

How Do You Know?

Part Four

(Love One Another)

Many a man has the notion that; if a woman just looks back at him, he has already made it to first base. So, let us switch the focus to the man that was already on first base when the woman first started running there. If they are to be on the same team, it should be obvious that he cannot stay on first base, or he will be out, as according to the rules of a certain sport of man. Therefore, the man must run ahead, toward second base.

As the man moves in the direction of direction base, there are these two things that he must consider:

- What he wants from her, only
- What he wants her to want from him, only

~~~~~  
[What he wants from her, only]

I think that every man should ask God for a visible setback that is seen by the one toward whom he has affection. In other words, there should be a problem that arises in his life; such that, it will, if it is not resolved or accepted, affect his future romantic potential. Then, the man will have a chance to experience what he really wants from his love interest. Then, the man will see if she will stand in the gap of turmoil that sits between periods of calm. For instance, Jacob was in this romantic calm, before a gap of turmoil . . .

*And Laban said, It must not be so done in our country, to give the younger before the firstborn. Fulfil her week, and we will give thee this also for the service which thou shalt serve with me yet seven other years.*

(Genesis 29:26-27)

At that time; as relating to the younger daughter, Jacob did not do anything physically romantic, such as, kissing--this was not allowed. Even so, Jacob had romance in his mind, and it was enough to take him through the time of separation. There was though, one thing missing: Jacob needed to know that the younger daughter, Rachel, would stand by him in the rough times. The knowledge came, in that; Jacob received a commitment from the girl's father.

As fulfillment of the bilateral understanding of terms, which motivated Jacob; he did come into another period of calm, for him (and, maybe, for the desire of his heart, too), here.

*And Jacob did so, and fulfilled her week: and he gave him Rachel his*

*daughter to wife also. And Laban gave to Rachel his daughter Bilhah his handmaid to be her maid.*

*And he went in also unto Rachel, and he loved also Rachel more than Leah, and served with him yet seven other years.*

(Genesis 29:28-30)

In the modern day; usually, we do not have a guaranteed outcome, such as the one that Jacob had. In the modern day, O men; you need to want to receive this assurance from her, directly. But, the only way you can receive it is, if the LORD places you in a measure of adversity that requires participation by her. This is a hard thing to ask for; however, for the sake of the relationship, it--the relationship--needs to go through it. The relationship needs to pass through the type of edification that is in this Scripture.

*If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small. If thou forbear to deliver them that are drawn unto death, and those that are ready to be slain; If thou sayest, Behold, we knew it not; doth not he that pondereth the heart consider it? and he that keepeth thy soul, doth not he know it? and shall not he render to every man according to his works?*

(Proverbs 24:10-12)

We know that the LORD provided that period for the sake of the relationship of Jacob and Rachel. As preceding the blissful sealing of the relationship, this is where it experienced its adversity.

*And Jacob served seven years for Rachel; and they seemed unto him but a few days, for the love he had to her. And Jacob said unto Laban, Give me my wife, for my days are fulfilled, that I may go in unto her.*

*And Laban gathered together all the men of the place, and made a feast. And it came to pass in the evening, that he took Leah his daughter, and brought her to him; and he went in unto her. And Laban gave unto his daughter Leah Zilpah his maid for an handmaid.*

*And it came to pass, that in the morning, behold, it was Leah: and he said to Laban, What is this thou hast done unto me? did not I serve with thee for Rachel? wherefore then hast thou beguiled me?*

(Genesis 29:20-25)

I think that it is fair to say that, Rachel knew that the adversity of displacement--and, potential destruction--of her relationship with Jacob was going to happen. It seems reasonable to think that, she, too, knew their customs. As in recognition of their customs; Rachel she had to be ready to move through the adversity that would come to her, in her

romantic connection with Jacob--which, at that time, was still a potential union.

Let us give this a modern flavor. Consider that there is a man who is pursuing a young lady, and then, suddenly, he loses his job. At that point; unless he is already independently wealthy, and in that place for the entire foreseeable life of the relationship; then, all forward motion toward a serious relationship has been diverted by the LORD. We say this as according to the following Scripture.

*And these things give in charge, that they may be blameless. But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.*

(1 Timothy 5:7-8)

As pertains to providing for the potential union as a family; both of them need to join in prayer, requesting a remedy. This, too, has an associated passage of Scripture that applies to it.

*Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.*

(Matthew 18:19-20)

Please note the word, two. This means that she must be willing to stand with him, in the gap. This is what a man wants to receive from the one who is approaching a life bond with him.

~~~~~

Let me stress something, here. During that gap, there is no weighty physical romance; no lustful acting out is allowed, whatsoever: period, exclamation point; no question mark about it.

This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

But ye have not so learned Christ; If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in

righteousness and true holiness.

(Ephesians 4:17-24)

~~~~~

[What he wants her to want from him, only]

Let us cover the easy one, first: that you, only, are the father of her children. In this day, this is more than sex; this also involves respect. So, let us accept in faith that sex is totally exclusive; that it is dedicated as being only between you and her; and, only when that activity is allowed by righteousness. Let us, then, go to those situations where it cannot be totally exclusive. No, I am not being contradictory. Consider Abram's situation, as we see it here.

*Now Sarai Abram's wife bare him no children: and she had an handmaid, an Egyptian, whose name was Hagar. And Sarai said unto Abram, Behold now, the LORD hath restrained me from bearing: I pray thee, go in unto my maid; it may be that I may obtain children by her.*

*And Abram hearkened to the voice of Sarai.*

*And Sarai Abram's wife took Hagar her maid the Egyptian, after Abram had dwelt ten years in the land of Canaan, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his wife. And he went in unto Hagar, and she conceived: and when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress was despised in her eyes.*

(Genesis 16:1-4)

At that point, Abram was previously wedded, as pertains to being attached as the father of another ones child. Also, after that encounter, sex could no longer be totally exclusive between Sarai and Abram.

Why?

In thinking about that, why; I am reminded of a voice training statement: muscles have memory. Well, there must be a muscle involved when we exercise sex. (And, not those just those ones.)

Thus, even if the former partner is displaced, as Sarah did with Hagar; still, there is a possibility of the memory arising. This is especially sensitive when there are one or more children from the prior relationship. In that case, there is a tendency to allow the child to have two fathers, or two mothers. This will never succeed. In thinking about that, I am reminded of the following event of the life of Jesus Christ. As you think through the following Scripture; there is an associative exercise that might increase your understanding is. In the exercise; think of the word, earth, represent the prior union, while, you also think of the word, heaven, as representing the current relationship that is

developing, in righteousness.

*Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*

*The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!*

*No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.*

(Matthew 6:19-24)

Ideally, the spouse of the mother of the child that will live with them--or does, already--must have full authority as being the father of all the couple's children. This matter needs to be settled, even before courtship begins; at the least, in theory. This is the kind of respect that touches every other aspect of romance. This is where the man looks to the woman, for her to place him in the second position that is just below the Godhead, which is always in first position. Here is an explanation of position one:

*Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.*

*And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power: In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.*

(Colossians 2:8-12)

~~~~~

In the matter of, respect as imputed to a man, given as a gift from the woman; the words of a prominent figure in the development of Israel come to mind. This is a brief introduction of the prominent man and woman . . .

And Naomi had a kinsman of her husband's, a mighty man of wealth, of the family of Elimelech; and his name was Boaz. And Ruth the Moabitess said unto Naomi, Let me now go to the field, and glean ears of corn after him in whose sight I shall find grace.

And she said unto her, Go, my daughter.

And she went, and came, and gleaned in the field after the reapers: and her hap was to light on a part of the field belonging unto Boaz, who was of the kindred of Elimelech.

And, behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem, and said unto the reapers, The LORD be with you. And they answered him, The LORD bless thee.

(Ruth 2:1-4)

Included below are the words of thankful praise that Boaz delivered to his intended, even before they had a formal romantic relationship with one another. This is the kind of respect and adoration that; in a developing relationship, between a man and a woman, he wants her to attribute to his actions.

And when Boaz had eaten and drunk, and his heart was merry, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of corn: and she came softly, and uncovered his feet, and laid her down.

And it came to pass at midnight, that the man was afraid, and turned himself: and, behold, a woman lay at his feet. And he said, Who art thou? And she answered, I am Ruth thine handmaid: spread therefore thy skirt over thine handmaid; for thou art a near kinsman.

(Ruth 3:7-9)

Those words, below, also indicate the kind of respect from the man that will inspire her to give him the position that is second only to the Godhead.

And he said, Blessed be thou of the LORD, my daughter: for thou hast showed more kindness in the latter end than at the beginning, inasmuch as thou followedst not young men, whether poor or rich.

(Ruth 3:10)

A relationship that is at this level must be continually nourished by the man. One of the main portions of the nourishment is that; for life, he must cherish the woman, as in the understanding of the way of the LORD. Also, this must be openly expressed, as the opportunity presents itself, and the condition is such as to not cause discord. Boaz sends the man this pattern for expressing that respect...

And now, my daughter, fear not; I will do to thee all that thou requirest: for all the city of my people doth know that thou art a virtuous woman.

(Ruth 3:11)

~~~~~  
**-- Next, in How Do You Know --**

