



Messy Marriages
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February 11, 2018

1. Marriage is a VERY BIG DEAL.

- The story of God and man begins and ends with marriage!
- Genesis 2:21-25, Revelation 21:1-2,9

2. Marriage is a VERY HARD DEAL.

Wives:

- *I want to be SEEN and VALUED for who I am.*
- *I want to live my life WITH my husband.*
- *I want to lean into my husband's STRENGTH.*
(1 Peter 3:7)

Husbands:

- *I want to be BELIEVED in.*
- *I want my wife to ride with me into the GREAT ADVENTURE.*
- *I want my wife to offer her BEAUTY to me.*
(Song of Songs 8:14)

The three stages of marriage:

- Romance
- DISILLUSIONMENT
- Joy

3. Marriage is the REAL DEAL.

- *In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus.* Philippians 2:5 / Ephesians 5:21-33

Pitfalls we must avoid:

- Husbands: frustratingly PASSIVE / frighteningly DOMINEERING
- Wives: demotivatingly CONTROLLING / desperately CLINGY

Oh, the comfort—

The inexpressible comfort of feeling

safe with a person,

Having neither to weigh thoughts,

Nor measure words—but pouring them

All right out—just as they are—

Chaff and grain together—

Certain that a faithful hand will

Take and sift them—

Keep what is worth keeping—

and with the breath of kindness

Blow the rest away.

- Dinah Maria (Mulock) Craik

Application:

1. What wonderful qualities attracted me to my spouse at the beginning? When will I tell him/her about them?
2. In what ways have I given way to resignation in my marriage?
3. What can I do to *study my wife* to so that I can live with her in an understanding way?
4. What can I do to *submit to my husband* and not give way to fear?
5. What pitfalls do I tend to get sucked in by? Name them.
What steps will I take to let Jesus pull me out?