

**A MARRAGE WITHOUT REGRETS**

**PROGRAM 4 (#910134)**

**WEEK 1 (910329)**

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## ***PRECEPTS FOR LIFE***

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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 4 – The Master Key (Kay's Guests Are Hal And Lisa Selby)**

### **THURSDAY**

#### **OPEN**

Calvary was worth it all. He saw again the travail of His soul and He was satisfied. And, Precious One, this is the master key, the master key to life. The master key to a marriage without regrets is for you, Precious One, to so fall in love with God, to so get to know this Word, which is pure unadulterated truth.

#### **PART ONE**

**Kay:** Let me introduce you to a couple that had a horrendous obstacle to overcome, a door, a barrier that you wonder how it could ever be unlocked.

**Hal:** I had pastored for 20 years, been married for 12 years and realized that I had never been saved. And, ah, the things in my marriage were not exactly what they should be. That there was a secret sin in my life that was coming

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between my wife and me and something that was on the road to destroying our marriage if something didn't happen.

**Lisa:** I felt betrayed. I felt hurt. I felt a part of me had left. It was broken. I didn't know if it could be repaired, didn't know if there could be a trust in there. I felt like it was the end of my life. I thought my world had ended and there were actually times that I, I hoped that it would, because I didn't really want to face another day.

**Kay:** O, Precious One, can you relate? Do you feel like maybe even that you're there right now? That you just want to end it all? Life has all sorts of difficulties in them. Life has all sorts of barriers, closed doors that we pound on. What is that master key that I can use that can unlock this door? That can overcome this barrier and can give me a marriage without regrets. Well, as I was thinking about our time together today, I drew this very kind of crude little drawing. Remember, I told you that if you can think of the relationship of a man and woman to God as a triangle, so that you see that in God's eyes both the man and the woman are equal. In God's eyes both the husband and the wife are equal. This triangle carries another story to it, another illustration. And that illustration holds the key to a marriage without regrets. The closer that you become to God, the closer you become to one another. Now if one stays away from God or just only moves up just a little bit and the other one moves closer and closer to God, you're going to find that there is a greater distance. But the idea and the secret to having a marriage without regrets, Precious One, is for both of you to draw near to God. That's the secret. That's the secret to having a marriage without regrets. You know, we had a couples' conference here at Precept Ministries. And on Saturday night, God led me very clearly to explain from the Word of God what true Christianity really was and to show people that is your are truly, absolutely God's child, then there is a freedom. There is a release from that bondage to sin. There's a power that comes into your life that enables you to walk in a way that is pleasing to God. And I want to take us back to these two precious

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people because they were there at that conference that night. And I want you to hear what happened Saturday night to this woman who just absolutely despaired of life when she found out what her husband was into.

**Hal:** We were, ah, just a little bit away from our 12th anniversary and so for the last few years we had been, ah, doing things around our anniversary, ah, month and week, just for ourselves, just for support. I actually thought we had, I felt like from all outward appearances we had a great marriage. And so we were just coming for a renewal kind of weekend and just to have a time together.

**Lisa:** I was introduced to Precept Ministries five years before we came and had always, ah, just fall in love with Kay Arthur's testimony and how God was using somebody who had been through what she had been through and just, ah, had a desire to know the Word of God like she was teaching it and so began Precept classes. And, and had such a desire to meet her or to sit under her teaching one day. That's what we came for: just to renew our marriage and just to be away and, ah, enjoy each other for a weekend.

**Hal:** While we were here, ah, God interrupted my life, so to speak. And, ah, just intervened in a way that I really wasn't expecting Him to, ah. I had professed to have been saved for over twenty-five years. I had been pastoring for twenty years. I was three months away from my fortieth birthday and was celebrating my fifth year at my present church. And that night, on that Saturday night of the couples' conference, God just spoke to me and revealed to me that I had never been saved. So that night I prayed and received Christ as my Savior.

**Lisa:** And I was amazed at the people that were being saved, never realizing that my husband was one of them. And we had, the night before on Friday night, we would go back to our room and we would talk about what God spoke to us, you know, that night. And we got back to our room and he was just very quiet and I just thought he was tired, you know. And the only thing

we mentioned, I mentioned and he mentioned were the number of people that were saved. You know we were just so thankful to God for that.

**Hal:** When God convicted me that I wasn't His child, He called attention, He brought it to my attention. I knew it was there. But He made me aware of this habitual sin. That it was actually a sin that was there and it was something that He had never dealt with in my life, that I had never surrendered to Him. And the sin was homosexuality. And that had been something that; I was around the age of 15 when I was, professed to be saved. And the sin was in my life then. And then it was something that continues. I never told anybody about it when I, back at the age of 15 when I made that, walked the aisle and went and talked to my pastor. I never told him about it. I never sought counsel. I never asked anybody. I was afraid to. Satan had always led me to believe that if I ever did that I would lose everything and everybody in my life. And so I always kept it hidden and just struggled on my own to, to deal with it. But that night God showed me that he who practices sin has never been born of God. And I knew that this had been a practice in my life. It wasn't just a, just a little sin that was there. It was something serious. It was a way of life, even though it was secret. And even though I could be one thing at home and one thing at my church and could successfully hide the sin and the other lifestyle, it was still there. And it was a controlling factor in my life.

**Lisa:** A lot of it's just a blur to me, of what happened because it was such a devastating thing. But yet, God was there. And when he told me he was saved, I was, you know, real excited. And I can remember sitting on our sofa and I said, "What were you involved in? You know. Was it adultery, pornography, you know, what was it?" And he was just weeping and he said, "Homosexuality."

**Hal:** And her first words out of her mouth were, "I forgive you." And we cried a lot. We talked a lot that day. There was a lot of information that she

needed to know. But just to hear those words, “I forgive you” it just set my heart such at ease because Satan had said, “You’re going to lose your wife. You’re going to lose your children, your families, your church, your friends. Everybody’s going to be gone.” And just to hear her say “I forgive you,” just, it just blew that lie completely to pieces.

**Lisa:** I can honestly tell you that it was God who had under girded me for that and strengthened me for that and prepared me. I was taking a, “Lord, I Want to Know You” series and just understanding the sovereignty of God and who He is and a God who sees and, you know, our great provider, and the Lord who healeth and it was just amazing how God came and just held me in His hands. And I knew God was telling me, “You stay right here with him. Don’t you leave him. And I’m going to see you all through this.” And we prayed together right after that. Of course, there were a lot of questions, but God has been so wonderful to see us through all that.

**Hal:** Our marriage right now, it’ll soon be one year, and we’re about to celebrate our 13th wedding anniversary. But in a lot of ways, in a lot of ways, it’s our first anniversary. Because my being a new creation in Christ and just having been sexually sober for these last ten months, in thought and in action and God has just renewed our relationship with each other and our marriage. And a lot of it is that we’re praying together. We’re studying the Word of God together. And we did that off and on a little bit when we were in the previous 12 years. But not like we have this last year. God’s drawn us closer to Himself. We’ve depended on Him. We’ve had to trust Him for our needs and trust Him for every step. The night that I was saved, I had so many questions of God. What about my church? What about my family? How am I going to tell this? What am I going to do? Where will I work? How will I provide? And the only thing God told me was, “Trust Me and I’ll take care of all the details.”

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**Lisa:** You know we got through life and you see your life all planned out, you know. And then when something like this happens and everything's sort of snatched out from under you, the church, how my family was going to react to all of this, my children, how we were going to make it, what was going to be in our life; it was just really hard. Friends; who would stand by our side and who would turn and walk away? Those were the difficult things. And there were many times that I was on my face, literally, on my floor, crying out to God, saying, "Get us through these points." Because it was hard. It was hard when people turned their backs on you. It was difficult time, financially, we've had. But God's been faithful and in any of those low points in my life, whenever I would get up from being off of the floor, I just felt such peace. And God was there. Had it not been for the Word of God, we would have never made it. I would have perished in all of this. I could not have handled it, but God saw us through that through His Word. And it was such a, ah power tool in our lives to know that we had God even... And that's what life should be. You know, just depend on God. If all else fails around you, you've still got God. And that's all that matters anyway in life, is your relationship with Him.

**Hal:** I would encourage couples to be honest with each other, to pray, to spend time in the Word of God and get to know Him and let Him open their lives up and bring their commitment and their marriage to a place... We didn't know what marriage was until we began to really found it on the Word of God.

**Lisa:** If you don't tell your sin, people can't be set free. And God did a marvelous miracle work in his life. And if one person can be set free and saved because of that then I'm thankful. And we've seen that happen. We've seen people that have come to us that are involved same thing my husband has and wants to be set free from the sin, the bondage of sin that's there.

**Kay:** We'll step aside for a moment, but don't go away.

## **PART TWO**

**Kay:** That's an incredible story, isn't it? And I've heard it over and over again and I've talked to them face to face. It makes me want to cry. I want to take you first of all to Mark, chapter 8 because in Mark, chapter 8, Jesus is speaking to the multitudes. And of course He wants those people to follow Him. He wants to give them life. And He wants to give them life abundantly. He knows that they're sinners. He knows that they're caught in all sorts of things like Hal was caught in, like you may be caught in. Remember she wondered if it was pornography. She wondered if it was adultery. She wondered what it was. But it never occurred to her that Hal's problem was homosexuality. Well as Jesus went out and spoke to the multitudes, he didn't come to call the righteous. He came to call sinners. But what was His message to them? Well, in Mark, chapter 8, this is what it says, "But turning around and seeing his disciples He said to them, 'Get behind me, Satan,' speaking to Peter, 'because you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's.'" What He was trying to do was Peter was trying to spare Jesus Christ. And see so many times when we get into a trial, we want to spare ourselves. We want to spare our loved ones. We don't want to deal with the issues. And one of the things that you heard them talk about was, and Hal said it. We needed to talk about the issues. We needed to be honest. Now how can you be honest? The only way that you can really be honest is to embrace the cross, the cross where you die and where God begins to live through you. So Jesus, it says, "He summoned the multitude with his disciples and said to them, 'If anyone...,' listen carefully, "...wishes to come after Me..." Do you wish to come after God? Do you wish to have life, to have it abundantly? Do you wish to have such a relationship with God that you could go through what that couple went through? Or that you could be, knowing that you're caught in homosexuality or adultery, or thievery, or lying or whatever, that you could be set free. Then what do you have to do? "...If any man will come after Me, let him..." number one,

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“...deny himself....” In other words, that’s saying, “Okay God, I’m setting aside all of my thoughts, all of my conceptions and all of my protection of myself. I want to come after You and I’m willing to take up my cross.”

“...‘If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, let him take up his cross....’” Now when we look at the cross, what we’re looking at is we’re looking at an instrument of death, death to the old way of life, resurrection to a new way of life. So, “...‘If anybody’s going to come after Me, let him deny himself. Let him take up his cross and let him follow Me.’” Now in the Gospel of Luke, you find another awesome statement where Jesus is speaking to the multitudes. And I want you to understand this because this is key to your relationship to Jesus Christ. And it’s key to a marriage without regrets. He says, “As the multitudes were following Him, He turned and He said to them, ‘If anyone comes to Me...,’” now listen carefully, “...and does not hate his own father and mother and wife....” You say, “That’s a pleasure. I hate them.” That’s not what He’s talking about. He’s saying, “If anyone does not hate your own father, your own mother, your own wife, your own children, your own life.” In other words, what He’s saying is, “Every other relationship compared to your relationship with Me must take second place. I am to have priority in your life.” You cannot become a child of God unless God becomes number one in your life. You say, “Well that’s rather egotistical, isn’t it?” Listen, He’s God. He is God. And you are man and this is what He’s calling you to. And listen, Precious One, this is why Lisa, on that night that she gets this terrible revelation. “What is the sin, Hal?” “It’s homosexuality.” And out of her mouth were the very first words, “I forgive you.” What was she doing? She was doing what God said, “Put away your own self, you are now a follower of Me.” You say, “But a follower of Jesus would do that?” Listen to me very, very carefully. In the book of Ephesians, a letter that God writes through the apostle Paul to this church where all sorts of iniquity was going on and all sorts of demonic worship. He says to them, He says, “Let all bitterness and wrath and anger



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and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice....” now listen, “...and be kind to one another, tender hearted, listen, forgiving each other, forgiving each other, just as....” here’s your example, “...just as God, in Christ also has forgiven you.” So He says, “And walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up as an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.” Do you know what was going on in heaven on that evening when Hal and Lisa sat on that couch and he confessed that sin to her and told her that he had been set free? I believe that in essence all of heaven was hushed as they listed to this scene and listened to what her response would be. Would she love God more than she loved herself? Would she care more about the character of God than her own wounds, her own hurts? Would she forgive him as God, in Christ Jesus, forgave her and forgave you and me? I believe they were waiting. And I believe that the minute that she said, “I forgive you,” that there was that sweet fragrance before the throne of grace, that sweet aroma of Jesus Christ. And I believe in essence so to speak that the Son turned to the Father and He said, “Father, My death was worth it all because look at her love. Look at her obedience. And Father, look at his belief. He has been set free.” Calvary was worth it all. He saw again the travail of His soul and He was satisfied. And, Precious One, this is the master key, the master key to life. The master key to a marriage without regrets is for you, Precious One, to so fall in love with God, to so get to know this Word, which is pure unadulterated truth. To believe it, to embrace it, to make it your own, to kiss it and say, “Your will is my will and Your way is my way.” When you do that, you’re on the way to a marriage without regrets. And when you stand someday before a holy God, no matter what happens on the other end, if you did it God’s way, He’s going to put your face between His hands and He’s going to say, “Well done, My good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of the Lord.” Precious One, the key, the key is to know your God. And the people who know their God will be strong and they will stand firm and take action.