

A MARRAGE WITHOUT REGRETS

PROGRAM 40 (#910170)

WEEK 8 (910336)

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The following is an actual transcript of the PRECEPTS FOR LIFE Broadcast. For the purpose of filling transcript requests quickly, they have received only light editing. If you have questions concerning the material covered in this broadcast, Kay has published a number of books explaining the Scripture in depth. These books may be ordered by contacting the telephone number or address printed above.

SERIES: A Marriage Without Regrets

TITLE: Program 40 – Practical Steps For Reconciliation

FRIDAY

OPEN

He's the God of resurrection. He's the God of new beginnings. He's the God of hope. He's the God of healing. He's the God of encouragement. Just keep yourself in the Word of God and He will send His Word and He will heal you both. And in the long run you can be stronger than you ever were before if you will just listen to God.

PART ONE

Your adulterous husband or your adulterous wife has come to you. They've asked for forgiveness and you, wanting to be like Jesus Christ, and wanting to be obedient to God, and wanting to see your marriage restored, you've forgiven, just as God, in Christ Jesus, has forgiven you. But there's more to deal with besides forgiveness. How do I handle it? How do I live after adultery? Well, after you forgive, then the next thing you need to do is you need to protect. You forgive and you protect. You say, "Protect? He didn't

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protect me. She didn't protect me." No, but listen. You have forgiven. You have sent that away. You're not going to require that sin from them because they have asked for forgiveness, because they have said that they want the marriage to work. Remember that you are one. Remember that God has joined you together and you want to keep that marriage together. And remember that that person, your husband, your wife, has been broken by their sin. And you need to protect them because what you want to see is you want to see healing. If your mate is not healed after that sin, then you're going to live with an injured mate. You're going to live with someone that is constantly remembering or constantly being depressed or constantly battling their failures. You know, I told you that I get all sorts of letters. And I love hearing from you. And I love having you share with me. And this gal wrote me and this is another one after I spoke at a conference. And she says, "I have never heard a Christian speaker talk about an immoral past." And God just showed me a long time ago that if I would quit weeping about my immorality and my divorce that occurred before I became a child of God, then He would use it to help others. And He does. And she said, "I had an affair and divorced my husband." She says, "I have been carrying an incredible load. I know I'm a child of God. I know He has forgiven me and that there is no condemnation in Christ Jesus. I guess I have trouble forgiving myself. I feel." Now listen. "I feel that I have lost my identity. I lost my church, my good name, my nuclear family." And then she goes on to tell the awful mess in the first marriage, in the second marriage and what's happened to the children. But remember, divorce brings a loss. And because of this, you and I need to move on behalf of Christ in restoring this person, in restoring our husband, in restoring our wife. Listen to what 2 Corinthians, chapter 2 says. Now Paul is writing to this church and he had to rebuke them because there was person there that had sinned grievously. And he told them that they had to deal with that sin, that they had to judge that sin. And he writes to them and he says, "Sufficient for such a one is this punishment

which was inflicted by the majority.” What is he saying? He’s saying, listen, they know their sin. Their sin is ever before them. That’s sufficient punishment. Now don’t add to that punishment. He goes on to say, “So that on the contrary you should rather forgive.” And that’s what you’ve just done. “You should rather forgive and comfort him.” There needs to be some comfort. And there’s nothing greater than getting comfort from the person that you have wounded. It really shows that there is genuine forgiveness there. And it really shows that there is love there. And it really show that there’s a desire there to see that whole relationship mended, to see that whole relationship healed. So he says, “On the contrary you should rather forgive and comfort him, lest somehow such a one would be overwhelmed with excessive sorrow.” When your mate sins in this way don’t go broadcasting it to everyone. Talk to those that you need to talk to in order to get help. But don’t stand up and make it public knowledge. Why? Just think of how it would be if the situation were reversed for you. And how would you feel if you walked into church and you knew that everybody knew because it had been put in the bulletin. Or somebody had stood up in a testimony meeting or you’ve stood up in a testimony meeting and said, “I’ve just found out that my husband or my wife committed adultery and I just want you to pray for me that I’ll know how to handle it.” You don’t need to tell all those people. You need to protect that repentant one. And you need to be careful that you do not cause this person excessive sorrow. There’s enough sorrow there as it is. Now the next scripture I want to take you to is 1 Corinthians, chapter 13, verse 5 because 1 Corinthians 13 is about love. You probably remember that and it’s a description of how love obeys. What is the character of love? How does love conduct itself? And in verse 5, he says, “Love does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own.” And see, many, many times when we share a person’s sin broadly, or we share our mate’s failure, their adultery broadly, sometimes and we have to be so careful, because the flesh can be so conniving, sometimes it’s to get sympathy for us.

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Sometimes it's to draw attention to us. Sometimes it's so people will come along and say, "O bless your heart. I am so sorry. I know this is so hard." You know and you begin to play the martyr because of the attention that you get. And you don't want to do that. Jesus never played the martyr. Jesus willingly sacrificed Himself so that you and I could have forgiveness. And you need to do the same. Now watch what it says. "Love...does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, [it] is not provoked." In other words, you're going to keep this anger under control. You're going to keep this tongue under control. And then, and this is the key, it "does not take into account a wrong suffered." In other words, it's not sitting there as Matthew 18 says, keeping accounts. How many times did my brother sin against me? How many times did my husband sin against me? What did this cost me? You don't take that into account. Because you're going to love as Christ loved. And you know what? In the horribleness of this sin, in the horribleness of what this has done to your marriage, God will use it to make you more like Jesus Christ if you will let Him. You say, "I don't want to be like Jesus Christ. I want revenge. Or I want this or I want whatever." Really, if you were thinking clearly, you would want to be more like Jesus Christ. Why? Because your average life span is threescore and ten. That's 70 years. That's the average life span of a person according to the Word of God and beyond that threescore and ten, after you die, you have all of eternity. And how you live in this threescore and ten years determines your place in the kingdom, your value in the kingdom, your "well done" from Jesus Christ. I mean, what is such a short time? The present seems so present and so important and so in front of your face and you need to stop and know that the present is going to pass. It's going to pass. There is a future. Consider your future. And cover that wrong. Don't keep bringing it up. And don't broadcast it to others. Look at Proverbs, chapter 17, verse 9. And these are two scriptures that I think that you would want to put down. Proverbs 17 and verse 9 says this. "He who covers a transgression seeks love, but he who

repeats a matter separates intimate friends.” Now listen, what do you want with your mate? You want an intimate friendship again. You want to build that friendship. And if you’re going to repeat this matter, then you’re going to bring a separation instead of rather bringing an intimacy to your relationship. So if you’re seeking love, you’re going to cover a person’s transgression. And this means that you’re not going to keep bringing it up to them over and over and over again. It means that you’re not going to rehash it and listen very carefully. It means that you’re not going to ask for all the details. You don’t need to know how that person was in bed. You don’t need to know what they did in bed. Because, listen to Ephesians chapter 5, and it’s verse 12, “It is a disgraceful thing to speak of the things which are done by them in secret.” And listen, the more information that you have, the greater the battle you’re going to have with your thought life and in your mind. So you do not need details. You’re seeking love. You’re going to cover that transgression. Now what’s the next verse in Proverbs that I wanted you to know? Well, it’s Proverbs, chapter 19 and its verse 11. “A man’s discretion makes him slow to anger.” If you’re really going to be smart, then you’re going to be slow to anger. “And it is his glory to overlook a transgression.” Now, you say, “Well, we’re just burying it.” No. Remember, your mate has confessed. Remember, you have forgiven your mate. The transgression has already been dealt with. Now what do you do? It’s to your glory not to bring this up. It is to your glory not to spread this. It is to your glory not to tell others about it because, you know what? Others are quick to take up an offense. And others will come along and they will side against one of you. And you don’t need that. Because remember, in marriage, two are one.

PART TWO

What’s the third thing that you need to do? You need to sit down and share what happened. What caused this schism? Why did your mate go off and

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look for someone else? What happened in your marriage that you drifted apart that you became this vulnerable? And as you share that with one another, I think of Ecclesiastes, chapter 9, verse 9, and this is what it says. It says, “Enjoy life with the woman whom you love all the days of your fleeting life which He has given you under the sun; for this is your reward in life, and in your toil in which you have labored under the sun.” In other words, you’ve been building a marriage. Now how did you enjoy life? What did you and your wife do? What was it that attracted you to one another? What was it that you enjoyed during those years before this adultery happened? You know I received a poem from a woman and it’s called “An Unfaithful Wife to Her Husband.” “Branded and blackened by my own misdeeds, I stand before you. Not as one who pleads for mercy and forgiveness, but as one after a wrong is done who seeks the why and the wherefore. Go with me back to those early days of love and see just where our paths diverged. You must recall your wild pursuit of me outstripping all competitors and rivals till at last you bound me sure and fast with vow and ring. I was the central thing and all the universe for you just then. Just then for me there were no other men. I cared only for the task and pleasures that you shared. Such happy, happy days. You wearied first. I will not say you wearied, but a thirst for conquest and achievement in man’s realm left loves barge with no pilot at the helm. The money madness and the keen desire to outstrip others set your heart on fire. Into the growing conflagration went romance and sentiment. Abroad you were a man of parts and power, your double dower of brains and brawn gave you a leader’s place. At home you were dull and tired and common place. You housed me, fed me, clothed me. You were kind, but oh so blind, so blind. You could not, would not, see my woman’s need of small attentions and you gave no heed when I complained of loneliness. You said a man must think about his daily bread and not waste time in empty social life. He leaves that sort of duty to his wife and pays her bills and let’s her have her way and feels she should be satisfied. Each day

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our lives have been one life at the start. Farther and farther seemed to drift apart. Dead was the old romance of man and maid. Your talk was all of politics or trade. Your work, your club, the mad pursuit of gold absorbed your thoughts. Your duty kiss felt cold upon my lips. Life lost its zest, its thrill. One fateful day, when earth seemed very dull, it suddenly grew bright and beautiful. I spoke a little and he listened much. There was attention in his eyes and such a note of comradeship. In his low tone, I felt no more alone. There was a kindly interest in his air and he spoke about the way I dressed my hair and praised the gown I wore. It seemed a thousand, thousand years and more since I had been so noticed. Had mine ear been used to compliments year after year, if had heard you speak as this man spoke, I had not been so weak. The innocent beginning of all my sinning was just the woman's craving to be brought into the inner shrine of some man's thought. You held me there as sweetheart and as bride and then as wife you left me far outside. So far, so far you could not hear me call. You might, you should have saved me from my fall. I was not bad, just lonely. That was all. A man should offer something to replace the sweet adventure of the lover's chase which ends the marriage. Loves neglected law paves pathways to the statutory cause." What's the fourth thing that you need to let your mate know? You need to let your mate know that after adultery, it is going to be very hard for you to sleep with your mate right away. There has to be a time to heal, not too long, but there has to be a time to heal, so that you know that they love you and they cherish you, which brings me to my fifth and final point. And that is, listen very carefully: the heart can mend, but you're always going to have a battle with your mind. And you need to remember that because what's going to happen is your heart is mended, but all of sudden the remembrance of that is going to come up. Or all of a sudden, you're going to panic because: where is your husband or where is your wife? And you're going to remember the infidelity and if you camp on it in your mind, it is going to drive a wedge between you. So, Precious One,

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what do you do? You need to remember that the mind is the battleground for the devil. And you need to remember that Satan is a liar and he is a murderer and he is a destroyer and he abides not in the truth, and he hates forgiveness. He hates it, because it is what has set you free from his power. So 2 Corinthians, chapter 10, Paul says this, “Though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not fleshly, but they are mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds.” Now what does the enemy want to do? The enemy wants you to constantly focus on that sin, on that immorality. The enemy wants to constantly cause you to doubt your mate’s fidelity in the future. And so he’s going to bring to the door of your mind all these thoughts. When they come to the door of your mind, you just can’t say, when you hear a knock on the door of your mind, “Come on in.” You need to say, “Who’s that knocking at my door?” You need to bring every thought captive to the obedience of Jesus Christ. And you need to be ready to punish any thought that does not line up with the truth of God’s Word. What you need to do is when a thought comes to the door of your mind, Precious One, you need to Philippians 4:8 it. In Philippians 4:8, he’s saying, “Finally brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right....” Your mind is only to dwell on the things that meet these standards of Philippians 4:8. And then he says, “The things [that] you have heard and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things; and the God of peace will be with you.” Precious One, there will come peace after adultery if there is forgiveness, if there is restoration, if there is protection, if there is understanding. Now in renewing this sexual relationship and if you keep your mind under control, you will have peace. You just need to learn to do it God’s way. And remember, Precious One, that adultery may seem like a death, but because God is God, there can be a resurrection, and the God of peace will be with you and keep you and guard you.