' name, amen.

I had an entirely different sermon prepared today, and as my brother C. Elijah and were at a book-signing this past weekend, God took me in an entirely different direction because of some young ladies that were there at the book-signing. As they began talking about some of the various books and about some of the situations, the subject came to a particular area that was of great concern to them; and as we discussed it and God kind of dealt with me with it, I knew there were a lot of people that were dealing with the same thing. So I am led this morning to speak from that particular area instead of that which I had planned.

I am going to read three different sets of Scripture right quick; you don't have to turn there. The first one is from Psalms, Chapter 11, beginning with the 7th verse: "For the righteous Lord loveth righteousness; His Countenance doth behold the upright." To the chief musician upon sheminith, a psalm of David: "Help, Lord; for the godly man ceaseth; for the faithful fail from among the children of men" ... "Help, Lord, for the godly man ceaseth; for the faithful fail from among the children of men. They speak vanity every one with his neighbor: with flattering lips and with a double heart do they speak."

In Isaiah, Chapter 4, Verse 1: "In that day seven women will take hold of one man and say, We will eat our own food and provide our own clothes: only let us be called by your name. Take away our disgrace."

In Proverbs, Chapter 20, Verse 6: "Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find?"

I want to just talk today from the subject of "How To Find A Good Man" ... "How To Find A Good Man," because as we sat there in that book store, she was a Christian woman, regularly following the rules of God, worshipping diligently, putting in her offerings, doing everything that God said; yet she was having difficulty finding a good man. I know I have gone to speak to single groups at churches, and universally there is among the congregation women, and for some reason being single seems to effect women more than it does men. There is something about it that as a woman gets to a certain point in her life, if she is without a mate, there is something about it that distresses her that doesn't particularly bother a man nearly as much, and she starts to ask the question over and over and over again, "How? How do I find a good man?" "But a faithful man who can find?" So this message today is really directed to those women that ask that question over and over again, How To Find A Good Man.

First of all, I want to let you know that the Almighty, the Omnipotent, the Sovereign, the Creator and the Ruler of all, God Himself, had a hard time finding a good man. Even He, knowing all as the Ruler and watching over all of the Earth, even He had difficulty finding a good man.

The Marines have a slogan that says, "We are looking for a few good men." If you remember back in the Old Testament in Genesis, Chapter 6, Verse 5: "The Lord saw how great man's wickedness on the Earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time. The Lord was grieved that He had made man on the Earth, and His heart was filled with pain. So the Lord said, I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the Earth -- men and animals, and creatures that move along the ground, and birds of the air -- for I am grieved that I have made them. But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord."

Out of all of the men that populated the Earth at that time, see, God not only has the ability to look over the outside deeds of man, but to look into the inner hearts of man. And God said out of all of the men on the face of the earth, only one, only one, did God save who was a good man. So even God Almighty had trouble finding a good man.

Right now, even today, this society is fundamentally in a mess because of the lack of a few good men. It is hard to find a good man to run the country these days. It is hard to find the politician that doesn't have his hand in somebody else's pocket. It is hard to find Senators and Congressman and even Presidents that you can truly trust. It is hard to find a few good men! Even today, even with the police, it's hard to find a few good men. You can't trust the police, you can't trust the CIA, you can't trust the DEA. You cannot find men these days, because just as God had difficulty in that day, today, we have difficulty finding a few good men. Even in the pulpit ...

even in the pulpit, it is still hard to know who is really a good man and who is just there for the power, the prestige and the profit. It is hard to know! God could not find a good man in the days of Noah save one. And even when Lot went to the city of Sodom and Gomorrah, God was about to destroy it, He was about to destroy the city, and Lot told Him, "Lord, if I could just find 50 that are righteous, would you spare the city?" And God said, "I will spare it if you could find 50." Lot went out and he could not find 50, and you know the story; he came back and reduced the number each time, and he finally got down to 10. He said, "If I can find 10 righteous, will you spare the city?" And God said He would spare it for 10, and Lot couldn't find 10.

As I meditated on the story of Lot, I said, "Suppose somebody were to come to me today, right now after the service, a billionaire were to walk in this room and say, 'I will give you a billion dollars if you can find 10 righteous men by tomorrow morning; 10 righteous men, I will give a billion dollars.'" As I began to think on that scenario, I say, "You know, I'd have a hard time coming up with 10 truly righteous men whose hearts were pure, who had done all that God commanded to do." See, you can't necessarily go on that which you see on the outside. Those of you who are even watching television, you can't look at a television preacher and know whether he is righteous or not. You just can't do it! So if you had a billion dollars offered to you tomorrow to present 10 truly righteous man, most of you would not have an additional dime come tomorrow morning ...

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: ... because you would not be able to find them. How to find ...how to find ...how to find a good man.

Even Jesus had trouble finding a good man. You know, Jesus only had twelve close disciples. He only had twelve. And of those twelve, He chose carefully. And of those twelve within that group, Jesus had one that betrayed Him, sold Him out, turned Him over, turned on Him, turned his back on Him. Jesus had one that doubted Him. Jesus had one that denied Him. Even Jesus had trouble finding a good man.

Jesus said before he left, "When I return, will I find faith in the Earth?" And when Jesus came back, even His own disciples did not know Him. Even His own disciples really did not believe He was coming out of that tomb. Even Jesus had difficulty finding a truly good man.

So I say to those who are watching in their television and those that are sitting on the audience that have said over and over to themselves, "How do I find a good man?" God and Jesus had the same scenario. They had difficulty finding a good man.

But I want to tell you that because you do not have a good man has nothing to do with whether or not you should be happy or sad or full of joy or full of depression. You see, nowhere in the Bible does it ever say that a woman will not enter the Kingdom of Heaven because she doesn't have a husband ... never, nowhere, no place, any kind of place. Nowhere in the Bible does it say that a woman should be sad because she does not have a man ... no place, nowhere any kind of place. Nowhere in the Bible does it even say that God even promised you a mate. It is not there. So I'm not going to sit here and tell you that if you just pray and believe on the Lord that He is going to send you a man in here tomorrow, because it may not be, because it is not promised. You say, "Wait a minute, God said if I delight myself in Him, He will give me the desires of my heart." But you've got to understand the first part of that verse: if you delight yourself in Him.

The pastor even last week spoke about what that word "delight" truly means: when you wrap yourself around God, when you bend to His Will, when He becomes your Sovereign Lord. You see, when that happens, your desires change. When you delight yourself in the Lord, your desires are no longer for things of this carnal world. When you focus on Jesus, it doesn't matter what kind of house you live in. It doesn't matter what kind of bed you sleep in. It doesn't matter whether you sleep in an empty bed or have someone there beside you. When you delight yourself in the Lord, your desires change!

You see, many of us are really going to church for the wrong a reason; we are going to church to see what we get. You know, in every prayer that many of us pray, "Lord, give me this; Lord, give me this; Lord, make me this; Lord, let me have this; Lord, give me; Lord, send me this; Lord, dear Lord, dear Lord, deliver me," blah-blah-blah. You know, many of the prayers that we pray are self-centered prayers that are totally against everything Jesus taught ... totally against everything Jesus taught.

So God never, first of all, promised a woman a mate. Nowhere did He make that particular promise. Delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart, because your desires will change.

I want to tell those that are watching, just because you get a man or just because you get married, by no means does that mean your state is going to change. The statistics state right now that of all the people who do marry, over half of them are going end in divorce. Now, this is not statistics of the world; this is the statistics of world and the church, because the church stats are no different than those out there in the world. So over the half of the people who marry will end in divorce. Now, that is against God's will totally; but somebody somewhere wasn't in the Will of God, and those who were not married just evidently God put together. But of the people who marry, in and out of the church, over half of them will end in divorce.

There was an article in *USA Today* a couple of years ago where they had done a study where they tracked married couples that had been married 25 years or more, and they asked them one question. They said, "If you had a chance to do it all over again, would you marry the same person?" And they were shocked with the answer that they got, because of that survey, over half the folks said they would not marry the same person again. Now, if you had lived with somebody 25 years or more and if you had ridden to church with this person every morning, ate breakfast with this person every morning, ate dinner with this person every evening, looked over at the midnight hour at this person every night, when your alarm clock went off in the morning, you looked over and you saw this person, if you had been with this person for 25 years or more and somebody ask you on your 25th wedding anniversary, "Would you marry him all over again?" you said, "No," and I imagine some of them said, "H*** no."

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: So that meant of the people who married, half divorced, and the half who stayed together were not really happy with each other; three out of four marriages really did not have peace, joy and happiness.

I remember when I was a single man. I just got married a little over a year ago, and I did not marry until I was 38 years old. People would come to me and they would ask me "You haven't gotten married yet?" I said, "No, I'm not married yet; but I'm not divorced, either."

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: And I let them know very clearly there was nothing wrong with that. You see, it is far better for you to remain single than for you to get hooked up in a bad marriage. Even when I was single, I could always wake up in peace in my bed. I never had to worry about just waking up and saying, "Oh, Lord!"

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: Many of us, women especially, you get to a point where you are getting on up in years, and because you are getting on up in years, you stop looking for Mr. Right, and you settle for Mr. Right Now. You see, there is a big difference between Mr. Right and Mr. Right Now. Many of you have Mr. Right Now, and you didn't wait on Mr. Right; and because you get Mr. Right Now, you are in a right-now mess.

(Applause.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: How ... how can you find a good man? Even Paul stated in the New Testament and said "I wish, brethren, that you all were like I was." You know, Paul was unmarried. Paul in essence said, "It is better not to marry. But," he said, "it is better to marry than to burn." Now, let me explain why Paul said that. You see, many denominations, the Catholic denomination in particular, will not let their priests marry. Not only will they not let their priests marry, they won't let the women who dedicate themselves to God, the nuns, they won't let them marry, either. Why? They will not let them marry, because they want them to put full, unadulterated attention on God and God's work. Even if you are not married, you need to look at what Paul said and take it to heart.

Now, first of all, my personal opinion, I am a believer in marriage. God ordained marriage. It was the first institution that He ordained; there's nothing wrong with it. But what Paul was simply saying, to truly focus on God, sometimes it is better if you are by yourself and do not have to concentrate on all that other stuff.

You know, our Savior Jesus was not married. People gloss over that fact and ignore it, but Jesus, the Man that we aspire to be most like in all of history, Jesus was not married. When you look at most of the disciples and all of the major prophets, most of them were not married; and those who were married, you know what Jesus told them? Over in Luke, Chapter 18, Verse 28, this is what Peter said: "Then Peter said, Lo, we have left all and followed Thee. And He said unto them" -- this is what Jesus told Peter -- "Verily I say unto you, there is no man that hath left house, or parents, or brethren, or wife, or children, for the Kingdom of God's sake, who shall not receive manifold more in this present time, and in the world to come life everlasting." And this is the next verse that's a real heavy-duty verse. This is Luke, Chapter 14, Verse 26: "If any man come to Me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after Me, cannot be My disciple."

Now, that Word puzzled me a little bit when I read that. I said, "Jesus said you need to hate your mama, and your daddy, and you hate can your wife?" I said, "Wait a minute!" I had to go back and look at the real meaning of that that word from the Hebrew and what it really meant. The word really does not mean "hate". The word simply means that you have to place Him above them. It simply means that you like to love Jesus more than all the other stuff, that's what all it means. The problem that many have and why we are sometimes in distress because we do not have a mate is because we've got to flipped backwards. We are more interested in getting the man or the woman than we are in Jesus. We are seeking the gift, not the Giver. And when that happens, your focus is on the wrong area. You know, the Reverend C. Elijah preached not too long ago, and he talked about with Adam, the first mate that God ever gave was Eve. And he brought out the point that Adam did not even ask for a woman. Adam was doing the Will of God, focusing on what God had told

him to do; and when Adam focused on what God told him to do, God saw he needed and gave him a woman without Adam even asking.

Now, see, some of us are down begging, "Lord, send me a husband, Lord! Send me a man, Lord, to help me pay" -- and first of all, in today world, you don't know what kind of man you're getting. You know, it used to be that the man would be a knight in shining armor. Right now, your husband may come in a beat-up Volkswagen with a couple of flat tires on it. You don't know what's coming your way sometimes. And you may be praying for somebody to help pay all your bills. I know too many women have gotten into too many situations with Mr. Right Now, and instead of the man helping to pay the bills, he's brought a whole ton of bills with him. Because we get under distress and we think that we've just got to have it, that's why you've got to look at exactly what God said. When you start focusing on God and Jesus, first of all, your spirit will become at peace; and no matter what happens, let me tell you another thing. Men do not want a woman who is desperate. I can tell you that, and every man will pretty much say amen to that. Men do not want a woman who is desperate. And, see, when you get into -- heard a strong amen back there.

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: But when a woman gets in a spirit of desperation, there is a vibration going forth that a man can just feel. See, a man is looking for somebody with a peaceful spirit that is calming, especially if it's a godly man. And what you want is a godly man. A man is looking for somebody who is at peace with themselves. And I'll tell you right now, if you are single and if you are not at peace with yourself being single, you are not going to be at peace with yourself being married.

People ask me, now that I've gotten married, "Well, how is married life treating you?" I said, "I'm no different. I was a happy man as a single man; I am a happy man as a married man." If you are miserable as a single person, not only are you going to be miserable as a married person, but more likely you are going to carry your misery in there and dump it on the other party, and there's going to be two of you miserable.

(Applause.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: How to find the good man? First thing I want to tell you in terms of how to find a good man is, number one, stop looking. You see, a truly good man that is sent by God, you cannot find them yourself. I heard a comedian on television the other day talking about finding a man, and she said she has abandoned all the old ways of trying to find a man. She said she doesn't go to church any more looking for a man, said she doesn't go out to the nightclubs any

more looking for a man; she said, “You know where I go now?” She said, “I go to the Home Depot, because I want a man who’s got a house and knows how to do things.”

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: So I don’t care where you go. I don’t care if you go to church. I don’t care where you go, if you do not have the Spirit of God leading you, you will never be able to find that right man. Just because two people are Christian does not even mean they are made for each other. That doesn’t at all. Just because two people are in church does not mean that they are made for each other.

So the first thing I say in terms of how to find a good a man, number one, stop looking. Stop looking for the man and focus on God. And when you stop looking for the man and focus on God, first of all, it will eliminate the anxiety of your wait. You see, when you start, “I ain’t got no man. Oh, no. Lord, have mercy,” you know, it makes two weeks seem like two years. First thing, stop looking for a man and start focusing on God.

The second thing in terms of how to find a good man is, number one, become a good woman. You see, too often, we want everybody to bring stuff to us, and we don’t want to take anything else . My brother often says, “You can’t get steak at hamburger prices.”

Sometimes a woman says, “You know, Child, I want a man. I want a doctor.” You know who doctors have a tendency to marry? Doctors have a tendency to marry other doctors. Water seeks its own level. So if you want a good man, first of all, become a good woman, and become a good godly woman. Now, there are a lot of women that are educated. A lot of them are making more money than men, and a lot of times, to be honest with you, it creates problems within relationships, because it will first of all violate the natural order that God has ordained. Now, see, if you want God to send you a man, do what God says to do and have the attitude that God says to have; and from the very beginning, God placed man over the woman and over the household. Some women today have a difficult time accepting that; but I’m going to tell you right now that if you want a truly God-given relationship, there can only be one real boss in the house. This does not mean that, you know, you’ve got a man that says, “Look, Woman, you do this, you do that.” It doesn’t mean that.

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: You see, even in the business world, you have a president of a company, and you have a vice-president of a company. Just like the company I work for, Bronner Brother, my brother Bernard is the president; I’m the vice-president. Even within the business world, you have levels of authority. That doesn’t mean that you’ve just got a mess or a total dictatorship, because you’ve got

one head over the other; but it does mean that one is by divine right given authority, and when you go around and try to bypass God, see, God never created equal-opportunity marriages. That is something from the world of Satan; that is not from the Bible. Now, if you want to have that kind of marriage, you've got to come out of Christianity and every other religion I know of. As a matter of fact, God never created equal-opportunity marriages. You hear so much now on talk shows about the woman saying, "It's 50/50." God never created it 50/50! That is not a divine ordination. And whenever you get out of the divine, you are going to start running into problems, He did not create it 50/50.

I know sometimes this goes against the grain of some women: they want a good man, and then they go, "I don't want it to be 50/50, now." But it is a matter of, first of all, recognizing what God ordained. See, even God knew what He was doing from the start. And I will make the statement right now that I can even say from my experience back when I was out in the world. I never met a liberated woman, never. You have all kinds of educated folks, big jobs and all that; I never met a liberated woman. I never met a woman who did not want a stronger man, never! I never met a woman who at her very core did not want a man to be the head of her life.

I remember once I was having a discussion with a sure-enough woman who claimed she was liberated, and she said, "No, no, I want to equal everything!" I said, "That isn't true." I said, "First of all, with the man that you get," I said, "number one, do you want him with the exact same intelligence that you have, or do you want him a little smarter or a little dumber?" She said, "Well, I guess when I really think about it, I really want him to be a little bit smarter than I am." I said, "Okay. Now, with your job and your economic situation," I said, "do you want to make him making the exact same amount of money you are making, do you want him to make more money than you make or a little less money than you make?" "Well, I want him to make a whole lot more than I'm making." I said, "Now, even in your intimate life," I said, "do you want him just the same with you, a little bit stronger than you, or do you want him to poop out on you?" "I don't want him pooping out on me!" So in every instance, in every single instance, when you get right down to the core, the very essence of woman and man, every woman in her very nature wants a strong man and a protector. It was the way God created it. It is not that it's chauvinistic. It is not necessarily even that one is greater or lesser than the other. Just like the man who cannot bear babies, there are some areas without a woman's touch, things just get cold and just don't work right. So each one has the divine role and an ordination that God has set forth in the Earth. So, understand that. And when we get out of those basic structures that God has set up, we start running into trouble; and that is why so many of our marriages are running into trouble: because we have moved away from what God said. God never said for the woman to be independent; He said for the woman to be covered by the man.

Even our thoughts of independence these days are not really true, because a woman's definition sometimes of "independence" is that she can get out and get a job and get her own money. That's not independent. The only thing you've done is change bosses. That is all you have done is changed bosses. And usually, not only had you just changed bosses, but you've gone to a tougher boss, because even if a woman stayed at home and took care of the family, I can guarantee you, the husband is not going to be nearly as rough on her as Corporate America will. So, all you've done is change bosses.

So, how to find a good man: number one, don't look for a good man; and number two, become a good woman. Water will seek its level, and light will attract light. If you want a real God-fearing man, become a good God-fearing woman; and you can't ask for almost-perfection.

There was a story where a man was telling his friend, "You know, I have searched high and low, looking here and there, to and fro, trying to find the perfect woman," and he said, "I finally found her!" And his friend said, "You did?" He said, "Yep, I found her!" He said, "Yeah? Well, how come you are not with her right now?" He said, "Well, when I found the perfect woman, she was looking for the perfect man."

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: Each one is going to have some flaws and some faults; but if you want a good man, become a good woman.

The third and the final thing in terms of how to find a good man, understand that there are no really good men. Jesus said when they came up to Him and they were calling Him good -- and that's a heavy-duty verse again -- Jesus said "Don't even call Me good." He said, "Don't call Me good." He said, "There is none good but the Father." Every man. And what Jesus was talking about in that was a higher-level definition of "good", because Jesus always looked up and get His instructions, His directions and His guidance as He saw what the Father was doing. Jesus was doing it on a level much higher than what we even think about; but fundamentally, what He was saying is that any creature in the flesh is going to have some flaws and some faults. There is going to be some good and some bad, with mixtures of dust and divinity.

So, understand that there are none good; there are some suitable, and some better than others, but man or woman will have some flaws. I tell you, those that are listening, inside the black community, there is a disparity between quality of men and women; I will be the first one to admit that. Right now, I spoke at a college convention a couple of weeks ago, and the audience was 80% women. There was a 4:1 ratio. What that means, down the road, there is not going to be enough college men for all the college women. And what does that mean is sometimes you are going

to have to bypass some of what the world says that you've got to have. You don't necessarily need a man with a college education; what you need is a man with a good spirit. If that man is a plumber, fine; if that man is an electrician; even if that man is sweeping floors, it is better to have a man with a good heart and a good spirit that will be there with your children than it is to have a man with a doctor's degree that is going to run around on you.

(Applause.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: So I just admonish you, do not fret because you do not have a man, because the Bible never promised you a man. In the times when it talks about it, it says "It is a good thing for a man to find a wife." It did not say anything about the woman finding a husband, could not find it anywhere. So it is not particularly in the Word. So don't worry about it. God never set that up as a requirement for you to have joy and peace for you to have a mate; and if you don't, don't let it bother you, but live in His Will and in His Weight, because when you look through the Bible, for those who followed Jesus they gave up all of that. They gave up all of that. They left the warmth of the home and the companionship of an intimate relationship, all to follow Jesus. Many of us holler that we want to follow Jesus; but when it really comes down to following Jesus, we've fallen way short.

I had a real interesting experience a few days ago. My little brother called me, and the story that he related showed how much we talk about Jesus and how little we follow Jesus. We had a man out at the office working on the computers, and my secretary's computer with password-locked; you couldn't get into the computer without knowing the password. So he called my brother James and he asked my brother, "What is the password to the computer?" And my brother said, "The password to that computer is 'Jesus.'" He said, "Just type in 'Jesus' when asked for the password, and you can get in." He called my brother back about 15 minutes later, and he said, "I've just been typing that, and it won't work!" He said, "I can't get in the computer; I am typing it in, but it won't work!" My brother said, "I know that's the password. I'm sure of it. Did you enter the password?" He said, "Yeah, all that's on the screen." "You see the little curser flashing there?" He said, "Yeah, I'm typing it in." He said, "I have been typing it over; I have been typing 'J-U-S-U-S' and it won't go in!"

(Laughter.)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: And this man, I had talked to many times over and over. He professes to be the biggest Christian in the world who follows Jesus and couldn't even spell His name, and that is how I knew. I said, "There is no way in the world he could be reading too much Bible and can't even spell His Name."

Many will say, “Lord , Lord”; but when it really gets down to truly knowing Jesus, we cannot even spell His Name. We don’t know Him, because once you follow and once you know Jesus, all of that other stuff will disappear; and there will be a peace that will come over your life. And it would not matter whether or not you’ve got a man or whether or not you’ve got a woman. It will make no difference at all.

Bow your heads.

Oh, God, let this Word go forth to someone now who sits in depression and loneliness, because the world has convinced them that without another human being in a legal format that they are incomplete, that they are worthless, that they are in disgrace, that something is wrong with them. Lord, don’t let the things that the world has said spoil their life. Let this Word go forth, lift that burden from their hearts and allow Jesus to come in, for when Jesus comes into the heart He will bring the Light; and where the light is, the darkness must flee. Let thy Word go forth and spread and bring a fruit and bring a change in the lives of thy people. Amen.

(Applause.)

PASTOR C. ELIJAH: We want to thank Reverend Nathaniel so much for that word of wisdom concerning relationships. There is an attack against families, causing so much divorce, and we just thank God for the wisdom from His Word, just simple, thing, easy-to-understand wisdom that can be applied practically in our relationships.

I heard a joke one time, a man went to the doctor, and the doctor saw him and said, “Sir, you only have nine months to live.” The man was just totally upset and just about to loss all hope, and the doctor said, “I do have one solution for you.” He said, “There is nothing that we can do. but I do have a solution.” The man said, “What is it?” He said, “I want you to give all your money away and marry a woman that you dislike, and she must have nine children.” Well, the man started getting a little excited. He said, “Doctor, you mean that will cure my disease if I do that?” The doctor said, “No, it would not cure you; but it will sure make your nine months seem like eternity” (laughing).

(Laughter.)

PASTOR C. ELIJAH: So there is so much that a good relationship means to us. A bad relationship can be devastating to one’s life spiritually, physically and mentally. We just thank God for this good Word, this good, rich word of wisdom, this good, rich word of wisdom that so many people need to apply to their relationships. There are so many marriages that are taking place that are not meant to be: they are unprepared, they are not built on a solid foundation, so many that are married out

of circumstance and not out of a good understanding of God's Word; so we thank God so much for this rich Word of God's wisdom concerning our relationships. I pray that this will help many single people before they get the wrong person or become overly concerned with marriage. So we just thank God once again.

Let's give Reverend Nathaniel one more great round of applause.

(Applause.)

PASTOR C. ELIJAH: Amen, amen, amen.