

Ai Stead Mai Part Three

The Right Reason To Stead

Introduction

Read: Judges 16:4-6, 15-21

1. All over television shows and pop songs, love is described as a state people just “fall into”, after which people have a “happily ever after”.
2. In reality, love is not as simple as that. Relationships have a purpose!
3. God created relationships and He wants us to have successful “stead” relationships. In order to do that, we need to seek relationships with the right purpose.
4. As we enter relationships with the right purpose in mind, our expectations and actions which follow become pleasing to God.
5. The passage we read talks about Samson and how he made some wrong decisions in his relationships, which led to him losing everything.
6. Today, we will learn how we can find the right purpose in our future romantic relationships.

I. Look Beyond The Surface

A. Samson made the decision about his wife based on his feelings for her alone, without considering her character (v5).

B. Go beyond our feelings to seek God’s purpose for us through prayer.

C. Compare our motivation for romantic relationships with love that the Bible talks about (Read 1 Cor 13:4-7).

D. Ask ourselves hard questions about our motivations for relationships.

E.g. “Why do I want to enter a relationship at this time?”, “Am I ready for it?”, etc.

Discuss!

Connect group leader to facilitate sharing with the Connect Group members.

What are some of the wrong motivations people have for relationships?

- *Loneliness, peer pressure, fear of being left alone, needing acceptance or love.*

How can we tell if people are entering relationships for the wrong motivations?

- *When they are not ready for marriage soon, when they don’t have a goal in mind, when they treat relationships like a game.*

II. Value What God Has Given To Us

A. Samson did not guard the calling which God had given Him (v20).

- B. Honour what God has given to us and cultivate it for His purposes.**
Identify our gifts and talents (e.g. ministry gifts) and maximise its potential by constantly training and improving them in the church!
- C. Prioritise the visions and dreams God has given us by putting it before other commitments!**
- D. Guard our thoughts and actions by setting boundaries with others.**
Be mindful of our proximity (physical and emotional) with the other party before getting into relationships.

III. Live For A Bigger Purpose

- A. Samson made his decision about his relationship based on his situation, instead of on God's plan (v16-17).**
- B. Shift our perspectives from ourselves to make decisions based on God's word.**
- C. Start making small decisions based on God's word and honour our parents by seeking their counsel.**
- D. Give our best during our time as a single so we can be a testimony and spend time blessing others.**

Conclusion

1. When we pursue relationships in the future, we need to remember that God is our main priority.
2. Our relationships should always point back to our God and honour what God has given us!
3. Ultimately, we should remember that we are living for a purpose bigger than ourselves and seek to accomplish the purpose God has destined for our lives, even in our future relationships.

Prayer Points:

- a) Pray that we will place God as our first priority in all our relationships.
- b) Pray that all our relationships will honour God and we will use our gifts and talents for Him.
- c) Pray that we will surrender our lives completely to Jesus and love him wholeheartedly.

**Give opportunities for visitors to receive Christ and members to re-dedicate their lives to Jesus.*