

When The Wine Runs Out of the Marriage

Sermon Title: **When the Wine Runs Out of the Marriage**

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Nathaniel Bronner: Bow your head. Dear heavenly Father, we thank you again for the privilege to assemble in your presence to hear your word. Anoint my mind and my words this night, dear Father, that they should go forth to know in this sanctuary and to those watching on television, and it shall minister and shall make a change and shall bring some healing and restoration in the lives where it is purposed to be. Anoint my mind and my words on this night in Thy Son, Jesus, His name. Amen, amen and amen.

We are a small crowd tonight. Many of the people are away and sometimes the crowd gets smaller and sometimes it's big, but God always has in His presence exactly who is ordained to be there. Whether it's here or even whether it is on television, if we get so many testimonies of where people are calling to tell us that they were sleeping through the television and they happen to stop on one of the messages and it was just exactly what they were going through at that time.

So, God has a plan and even one of the people called me today as they work to the conferences, they were faithful coming in and said, "I won't be here tonight." And I said, "Well, really, you don't need to be here tonight because the subject that I'm dealing will frankly don't even sustained to you," and oftentimes God has different messages for different people because we are in different circumstances. And depending upon where your circumstance is depends upon the type of message that you need. If you're in perfect health, you don't need a healing message. If you got 10 million dollars in the bank, you don't need a financial deliverance message.

So, it depends. If you're full of joy and babbling in spirits, you don't need a message to lift you out of depression. It depends upon where your needs are and some of you here may not even need this message tonight. But God will send a message for one person or in this particular instance for at least two people. He always has a plan, He always has a purpose, and He always has a time. And always ask God before each message to leave me and tell me exactly what should I tell the people on this night because I've got so many sermons filed up that I never even preached. I just got a whole index (00:02:34). As ideas and concepts will pop into my mind, but yet they made me good, but I don't care how good it is if it is not what you need at the moment, it's no good. You need what you need right now and I always ask the Lord, "Lord, what does the people need to hear?"

What for this night?" And sometimes it's for one person. Jesus went to the pool of the festive where there were five forces of sick folk and heal one man stole away and left all of the rest of the people. He went there for one man. So oftentimes the message can be for one person and God told me the Book of John second chapter, that's big John, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. And I would like you to read along with me as I read beginning with the first verse of John, the second chapter.

John Chapter 2, beginning of verse 1, this is The New King James version. On the third day, there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Now both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding. And when they ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine." Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it." Now there were set there six waterpots of stone, according to the manner of purification of the Jews, containing 20 or 30 gallons apiece. Jesus said to them, "Fill the waterpots with water." And they filled them up to the brim. And He said to them, "Draw some out now and take it to the master of the feast." And they took it. When the master of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast call the bridegroom.

00:05:04

And He said to him, "Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine, and when the guests have well drunk, then the inferior. You have kept the good wine until now!" This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in him.

And from these first 11 verses of the second chapter of John, I take at the subject this evening when the wine runs out of marriage. When the wine runs out of marriage. And that's why I said tonight this would at least be for one person, but more than likely at least for two because marriage is a supposed union of two people. And this was the first miracle that Jesus performed and it was no accident; that is at a marriage. Marriage is ordained by God. God saw Adam in the garden of Eve, and yet, with all of the possessions that Adam had -- he owned everything there, but yet, God said it is not good for a

man to be alone and He gave unto Adam a wife. And as Jesus performed this miracle at a wedding -- the bible says, on the third day, there was a wedding. (00:07:02) I went back to Eve and research for why did the bible even say on the third day. It's an odd statement to make because if you read through the first chapter of John, it would lead you to say, "On this day, this happened, and on the next day and then on the next day," and even from what I could gather, it appeared that it was the fourth day.

What the bible says, on the third day and all the rest of the event (00:07:27) John, it never named a day until it got to the wedding. And I know that it had a significance, and as I look back and solve the significance of the third day, I looked back and see what God made on the third day. And on the third day, in Genesis one verse nine, then God said, "Let the water under the heavens be gathered together into one place and let the drylands appear and it was so. And God called the dryland earth and the gathering together of the water He called seas and God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth grass. The earth that yields seed and the fruits so it'll yield fruit according to its kind, who seeded then itself on the earth and it was so. And the earth brought forth grass, the herb that you will see according to its kind and the tree that yields fruit whose seed is in itself according to its kind, and God saw that it was good. So, the evening and the morning were the third day.

And even in Genesis, God created the earth. There is a very close parallel between what he made and the marriage. God, first of all, separated the waters and so that place was dry and that place was wet. He called the dryland earth and the water He called seas. And he said, "Let the earth bring forth grass, the earth that yields seed and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind. He created first that place was dry and that place was wet, and then He made the earth that yields seed and the fruit that contained the seed. And a man is the earth that yields the seed and a woman is the fruit that contains the seed. And He saw that it was good. On the third day, there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee and the mother of Jesus was there.

Now, you see the wedding started out with wine and they ran out. And any pastor will tell you that the biggest problems that they have in the church and counseling all centered into areas. Eighty percent of all of the counseling that they have to do were centered into areas.

The number one area is the area of marriage. Marriage counseling is the most -- is the bulk of what ministers have to be involved with whenever members come to them for counseling. Number one is marriage and number two is money. And those truly make up 80 to 90 percent of all of the counseling that ministers will have to do. And whenever a couple comes to a minister for counseling, the wine has run out of the marriage. And in this particular marriage, the master of the feast said that normally the good wine is served first and after the guests have well drunk, then they bring out the cheap wine. Do you know that's the way many marriages starting out? You get the good wine. And you see the marriage really begins with the introduction of the couple and it goes to the dating stage and it gets the good wine. They just as considerate towards one another. They take care of one another. All the men will open the door and let the woman in. They go ahead and run get the car door. He buys roses and cards and he'll send a little sweet nothing. He calls every day at work and they just hang on the phone; run out of words and just hang on the phone. All when they get around each other, they start sweating and heart goes to beating fast. They can't wait to see each other if ggod wine.

In the beginning of the marriage and the dating process, they serve what? The good wine. All will let a few years go back and sometimes in the modern day of times, you don't even have to let a few years go back; sometimes just a few months and the wine that they start to dish and each other starts to be cheap wine. Now, first of all, I am not a wine connoisseur. I couldn't tell you the difference between what do you call a Bourgeois or chalet. I don't know. I don't know anything about wine at all. I recently tried to drink some wine because I've been reading how red wine is good for the heart. When I went to the grocery, I was shocked first of all to see how much the wine was in the grocery. I didn't believe. They have five aisles of wine. I said, "Good grief!" I never even realized that there was that much wine, and I didn't know anything about wine, so I asked for the mildest red wine they had and even when I got that wine and try to drink it, it tastes horrible. I'm just not a wine connoisseur, and see, there's

nothing biblically wrong with wine. God made it. He had it even in the religious ceremony. There's a free (00:13:43). So, there was nothing evil about wine. He just said, "Don't be (00:13:45) with wine, but there was nothing at all wrong with drinking the wine. But I couldn't drink it.

But yet wine is symbolic in the marriage. And in the marriage feast, they first serve the good one. Then they serve the cheap wine, then they ran out of wine. And you know, that's the way it goes in so many relationships; the good wine, the good love, then then cheap love. You know, one of the things that they said even in the intimate processes between a man or a woman, when they were first married or when they were dating, all the men took all his attention to make sure that the woman was properly taken care of. But once they get married, the cheap wine comes into this. And all of the attention that he once shared, all of the sweetness, all of the tenderness never comes a matter of speed. Cheap wine and ask for the cheap wine; the wine runs out.

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What to do when the wine runs out of marriage? And that's a serious problem. Right now, the statistics are 65 percent of all marriages end in divorce; that's two out of three people. Two out of three marriages end in divorce. And there was a USA today survey that survey long-term couples that had been married 25 years or more and they ask one question and the question was if you had to marry the same person all over again, would you do it? And the surprising answer that USA today got from people that has been married 25 years or more, half of the people said they wouldn't marry that person all over again. And as I looked at those statistics, two out of three yet divorced. You know, their wine has run out. There is no arguing. There is no question. And when a couple goes to the divorce, they don't have a drop of wine left. You know their wine has run out. But the surprising part, even the couple did stay together. And any time a man or a woman said that for a long-term relationship, they had to do it all over again, they wouldn't marry the same person, their wine has run out.

So, it's not coincidental that the first miracle that Jesus performed was that a wedding because people oftentimes that's the major miracle that we need because we have more sick

marriages than we do sick bodies. It's two out of three divorced and that leaves only one third left and half of those don't want to be with each other. You got one out of six couples that have wine in their marriage. It's a serious situation and I wish I could tell you that the statistic among the Christians was in the data. But the divorce statistic in the church just as bad as out in the world, and if you go to any church right now and ask everyone to raise their hand if divorced, a whole bunch of hands will go up. It's no bearing in the church than lives in the world, and if that's the case, there is a key and there's a reason as to why Jesus' first miracle was at a wedding and he made wine out of water. And I always wonder as to why in the world would Jesus have even made an alcoholic beverage, and alcohol is still and always has been throughout history the deadliest drug on the planet. Do you know right now if Jesus were to show up and we weren't familiar with Him and He made some liquor? Could you imagine the head (00:18:04) or any minister that had manifested some liquor? We think it was horrible. I always wonder why in the world did He make at His first miracle the deadliest drug on the planet. When talk about cocaine and heroin and PCP and marijuana.

The number one drug among teenagers right now is alcohol. The number killer in this country drug wise, alcohol kills 25,000 people just in car accidents, 60 percent of all homicide involve alcohol. It's still and always had been the deadliest drug on the face of the planet. And I said, "Why did Jesus make wine as His first miracle? Because it was symbolic of the marriage covenant. And do you know a happy marriage is still the most valuable possession that you has ever owned? A happy marriage is the most valuable possession that you will ever own and an unhappy marriage will be the biggest curse that you ever tied down. If you got joy in your relationship, you can just about go to anything. And if you don't have joy, you can have a house that was 10-million dollar house with 50 rooms in it. You can have a bed that's a hundred thousand dollar bed and I've got a fancy bed (00:19:43). My wife and I -- we got a real fancy bed. I went and bought the most expensive mess that I could find. I may have a remote controlling. You had to lift up with your hand. It will lift up with a foot. One button you push then it will go to vibrate. Oh, we got a fancy bed, but let me tell you this.

It's not in the bed, people. And sometimes we can get and start to think it's in the house or it's in the furniture or it's in the cup. It ain't in that stuff. You got to have some wine in your marriage because so many of our marriages have run out of wine and we've got to understand how to get the wine back to marriage.

It's better for you and me in the backseat of a car with a happy marriage and I mean on a (00:20:43). It's better for you to be in the backseat of a crap car than in a mansion and you can't stand each other. It's not in the material; it's in the wine. Now, I'm not talking really about real wine. Wine in this instance is simply symbolic. Don't go out and try to get you some real wine because that's not going here for you. Don't go out and try to get drunk. That's not going to bring it back into your marriage. Jesus was dealing here with symbolism of the main covenant of relationship on the earth. And it had some serious things as to why it was on the third day.

And that first verse, "And the mother of Jesus was there. The mother of Jesus was there." It is interesting that the bible did not give Mary's name. And when I read (00:21:52) as you understand the way that God's words (00:21:54) and I'll understand that as He speaks and that's why I have to write the stuff down because it's critical even in the wording. It looked like the bible would have said in that instance, "And Mary, the mother of Jesus," but it didn't give her name. It simply said that the mother of Jesus was there.

Now, both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding, and when they ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to him, they have no wine. Somebody first of all has to recognize you run out of wine. Someone has to recognize. Now looked like Jesus should have known they're out of wine. Don't you know the Lord knows that your relationship has run out of wine? The Lord knows that. Jesus knew that they had run out of wine, but he didn't tell his mother. "Woman, I see and I noticed that they have run out of wine." Someone had to tell the Lord that the wine was out and it was the mother of Jesus that they did not name, and you said, "Well, of course, we all know who the mother of Jesus was. There was a reason they left the name out.

Let me tell you why they left the name out. Turn to Matthew Chapter 12, First Book of the New Testament. I want you to read this for yourself and to understand where Jesus' mother said to him they have run out of wine. Matthew Chapter 12 verse 47: Then one said to him, "Look! Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, seeking to speak to you." But he answered and said to the one who told him, "Who is my mother and who are my brothers?" And he stretched out his hand toward his disciples and said, "Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother." That's why they didn't give her name.

Jesus' mother is whoever does the will of the Father in heaven. He said that to his mother, his brother and his sisters' word. And do you understand what that represents; you see those of the closest blood relationships on earth, and with a man and his mother, that's about the closest you know. There's nothing that a man won't do for his mother and when you have a man that won't take care of his mother, you got a real story, man.

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You know it is one thing about the men may do all kinds of things even with their wives, but they always love mama. They always. You can take the roughest criminal out on the street and it takes a very depraved man to hurt mom. They will love mama no matter what they have done. Mama is often times the closest relationship that often a son will have. And Jesus told mama --He said, "What do I have to do with this situation? It's not my time." And did you know what mama said after Jesus told them, "Woman, what was your concern that has to do with me. My hour has not yet come. You know, mama didn't answer Jesus. But do you know what mama just said? Mama said to the server, Whatever he says to you, do it. If you want to bring the wine back into your marriage, you first of all must become a real relative of Jesus. You must become his mother, his brother or his sister, and all of you have to do to do that is do the will of the Father." And there's no son will refuse a command of his mother. Jesus said, "It's not even in my time yet," but that was mama talking, that was mama talking.

Mama had a relationship with the son, and when you got a relationship, you can get some special favors. Do you know even

if your daddy owns a store and his clothes, and you the son who needs them, he knock on the door and get to open up and no one else will but daddy will open up. If you got a relationship, a relationship with a relative is different than someone else. We've got to become mothers, brother and sisters to Jesus. And his mother -- even when Jesus said, "My hour has not yet come," she told the servants, "Whatever he says, do it." If you want the wine brought back into your marriage, whatever Jesus says, do; you need to do it.

And you see, that's the beginning of the basis of the miracle. What do you think would happen with the servants? Had done what Jesus told them to do. And Jesus told them to go, get the six stone waterpots and fill them up water. Every number that the bible uses is symbolic. Six is the representation of man in the flesh. Jesus said, "Go get all of your fleshless stuff and fill them up with water." Water is a representation of the type of spirit. "Go get all of your earthly stuff and fill them up with your spirit. If you want the wine brought back into your marriage, you got to take your earthly, fleshly desire then seal them up with the spirit. And to do that, always will require to see one thing that you can remember why you were there. You were anxious to please the person.

And oftentimes, once we get married, we get anxious for the other person to please us. We want to take care of the other person while we're dating, but when we get married, we will tell the other person to take care, and both men and women are guilty of this. Sometimes in different areas and sometimes when a man got married, he says he's marrying a mate. He wants his dinner brought in. He wants his shoes laid out and shoes shine. And I'm not saying that shouldn't be done. But sometimes, once he gets married, he forgets all about the selfness and all about romance, and he forgets all about the wine and dining that he used to do. He forgets all about that. And you he brings out the cheap wine. God wants us to put some wine back into some relationship.

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And I don't know why He had me preach His message, but yet and still I do know why He had me preach you. Because if there is just one cup that needs wine brought back into their marriage, it's worth it. And He said, "Go get me the six stone

waterpots and fill them up with water.” Sometimes even our hearts have become encrusted with stone. You know, we’ve gotten to the point often times in a marriage and you see anytime two people are together, it is bound to generate even among the best of marriages. It generates some friction. It’s going to generate some arguments. There’s going to be points of where you will not see eye to eye, that is inevitable. Passion works both ways. It’s inevitable. But the key is whenever get your pots filled with the spirit, you can work through all of it.

But you see, Jesus had to take and turn something that will not work much into something that was valuable. He had to turn it from something that was common into something that was rare, and He made good wine. We don’t need to settle for water and we don’t need to settle for cheap wine and we don’t need to settle for no wine. God wants us to have wine back in these marriages. And you see, wine is also symbolic. Wine, just like love, will make you drunk. Do you know when you’re in love you don’t have good sense? You don’t have good sense. That’s why in the bible, love covers a multitude of sense. You can’t see straight when you’re in love. Do you know love will wipe away and it holds back your vision? When you’re in love, you just can’t see very clearly. That’s the same thing that happens when you’re drunk. When you’re drunk, you can’t see clearly, you can’t speak straight. Your talking is a little flirt. Have you ever listened to two folks in love how they talk?

If you listen to them, they sound almost like in rock. And we got to put some of the same thing, some of the same wine that you had in the beginning, that you substituted for cheap stuff and that you ran out. You got to put that back into marriage. A pastor preached a sermon not too long ago called ‘Blessed Home.’ His home was full of wine. And see, when it’s full of wine, that’s one of the first indication of whether your house is full of wine or whether you ran out; that’s how quick you want to get to it. Even last night in my house, we had a gentleman. They’re working on something, installing something that we had bought and I had gone out to church last night and left my wife there, and he was there. And my wife told me what happened when I got home.

He looked over at and he said, “Do you mind if I ask you a question?” Then she said, “No.” He said, “Does your husband work a whole lot?” Because I had just left and he thought I’d

gone to work, and it was night. And she said, "Yeah, he works a whole lot, but I knew that when I married. He worked a whole lot before I married." And then he went on to say, "I'm engaged and I'm about to get married," and his wife is really -- well, that was really his fiancée and they were kind of together and he was saying, "She's beginning to nag me a whole lot and she I starting to nag me about working all of the time. And the more she nags, the more I work." And he even said, "I was planning on taking off last Saturday. But first thing in the morning, she started nagging (00:34:42) started and I went to work all day long and I didn't come home until 12 o'clock that night because she was nagging me." And he was talking to my wife trying to find out what to do about the nagging woman that had him out working all of the time. You see the wine had run out of his relationship.

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And as the first thing -- the first indicator that you could look at to tell you if your wine is gone, is do you want to even go home. And if you don't want to go home, some wine is gone because you know when you were dating, you couldn't wait to see each other. You can't wait together. You are full of wine. You were drunk with love. And we got married and ran out of wine. And I'm going to tell you people for some situations, it's going to take a miracle because some situations people have been in so long and they have God gifts like the stone pot, they're stone cold. They're stone cold. Stone cold at dinner, stone cold at breakfast, stone cold at lunch, and stone cold in the bed. They're stone cold. And it has gotten to a point where it is hard -- and it takes a miracle to come in and break that.

But God wants the wine back into the marriages. And I didn't even understand. I said, "Why did Jesus even -- do you know what size the waterpots were? 20 to 30 gallons a piece. Jesus made between 120 to 180 gallons of wine. Do you know that's enough wine they get? I don't know how many guests they had. But do you know how much wine that He had? He made wine where wine was overflowing and they had nothing too much. That's the way God wants you in your marriage. He wants you in your marriage when it's full 30. You look up and tell about, "I got to go home. I got to go see my wife. I got to go see my hub." What's going on? You're out of (00:37:01) "I think I had to see you. I think I got to see him."

And then you know how it is, you know that feeling. Do you know there's no price you can put on that? There's no price that you can put on that. That kind of value, you need to be just hot and get nasty, trying to get home to see your husband or trying to get to see your wife. You need to be where the folk ask. You see? That's what happens even when the spirit of Pentecost fell upon the people. They said, all they drank. They were behaving just like they were drunk, just as if they were filled with wine. And we need to get our marriages back to where it looks like we are filled with wine.

But how in the world do you do that when oftentimes you've been together and then God encrusted over the stone? How do you get it to where you're like Solomon and the song of Solomon has so much of that. In one verse Solomon 4:9, "You have ravished my heart, my treasure, my breath. I am overcome by one glance of your eyes, by a single bead of your necklace. How sweet is your love, my treasure, my breath? How much better it is than wine? Your perfume is more fragrant than the riches of spices. Your lips my bride are as sweet as honey. Yes, honey and cream are under your tongue. The scent of your clothing is like that of the mountains and the seed of the lemon and you are like a private garden, my treasure, my breath. You are like a spring that no one else can drink, a fountain of my own.

You know that's the way that you need to be. You need to be where when you see your husband, when you see your wife something happens. Unfortunately, for many of us were liked it but if something is happening it is not good. We see them in some (00:39:31), but it is not good and so many -- you know, sometimes, a lot of times, that's why you love to spend a lot of time in church. We spend a lot of time in church because we're trying to get a feeling in church that we cannot get at home and something wrong with it. And I even asked, you know, my speaking style. It is always being -- you see, I know the formula for the most powerful type of speaking.

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You start low, get high, go high, get on fire and sit down. That's the way you're supposed to do it. You're supposed to start low, take it off high, get real high, then sit down. I've never been able to do that. For some reason always my high pulls probably in the middle of somewhere, but I've never been able to, and I've

got the intelligence to do it, but somehow something always blocks me from that. And I asked the Lord, "Why can't I ever in on a high note with an emotional pitch with the people? Why can't I do that?" He said, "I don't want you to do that." And now, there's nothing wrong with anybody else doing. Every person has a different style for a different group. He said, "I don't want you doing it." I said, "Why?" He said, "Because I don't want the people become independent upon an emotional high. I want you to give them the word because if they get an emotional high and they leave out here, they'll be drained in the moment. If they got the word you will sustain.

So, you'll never end on a high note. You're going in with the words. And they'll go out and it may not have them jumping up and down, but it'll be something that you'll remember in the morning, and often times, we go to church trying to get a feeling because we're missing the feeling at home and something is wrong with that. The preacher is not supposed to be your husband. I got news for you. The preacher is not -- I don't care of what I look like. I don't care what my body is like. I don't care what I can do. I am not supposed to take the place of any woman at their hood. I'm not supposed to be the man you're looking at getting your three all about. I'm not supposed to be the man you think about once you leave out of here. And you know that happens in a whole lot of cases, and a whole lot of cases, the women looking at the preacher, ignoring the hub, and wishing they could be with the preacher because first of all, they're figuring that the preachers are perfect.

Preachers got almost high divorce rate there by now. He got all the problems. But it looks like he's perfect. So, oftentimes we even come to the house of god to get a feeling to replace that which we are missing at home. It needs to be in your house. You need to leave out of your house shouting. You don't need to leave out of your house down coming to church trying to get up. Now, if you're down, coming to church is the best place to go to get up. That's the good thing to do, but that is not a thing if you want to maintain, that is going through process, you want to move from that to something else. You don't want to stay in your life, all your life, leaving your house, coming to church, trying to get pumped up. You need to get your house to where your house is shall.

And you need to have the power back in your relationship. You need to have some passion in your relationship. And there's nothing wrong with that. There's nothing dirty about passion. Have you ever noticed that evil when God put two folks together? You know when Jacob saw Rachel, do you remember what happened when he first saw her? And when I just saw his wife and he saw his wife. When one saw his wife, he was willing to work 14 years together; that's some passion people. When the other one saw his wife, he fell down on his knees and started crying. I mean I've seen some pretty women in life, but I am the anybody, anywhere. It makes me fall on my knees and go to crying. I've got to admit that had to be some powerful stuff. You see when God puts us together, it's powerful. I got to admit, I mean when I first met Puddin when she touched me (00:43:43) but ain't no tears flow. I mean if she says (00:43:46), but I didn't cry. This man fell out of his knees and tears started flowing. Also, what kind of woman was that, that made him what he just saw and did fell out of and started crying; that's some power, that's some passion, that's almost behaving like a drunk man.

He had wine in his relationship and that's what we need to get too. So, many of our homes have run out of wine and we're running dry. It will take a miracle, but miracles are possible, but you got to have a relationship with Jesus and when you do what he says. And you know the bible frankly does not have a lot on marriage. Almost everything in the bible on marriage just fit on one page. There's not a whole lot (00:44:50). They'll give you a whole lot of details on what to do this way or that. There's not a whole lot in the bible on marriage. It's a real simple thing.

00:45:01

And fundamentally, if I had to distil it all down into one, Jesus says that this call shall a man leave his mother and his father, and cling onto his wife and the two shall be one flesh. Do you know if you can get to a one-flesh situation, first of all, you don't hurt your own flesh; that's number one. You see that's your own flesh. Couple that are watching me on television or listening or even here, how much time do you spend working every day on your own flesh? And then how much time do you spend on your spouse?

Why don't you try working on your spouse's flesh as much as you work on your own? I mean, this is in the physical. You see,

Jesus dealt with things on a spiritual level, and for the most part, in the New Testament, He tries to move us out of flesh except this situation. He didn't say, "And the two shall become one spirit." He said it will become one flesh. Every way of Jesus took you away from the flesh. He said, "Die to the flesh," but not when you married. You will be dead to the flesh marriage. He didn't say that. He didn't say, "And the twin shall become one spirit." You lined it up in the holy (00:46:33) you in the flesh, you in the flesh.

And let me tell you something. When you have a hot flesh relationship, it helps. You know a very hot flesh relationship can help it in everything, but it shows often. Don't let anybody fool you about that. And anytime when you have a situation of where a couple is coming in, they're about to (00:46:58). I can guarantee that flesh relationship has gotten cold. Jesus said, "The two shall become one flesh." He recognized that a man and a woman were in flesh, anyway he took you away from it, but that -- but that, you're supposed to be one flesh.

And if you treated your spouse like you did yourself. And sometimes you have to start in the physical. I'm not just talking about a -- I'm coming in the physical. How much time do you think combing your own hair, taking care of your own hair? When is the last time you go to your wife and just brushed her hair back? Now, that may sound silly to you. It may sound silly, but try it for a week, spend as much time on your spouse's flesh, and seeing about their flesh as much as you do your own. I guarantee you, you'll start bringing some wine back into your marriage.

Two biggest problems that ministers have to deal with: marriage and money. And both of them can result in your wine running out because one of the reasons they may have run short of wine is because they didn't have enough wine to begin with because they may have been running short of money. And you know when your money runs out, it'll mess up your wine because you can't buy any. See the two biggest causes of divorce -- number one is money and number two is sex, and they're both tied in there together because when your money runs out, you can't buy any wine, and when you can't buy any wine there is something about it -- and it's hard to -- it's very difficult to even have a peace of mind and you don't have -- bills and everything (00:48:55) you don't have house. Money can make a difference.

And that's why the two biggest things in counsel that ministers have to deal with – marriage and money. But even when you get flooded with money, and doesn't guarantee that your wine will be pouring. If that was the case, rich folk wouldn't have divorced and you know better than that. Money can be a cause that even excess money does not mean that it is a solution. God wants the wine put back into our marriages. And it's a simple thing to do, but many of the things of the spirit are very simple but they're not easy. They're simple, but they're not easy. And especially if we have developed habit over such a long, long period of time.

Wine equals time. We're not spending any time together. One of the things we need to do is turn the television off. Television has become our second love.

00:50:00

You spend more time with the television than most of us being with our spouse. You've got another person programming your mind and you spend more time with the television than we do with our spouse. And you see, I had a fellow even tell me once. He said when he first got married and used to travel, he needs a TV. But after he married his wife, he can stand a hotel without a TV. You see, when you first get married, the young man -- you know what I'm talking about -- I'm talking about (00:50:32) and they checked into a hotel room last time they need was TV. I mean he checked into a hotel and the clerk said, "I'm sorry sir, but the TV is broken in the room." "Oh, okay."

You know you don't need a TV because you know they say we need to bring that same wine back into your marriage that you have when you were single. I kept fooling around anywhere, and once you get married, all that stuff you shut it down, and as a result, your wine runs out. You need to practice just for a week and see what it does. Spend as much time on your spouses. Give yourself a bath. And some of you say, "Pastor, what kind of advice is this?" It's a simple thing; spend as much time on your spouse's flesh as you do yours. One flesh and it's a simple thing. Turn the television off, spend some time, get the wine back into your marriage.

And sometimes Christians can be -- we can just be so looked tidy and all this kind of stuff. God says that the marriage bed is undefiled. And in our case, it's not only undefiled, it's unused. So, we need to get and that we watch the tape in the men's ministry last week. And the biggest complaint that men had in marriage was no sex. That ain't no wine fool. I'm telling you right now. When that happens, the wine is gone; the wine is gone. And sometimes the women's biggest complaint really was no romance. The women wanted romance and the men wanted sex. And once they got married, the men say, "Well, I don't need to do anymore romance, and the women, "I don't need doing more sex." And as a result, both of them sitting there with a totally unused bed; all of the wine gone.

This is a practical message for a very real problem that the Christian world has within marriage. And marriage is not an easy thing. All of you that are married know that. This got its up, this got its down. When you put two people together and all of the stresses and all of the strains of the modern world, it can wreck some havoc. It can pull the stresses and strains and tears to all kinds of ways; there's no two ways about it and everyone -- my parents has one of the best marriages that I think I've ever seen anywhere and they had problems sometimes. My mama got mad at my dad and my father got mad at my mother. They have problems and they have the best marriage I've ever seen. I don't care how good it is. You always run into some tension and some problem, but one thing about why did you lose tension. And that's what is happening in many of our marriages. We run into problems and we have nothing to ease the tension, and it runs dry. Anything that's dry snaps.

We need to put the wine back into our marriage. So, I'll just leave you two simple things and they're not spiritual things because Jesus said the two shall be one flesh. This fleshy stuff. Jesus knew that you live that marriage with a man and with a woman in the flesh and you didn't have that flesh right or mess up that spirit. Two simple things. Try spending much time on your spouse's flesh as you do your own and see what happens. And turn off the television and just spend it with each other because even when you're there in the room with a television, all your attention on TV. You didn't talk with each other anymore. And this is what is happening, and as a result, the people have - - they've grown apart. They've taken the vows and we can even see it now and how instead of one flesh, everyone wants to

remain independent. That's why even now women keep the name.

That's why in the beginning, God had it where the woman took the man's name. Now, half of the women, they keep their own names. It's simply saying, "I'm not going to join fully with you. I'm going to keep my own name, my own identity, and I ain't to come in one flesh, and that's a result we start into things with the mentality of separatism. We start into marriage with prenuptial agreement. I told my wife and even I have far more material things when I married my wife and said, "Would you want any kind of prenups." I said, "No, I'm not going into any marriage where I've got to sign a prenuptial." If I got that kind of doubt, I don't need to be going in it. I'm not going into marriage to sign on a contract. I told my wife, "(00:55:17) if we do." I said, "I'm not leaving you and you ain't leaving me. We're going to be together (00:55:21).

And you see, that's the kind of commitment that you have to have because stuff can get straining sometimes. And the first year we were married, it was a strange. We were both new at that kind of thing, but it has gotten better and better every year. Because number one, I knew I have (00:55:39) no matter what and I don't care how perfect someone is. When you get into a marriage, getting that one flesh because you got your own flesh to deal with and stone pot. You've been single for so long.

You don't let God stand in your way; that's what's stone is. You stand in your way. And you have to get married and change your set way. That's not easy for a man or woman. But if we have stone pots that never give, they'll end up breaking. We've got to become one flesh. For this cause shall a man leave his mother and his father and plead onto his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. And when you have that one flesh, there's nothing in the world that you can't buy from that, nothing. There's nothing that matches, that's why love -- all of the movies that's the main set or theme. I don't care where it is, what it is. It's always centered around love. If you actually packed it (00:56:56) I don't care where it is way back in history, love has always been a dominant thing.

We need love and we need to wind it back into our marriage. It's not good for man to be alone, but oftentimes we're in relationships and we're alone. It's not good and it's not good for

man to be alone. The bible didn't say it wasn't good for woman to be alone. It said, "It wasn't good for man to be alone." And you know that's why God makes no mistakes about what He says, and when you look at it, there's a truth in there. Men are more dependent on their spouse than the women are on the men. We like to think it is wrong, but in statistical reality, that's not true.

If you look at marriages and couples that have been together for a long time and then one of them die, then one will keeps on kicking. She goes right alone, but if the woman dies, the man doesn't make it very long. Men statistically don't survive very long if their wife dies. But a woman if her husband dies, she run on their (00:58:11).

So, men are even more dependent oftentimes on women. It's not good for men to be alone, but that's why God put it in the man's power to bring the wine in. I want to show you one other thing, the final thing. When Jesus made the wine in the water and the master of the feast, who would be called of master of ceremonies, since when the master of the feast that tasted the water that was made wine, they did not know where it came from, but the servants who had drawn the water new, the master of the feast called the bridegroom and said to him, "Every man at the beginning sets off the good wine and when the guests are well drink then the inferior. You kept the good wine until now.

The woman has always been in charge of the wedding. Always, even that way in the old days in the bible. It was the woman, the wife, the father who was responsible, that's always been the case. Why did he call the man instead of the bride? Is there something wrong with the food at the wedding that's not a man's responsibility; that's a woman's responsibility. Why did the master of ceremony call the groom, not the bride? Because men, you're in charge in getting that wine back in your marriage. God put you in-charge, and when a man steps up and puts the wine back into the marriage, that's quite even with those two main things of marriage and money.

Man is responsible for that money. God never put the woman in charge of bringing in the money and taking care of the house. So, he always place that responsibility on the man. That's the man's responsibility.

01:00:01

And when the wine was good, the master of ceremony called the man over and told him. Because most of the time when marriage is going bad, it's the man's fault and any minister will tell you that, too. Most of the time, when marriage goes bad, it's the man's fault. He is stepped out, chipped out, laid down on the job, done something wrong, is generally now. Sometimes it's the women, but the vast majority of the time it's the men. That's why the men have the spirit. You have saved the best to last.

So, I challenge you, man. Bring out your best wine. You still got it in you. Bring out your best wine. Start treating your wife like a queen. Treat her as your own flesh. Get the wine into your marriage and the two shall become one flesh (01:01:11).

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank you this night for your word, for you ordained the family, and the union between man and a woman before you even ordained your church. You said it forth from the beginning and it's not good for a man to be alone, but you placed him in-charge to bring the wine. You gave him the responsibility to love his wife. And women you gave the responsibility to respect the husband, but the man in love commends them all, and when the man loves, love will (01:02:16) of a woman. For the one (01:02:20) will nurture that and when the man loves (01:02:27). Help us to (01:02:33) and for those relationships that were made of fresh pouring of wine help the two (01:02:44) will become one flesh. By the Son Jesus His Name, amen.

01:03:03