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BATTLES YOU MUST WIN

LOVE, MARRIAGE & MONEY SERIES



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Topic: Battles You Must Win

Text: Proverbs 24:10 - *"If you faint in the day of adversity, Your strength is small."* (NKJV)

Proverbs 18:22 - *"He who finds a wife finds a good thing, And obtains favour from the Lord."* (NKJV)

Introduction

Today I want to share 5 wisdoms with you that will help you build your relationship, I tag them as *Battles you must win in love, marriage and money.*

Every battle is a pressure for you to succumb and compromise. Let's check the first scripture of this teaching in different versions:

Proverbs 24:10 - *If you fail under pressure, your strength is too small.* (NLT)

"If you fall to pieces in a crisis, there wasn't much to you in the first place." (MSG)

"If you are slack (careless) in the day of distress, Your strength is limited" (AMP)

"If you faint when under pressure, you have need of courage" (TPT)

Therefore, you must understand these battles so you don't fall into a trap. The second scripture gives a metaphor in describing a good wife.

Finding a life partner is a battle that must win because right from inception, the devil aims to make each marriage a failure. This is contrary to God's plan, which is to make marriages great institutions that will bring joy and glory to man. Thank God for Jesus who came as a unification in the separation the devil intended.

"From the day the devil interfered with the affairs of marriage; it has become a battle we struggle with."

You must understand as a believer that you don't settle or choose who you marry anyhow. As singles, you must understand that as much as God will bring your way a great partner you need to prayerfully pray to settle yourself, your home, your children and all that pertains to you. **If you must win the battle of love, and marriage there are two things you must pay attention to as given to us by Jesus Christ:**

Matthew 26:41

"Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." (NKJV)

The first is prayer and the second thing stated is watch, both of which must be acted in equal balance. These things will help you to escape the temptation that will destroy your future. For you not to suffer these things you did not bargain for, you must watch and pray.

"Don't ever make the mistake of going into marriage only by prayer or only by watching. It must have a balance."

No matter the amount of conventional preparation (for example pre-wedding shoot) that you have done before the wedding, learn to watch and pray. May you not regret your choice of marriage.

There are 5 battles that you must win

We will take our wisdom from the whole verses in Genesis 24, a story where Abraham sent his oldest servant to look for a wife for his son, Isaac. The servant swore before Abraham to go to his country and take a wife for Isaac. Now, let's look at the battles you must fight from verse 10.

1. The Battle of Conviction

The ability to be convinced that the person you propose to marry is the one God has sent your way is important. You can't find a lasting partner all by yourself without God finding it for you first. There must be a conviction in your spirit that this is the right person to marry.

Verses 10 and 11: *Then the servant took ten of his master's camels and departed, for all his master's goods were in his hand. And he arose and went to Mesopotamia, to the city of Nahor. [11]And he made his camels kneel down outside the city by a well of water at evening time, the time when women go out to draw water. (NKJV)*

In verse 11, you will see the dimension of watch that I explained. If you don't want to choose the correct person at the wrong time, then you must also understand timing in choosing a life partner. If the servant had gone to the well in the afternoon instead of evening, he wouldn't have met Rebekah. *I pray you won't miss your timing.* Progressively, the servant understood the power of prayer in timing. Your right time is not right when prayer is absent. Even if he was in the

right place and time, the servant had to communicate with the One that owns season and time.

"The first thing if you want to fight and win the battle of conviction is to bury yourself completely in the place of prayer."

Nobody chooses the correct partner for marriage by only speculating. Speculation cannot bring you a lasting husband or wife because it does not give you the knowledge of the future. It is only by prayer that you know who will finish well with; not just a prayer of lying down or folding hands. You pray as if you will not pray.

Verse 14 - *Now let it be that the young woman to whom I say, 'Please let down your pitcher that I may drink,' and she says, 'Drink, and I will also give your camels a drink'--let her be the one You have appointed for Your servant Isaac. And by this, I will know that You have shown kindness to my master." (NKJV)*

The Old Testament was a period where the people used circumstances to pray because the Holy Spirit had yet to be received. Now, you don't need circumstances to pray before you are convinced. *My prayer for you singles is that may you not fall into a trap because the circumstances you have in mind can be engineered or tampered with by the devil.* We are in the dispensation of the Holy Ghost who we have inside us, so you don't play a game of gambling in receiving conviction. Rather, you bury yourself in the place of prayer, closing your eyes and standing. Until God speaks you don't move.

"If you must fight the battle of conviction, you must learn how to hear the voice of God."

How does God speak to you in mundane things, in things that are not related to marriage? Many of our Christian brothers and sisters begin to desire to hear the voice of God when they are about to choose a life partner. This is wrong! We need the voice of God in all things, from the littlest to the greatest. You must develop an understanding of how you receive the voice of God. Identify how He speaks to you.

Another thing I want you to note is that when you pray, you must also be on the lookout (sensitive) to every prompting of God to receive answers. Be attentive to your spirit and be silent in your heart to pick up the voice of God and affirm your conviction. This is because in receiving a conviction, you will need to fight against the distraction of the heart and cultural backgrounds.

Verse 21 - *And the man, wondering at her, remained silent so as to know whether the Lord had made his journey prosperous or not. (NKJV)*

Before this verse, the Bible recorded that the servant received the answer to his prayer while he was still talking, with the arrival of Rebekah at the well. A beautiful woman to behold. Please dearest singles, as I said please watch as you are praying; don't just marry anyhow. I am not just saying this as regards the physical appearance but in character and cleanliness. Beauty is not only on the outside but on the inside too.

I will add this too, please take good care of yourself because you are being watched also by even the one you have proposed to. Hence, you don't do the watching alone but the other person does. Ensure you look radiant at all times. The Bible also didn't address Rebekah as a "lady" or "girl" but she was addressed as a 'Woman', a female mature and fit to be married.

Always know this irrespective; ***"When the Holy Ghost speak to you about a life partner to marry, He gives such person the total package."***

The verse highlighted above, described the servant's actions when the answer came. He was silent and again watching on the credibility of his prosperity. But before anything, let's go back a few verses and see what ascertained the credibility of his answer.

Verse 15 - *And it happened before he had finished speaking, that behold, Rebekah, who was born to Bethuel, son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother, came out with her pitcher on her shoulder. (NKJV)*

Rebekah was a woman from Abraham's family. **Please marry someone from your spiritual family, not your physical family.** Spiritual family is key because in there

lies the power of conviction. No matter how caring such a fellow is if he is not someone who is from your spiritual family, (*a bonafide born again not just a churchgoer*); don't marry such. But don't forget, that the servant initially observed Rebekah before he had this knowledge.

The next verse then described Rebekah as beautiful (*which I explained earlier*) and a virgin. Singles, keep yourself till marriage. No correct spouse desires a partner who is not pure. Virginity does not only mean being undefiled because one can be a virgin and yet commit "atrocities" far more than people who are defiled. Purity in relationship helps you to become what God wants you to be per time

"As part of your conviction, purity helps you to walk better with God. "

After you have prayed, watched, heard God speak and kept yourself pure; **the last thing you must do to win the Battle is Conviction is to confirm your conviction that God has given.** This is why when someone comes to you concerning marriage, carry a mature person along. If you are blessed with a good pastor or a correct head of department in your unit, please carry them along. It will go a long way to help you escape errors in life.

2. The Battle of Character Building.

Let's see what happens in our scripture from verse 17

Genesis 24:17-19

And the servant ran to meet her and said, "Please let me drink a little water from your pitcher."
(NKJV)

Did you see Hospitality? Rebekah was hospitable and accommodating in all areas. Ladies, just because a brother you don't like comes to propose to you doesn't mean you should "wash" him down. Even when such a person is not correct or someone you don't want, don't useless them because you can give the brother an emotional injury that can damage their confidence forever. There are what we call encouraging "no". Give replies using kind words.

Also, brothers, when you receive 'no' to your proposal, don't make that an excuse not to talk to the lady again. Receiving 'no' is not the end of the world, let friendship continue. I believe I have taught before that in the prescription of God according to the Bible, there is nothing like "The Wife" but "A Wife." This is why if a Vashti misbehaves, there will always be an Esther. So after summoning courage and you talk to a sister about your conviction don't be dismayed if she wasn't hospitable or gave 'no' as a reply. There is always an Esther waiting for you.

Another character is Honour and Respect

Verses 18 - 20: *So she said, "Drink, my lord." Then she quickly let her pitcher down to her hand, and gave him a drink. And when she had finished giving him a drink, she said, "I will draw water for your camels also, until they have finished drinking." Then she quickly emptied her pitcher into the trough, ran back to the well to draw water, and drew for all his camels. (NKJV)*

Again ladies, don't ridicule a man by making him the subject of gossamer with your friends. Show honour, maturity and respect in handling a proposal. There are so many ladies who propose brothers in a very subtle way (an example is the "cooler" ministry). This is not correct.

Let's see more characters in verse 21.

And the man, wondering at her, remained silent so as to know whether the LORD had made his journey prosperous or not. (NKJV)

The principle of patience. Don't be in a rush to say "yes". Please I beg you, sisters, just because you see a brother who ticks all the boxes, doesn't mean you should excited to give an affirmative response immediately. As a discipler to many, I have given this test of patience to a number of my disciples to check their level of patience. In that scripture, it was recorded that the servant was silent (patient) in knowing whether his journey was prosperous or not.

The last character is seen in verse 22

So it was, when the camels had finished drinking, that the man took a golden nose ring weighing half a shekel, and two bracelets for her wrists weighing ten shekels of gold, (NKJV)

One of the things you must learn in character building is the **Ability to Give**. In a relationship, learn to give towards each other. A partner who gives excuses every time there is a need to be generous lacks this character. In fact, a person who doesn't pay tithes can't learn to give to others. Giving is part of life and relationship.

Part of the battle you must fight is greediness and stinginess. Settling for a partner who cannot give is a beckon to trouble in future.

Prayer :

- God prosper my journey in marriage
- Father, help me win every battle
- In my choice of marriage, I pray that I won't regret it.

