



REVD. BOLAJI ODEJIDE

WHAT'S NEXT

LOVE, MARRIAGE & MONEY SERIES

 @pastorbeejay



www.bolajiodejide.com

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Topic: "What's Next?"

Text: Genesis 24:63-67: *And Isaac went out to meditate in the field in the evening, and he lifted his eyes and looked, and there, the camels were coming. [64] Then Rebekah lifted her eyes, and when she saw Isaac she dismounted from her camel; [65] for she had said to the servant, "Who is this man walking in the field to meet us?" The servant said, "It is my master." So she took a veil and covered herself. [66] And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. [67] Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent, and he took Rebekah and she became his wife, and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death. (NKJV)*

Introduction:

We started the teaching of Love and Money with the dissection of different dimensions of love. Progressively, we learned the meaning of new wine and its restoration back into our homes. In the last teaching, we talked about family finances.

In this teaching, we will be looking at some principles for those who are married, those who are thinking of getting married, and those who are praying for settlement in marriage. These principles must be applied after the wedding to have a glorious home.

"Marriage is designed as an institution for greatness."

It is designed for us to come together and enter into the fulfilment of God's purpose for our lives. One of the importance of marriage is that it makes you fulfil your vision. *It is beyond giving birth and companionship, marriage helps you attain greatness.*

Unfortunately, many people are presently living in regret in their choice of partner, and the state of their marriage in contrast to their expectations before saying "I Do". Many are enduring rather than enjoying.

"In the manuscript of God, marriage is not meant to be endured or managed. It is meant to be enjoyed."

You must note that marriage is a great thing God has put in place for your joy to become full. However, we are in a world that has presented us with different options in marriage. There are teachings that if a marriage is not enjoyable, just leave it.

In fact, it is rampant in every nook and cranny in our present age (*social media, preaching, sermons*). This is not the standard of the scripture. No matter what the world says, that is not the mind of God. Hence, it is paramount we learn forgiveness and acceptance.

One of the options the world gave to us in marriage is "Stay Alone", a concept that connotes the statement we are in the same room but we are not sleeping in the same room. Both spouses remain in marriage but the world has given them

the option of becoming roommates in different rooms. It is a terrible thing to pack out of your matrimonial room to another room because this is nothing but disrespect to God. What a terrible world system introduced to us!

The second option the world has given to us is to "Stay Apart for a while", the language called separation. Separation is seen in vision, room, and even children. The Bible says in the beginning it was not so.

However, there are situations such as violent attacks during misunderstandings where couples are counselled to be apart for a specified period but there is a constant follow-up in this period. There is appropriate counsel that you can receive which will help. But instead in our world, when people are asked to separate there is no follow-up. How many people have you seen separated with no proper follow-up return back to each other? Funny enough, I have heard of different platforms where people with unsuccessful marriages or with no experience of marriage counsel spouses to separate. This is very wrong, don't leave the Bible standard to follow the world.

The third one they gave to us in the worldview is "Divorce." I want to quickly check the scripture concerning this.

1 Corinthians 7:10-11: *Now to the married I command, yet not I but the Lord: A wife is not to depart from her husband. But even if she does depart, let her remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband. And a husband is not to divorce his wife. (NKJV)*

So where did you see the concept of divorce? I beg you if have issues with each other, resolve it and make marriage sweet. Divorce is in categories such that a partner will victimize the other in the name of following the biblical standard till the latter is frustrated.

"Misunderstanding and conflict are normal in marriage but learn to resolve it as soon as possible. It must not sleep overnight."

There is one covenant every married person must enter, and that is the Covenant to make it work. You must make it work at all costs no matter the flaws seen.

If your marriage will work:

1. You must be mature and responsible: How can you claim to be mature if, in the face of any misunderstanding, the first thing you do is hunger strike as a husband or refuse to cook as a wife? It is a high level of toxicity and immaturity when you refuse to sleep at your matrimonial home during arguments. Take responsibility and be mature. Sort things out, and avoid placing each other in cages by doing otherwise.

To singles, I implore you please go for mature partners. It is very important to do.

2. Learn to understand each other: Understand the temperament, nature, and attitude of your spouse. If you can cope with your bosses at work, how much more your spouse? Many partners are in a state of dilemma presently because things are going apart and their expectations don't meet the reality of things. I pray for you, your home will work.

3. Say No to alternatives: I tell you, there is no person better than your wife or husband; as long as they hold that position in your life you must be satisfied. I am pleading to you to say no to alternatives. The moment you stand before the altar and utter "I Do", you have arrived at a point of no return. I am trusting the Lord that your marriage will be a model in this generation. Christ must reflect in your home.

4. Learn conflict resolution and enter the covenant of no divorce.

Now, let's get into our main text today to find out 7 things you must learn after marriage:

1. Vs 63: Stay close to God for a new discovery

No marriage succeeds after the wedding if you are far from God. It is when you get closer to God that the discovery of how to run your home and the pattern to help get a spouse will be given to you.

The Bible said, *"In the evening, Isaac was meditating."* It was with no distraction, hence as you stay close to God you begin to get creative insights on how to run your home. Social media can't give you the creativity that will help your spouse. It was when Isaac began to meditate that he looked up and saw a damsel.

"The more you stay close to God in your marriage the better your marriage becomes."

Stay close to God after your wedding. It does not matter the length of years in your marriage, stay with Him. Holy Spirit teaches you maturity; He makes you mature and give you the correct responsibility you do not know.

2. Vs 64: Dont stay on the same level with your spouse

Honour and respect each other. As a wife, learn to show this through actions such as kneeling to greet your husband in the morning. Don't be proud because there is power in your husband blessing you if he is a correct holy ghostly and priest man. No matter how spiritual a woman can be, she is still under the man.

Rebecca came down from her camel and honoured Isaac. Please can you honor your wife? Please can you honor your husband? Again, women even if you earn more than your husband, honor them with that money. All these slogans you get from the internet that, *"My money is my money and his money is our money."* This mentality won't take you anywhere and this is part of what we learned in the last teaching.

One of the things that is fast disappearing in our generation is Respect. Especially these Gen-Z, many of their actions are without respect even to the level of acting in disrespect toward their pastors and elders. *May the Lord help this generation.*

One attribute every man is looking for is someone who will respect, honor, and cherish them and every woman will appreciate a man who cares for them like an egg.

3. Vs 65: Learn to cover your nakedness (weakness)

Cover the weaknesses of your spouse. Take for instance if as a husband, your wife can't cook, it doesn't cost you anything to teach her how to cook even if you will learn for her. In weddings these days, it's a pity that many brides cover their faces and leave their bodies exposed. The Bible said, *"Rebekah removed her veil and covered her body."*

As I close, one important thing a married man or woman must know is to learn to always shield your partner. Don't expose their nakedness. This will help you and your marriage to be great.

Prayer

- Lord help me in any area I have missed it
- Lord intervene in my marriage.