

Explicit Lyrics – Change Of Heart

Weekend Discussion Questions

May 24-25, 2008

Community:

1. Can you think of a song that talks about conflict between a man and a woman?
2. What's the best movie scene involving an argument between a man and a woman?

Core: (Read Song of Songs 5:2-6:7)

1. What do you think most people's expectation of conflict in the context of marriage is?
2. Jim said, "every marriage moves from the honeymoon phase into disillusionment". In what way is this true of all relationships?
3. What caused the conflict we see in Song of Songs 5:2-6?
4. Jim introduced 5 of 6 stages of conflict. The first stage is **"one or both parties feel harmed"**. What is your typical response to the first stage?
5. Jim said, the best thing to do when you want to react out of anger is to "shut up". How would following that simple advice help in your relationship? Or generally speaking in your relationships?
6. Stage two is **"change of heart"**. The question becomes "what needs to happen for us to move back toward each other?" How does your response to conflict show value for the person you are in the relationship with?
7. In the story the woman reflects on the consistency of her husband's character despite this moment of conflict. Why do we have such a propensity to throw out years of history because of one bad moment?
8. Stage 3 is **"make amends"**. Does it matter who is responsible for the conflict? If you were the one wronged does that mean you can't make the first move toward amends?
9. What does it say about Solomon that he "has gone down to his garden" (intentionally working on their relationship) instead of running to someone else?
10. Jim said "marriage is a covenant not a contract." What does that mean?
11. Stage 4 is **"communication"**. Jim said, how they communicate is as important or more important than what? Agree or disagree?
12. Jim gave us 3 "nevers" of communication. **1) never speak rashly, 2) don't bring other people into your conflict or ask people to pick teams, 3) never touch your partner in a harmful way.** Which of these do you need to ask forgiveness for? How many of these did you see modeled in your home growing up?
13. Jim said, "God loves you more than He loves your marriage", speaking in the context of abuse. Agree or disagree?
14. Stage 5 is **"forgiveness"**. Solomon forgave his wife before she made amends. What's the lesson in that?
15. What does Jesus' forgiveness teach us about how we should forgive one another?

Challenge:

What conflict do you currently have in your life that you need to run through these stages? Address it this week.



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Weekend Services | Sat 5:00 & 6:30pm | Sun 9:00, 10:30 & 11:55am, 6:30pm