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Singleness (Sermon Outlines)

Jim Bill McInteer

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AS A SINGLE - MY ASSURANCE

I. Missionaries visited c Mahatma Gandhi & he asked "Sing for me." "What song?" "The one that best expressed what you believe!"
A. What would you sing?
B. They sang:
   "When I survey the wondrous cross

II. Do we take the cross for granted?
A. Then a despised thing, used for vilest of criminals
B. Not mentioned in polite Roman society.
C. Wouldn't sing about gas chamber, chair, gallows today.
D. Yet victory!
Gal. 6:14 "But God forbid that I should glory

III. Its message.
A. God feels what we feel - suffers c us.
Isa. 63:9 "In all their afflictions he was afflicted & the angel of his presence saved them."
John 14:9 "Anyone who has seen me
   1. We see - child in arms, weep at tomb, visit c women, bread to hungry, him bleed for us.
Heb. 2:18 "For in that he himself hath suffered being
Heb. 4:15 "For we have not an hi priest which cannot
   2. We see his discipline.
   3. We see hurt's purpose - to save us.
John 15:13 "Greater love hath no man than this, that
Mk. 8:34 "If any man would come after me, let him do
B. Cross 7 Messages.
   1. Forgive - no bitterness.
   2. Paradise - others & hope."
3. Woman - we in spite of hurt fulfill normal responsibilities.
5. Thirst - we are human & need others.
6. Finished - it's not in vain.
7. Commit - there is an end.

West End Sr. Singles Dinner 11-20-83
As we come to this task, we want to answer several questions.

A. Am I the only one single?
   1. 7 million above 30 unmarried.
   2. 11 million above 30 widowed.
   3. 4.5 million above 30 divorced.
   4. 1900 - 20% of America did not marry.
   5. 1976 - 10% of America does not marry - population about the size of Canada.
   6. Singles increase 2 million per year.
   7. Women still out no. men by several million, thus it is impossible for all to be married.
   8. 1 in 3 marriageable adults are single at any point in time.

B. What special burdens do I carry as a single person?
   1. Feel odd since America "walks in pairs."
   2. Loneliness No. #1 citation.
   3. Q. - is something wrong with me? Is singleness second class? Am I normal?
   4. Rejection.
   5. Incomplete.
   6. No roots - doesn't consider the parents' home to be her home.
7. Doesn't share total self with another - to bear & raise children.

8. Stereotype.


10. Affluent - yet singles are usually pd. less.

11. Deep concern with & preoccupation with single status. What do people think?
   (a) Singleness is abnormal & temporary at best.
   (b) Too immature for the responsibilities of marriage
   (c) Unsure of self.
   (d) Too promiscuous to be tied to one.
   (e) Homosexual.

12. Wait till I marry to do anything significant.

13. Growing pattern to go it alone.


15. Silence brings a hypocrisy as tho there are no problems to discuss.

C. What adjustments do I need to make?

1. Decide whether I really honorably want single.
   (a) Some want to marry.
   (b) Some will marry at all costs.
   (c) Some forever single.
   (d) Some swingers & thus immoral.

2. See Singleness as a gift.
   (a) Matthew 19:10-12.
      (1) Via Birth.
      (2) Via Life - operations.
      (3) Via Religious choice.

1 Cor. 7:8 "I say therefore to the unmarried &
1 Cor. 7:17 "But as God hath distributed to every man
3. Form partnerships with others now - not an isolationist.
4. Admit need for:
   (a) Diversity.
   (b) Commitment.
   (c) Love.
   (d) Lasting relationships.
Eph. 4:15 "But speaking the truth in love
   (e) Need someone who will level c you!
5. Don't seek relationship to escape coming to terms with yourself.

D. Is Singleness An Inferiority?
1. The call to godly living is as real to singles as anyone - no special revelation to singles or married.
2. Let there be a readiness for God to work in us w/o any bitterness.
3. Review Scripture daily to keep proper perspective
4. Bind yourself to someone providentially brought into your life. Plumber - Crying makes worse
5. Work for a deep & satisfying relationship, in a group.
Jn. 15:14 "You are my friends
Jn. 15:17 "Love one another
Gen. 2:18 "It is not good that man should
Ps. 68:5-6 "A father of the fatherless
Jn. 12:50 "Behold my mother & my br.
6. Recognize freedom held & harness to full productivity.
7. Jesus not afraid his motives were misjudged.
Lu. 8:1-3
Lu. 7:37 Woman - sinner - wash
John 12:1-3 Martha & Mary
Jn. 13:23-25 - Bosom - John
8. Admit we all want closeness, touch, union, achievement, mission, meaning.
1 Thess. 2:8 "Ye were dear to us"
9. All are complete in Christ.
Col. 2:10 "Ye are complete in him which is (means lack nothing, whole, full)
10. Jesus was single, a Paradigm.
So was Paul son & daughter who married
1 Cor. 7:7, 8, 11, 26, 27, 28, 32, 34, 38, 40 9:5
Rom. 12:6 "Having gifts differing according to the grace given to me."
E. What Purpose Motivates Me.
(1) 1 Cor. 7:35 "That ye may attend upon the Lord w/o distraction."
(2) Acts 9:36 "Abounding with deeds of kindness & charity (NAS)
(3) Ps. 68:6 "God setteth the solitary in families
a.) The wilderness took lives but God remembered the fatherless.
b.) Did not suffer them to be oppressed.
c.) God the guardian of the defenseless.
d.) Church ought to be zealous for God's special charges "Feed my lambs."
e.) Desert is not dry to the obedient - God sent bread, water, meat.
f.) Oasis dry to disobedient.
g.) God is worthy of praise - Hallelu - Yah!
h.) Has concern for what society forgets.

Singles class banquet, Darby Drive Church
Florence, Ala., Joe Wheeler Lodge 9-13-76
West End Men's Night, Ladies class 12-1-76
“How was the applause after your speech?” asked the fond wife when her husband returned home after an evening engagement.

Poverty Candidate

“I wasn’t born in a log cabin,” declared the political candidate, “but my folks moved into one as soon as they could afford it.”

Jim

Benton, Ark.
Speedster

A motorist, charged with speeding thru a red light at an intersection, explained to the judge: “I always hurry thru intersections to get out of the way of reckless drivers.”

Vernon, Texas

John
No License Needed

“What am I to do with this?” grumbled the motorist as the police clerk handed him a receipt for his traffic fine payment.

“Keep it,” the clerk advised. “When you get four of them, you get a bicycle.”

E. T.

Beatrice, Neb.
A seldom-quoted episode concerning Will Rogers took place in 1930, when Coolidge Dam had been completed in Arizona. Will Rogers was a unanimous choice for master of the dedication ceremonies. It hadn’t rained in those parts for a month of Sundays and, as Rogers gazed over the sea of grass and weeds where San Carlos Lake was supposed to be filling up, he chuckled, “If that was my lake, I’d mow it!” — BENNETT CERF, “Try and Stop Me!” synd col, 8-9-68.
The confident young man arose and spread out his notes on the reading desk, adjusted his glasses, cleared his throat, and prepared to debate the affirmative of the subject: "Modern education doesn't meet the needs of the day." He stared intently at the notes, and bewilderment spread over his face.

"I'm sorry," he stammered, "I've got it all written down, but I can't read it."

"Sit down, young man," admonished an old gentleman in the group. "You've won the debate!"

Norman, Okla.  Bob
A Great Moral

A minister and his wife were discussing two men who were in the news.

“Yes,” said the minister, “I knew them both as boys. One was a clever, handsome fellow; the other a steady, hard worker. The clever one was left behind in the race, but the hard worker—well, he died and left a half million dollars to his widow. It’s a great moral.”

“Yes,” replied his wife, with a smile, “it is. I heard this morning that the clever one is going to marry the widow!”

Holyoke, Colo. A. M.
And Nicer to Look at

Wallet: What a bachelor fills with money instead of snapshots.—Hal Chadwick.
Deoranged?

At civics club meeting a seventh grade boy stood up and seriously said, "I suggest that the sergeant-at-arms be de-oranged."

"What?" the mystified teacher asked. "Please repeat."

The boy repeated his suggestion.

Finally, a bright student cleared the matter up by saying, "I think he means 'impeached.'"

Mrs. R. L.

Dubuque, Iowa
No Help

Frantically the housewife dialed the plumber’s phone number. “A pipe has broken,” she told him, weeping, “My kitchen is flooded!”

“I’ll be right over,” he promised. Then, hearing more sobs at the other end of the wire, he added, “Listen, lady, crying will only make it worse!”

Mrs. E. H.

Council Bluffs, Iowa
Well Done

It certainly was a cozy flat and the guest, a married man, eyed it enviously.

"You've done yourself well here, old man," he said to his host. "I only wish I could afford a place like this."

"Yes," replied his single friend. "You married men may have better halves but we bachelors usually have better quarters."

Dubuque, Iowa Mrs. R. L.
A woman was being congratulated by a friend after both her son and daughter were married within a month of each other.

“What kind of boy did you daughter marry?” asked the neighbor.

“Oh, he’s wonderful,” gushed the mother. “He makes her sleep late, wants her to go to the beauty parlor every day, won’t let her cook – and insists on taking her out to dinner every night.”

“That’s nice,” said the neighbor.

“And your son? What kind of girl did he marry?”

The mother sighed. “Oh, I’m not so happy there. She’s lazy, sleeps late every morning, spends all her time at the beauty parlor, won’t cook, and makes them take all their meals out.” — Capper’s Wkly.
Seri Gles Speech
November 22, 1976

Bill McInteer
East End Church of Christ
3534 West End Avenue
Nashville, Tennessee 37205

Dear Brother McInteer,

How I wish that I could express my personal gratitude for the good fellowship and companionship which you and the West End elders (and wives) extended to the Christian Singles Group last Friday night.

It especially touched me since I had been requested to ask our elders at Granny White to announce the meeting in our church paper and they were so concerned that they would be condoning a "Lonely Hearts Club."

Before it was over, I felt quite guilty that I had even mentioned it to them since they have so many wonderful decisions to make daily. I wanted to say so many of the things below and I shall list them with the hope that it can help your elders reach decisions regarding this group:

1. So many of the group have lost their mates through death. They are extremely lost since the world they knew has changed drastically. Your elders would have enjoyed visiting with some who shared the table with us on the trip to Chattanooga.

   a. They hadn't been out of Nashville since their loved one died.
   b. Most things were beyond their budgets.
   c. They were afraid to go out at night and return home alone.
   d. They did not know there were so many Christians who could share the same problems with them.

2. Several of our group have never married.

   a. How very much they desire to find others who enjoy Christian activities!
   b. Oftentimes money is a big item in their budget too.
   c. They too feel greater safety in joining with others in getting out at night.

3. Some (like myself) are the victims of divorce.

   a. Most of us experience a very difficult time. Divorce was something that happened to movie stars—not to people who were "grounded" in the faith and "confirmed" at the feet of grand old Lipscomb teachers like Brother Ifams and Brother Rainey and others.
   b. You find that you cannot blame the little secretary who called to let you know that she was going to take your husband from you and your year old baby. You cannot blame your husband because he was so enticed. You end up blaming yourself and the shame and disgrace almost finish you mentally, physically and spiritually.
   c. This group helps you to overcome some of feeling of self destruction and to pick up and go on as we should and must.
These are the main 3 groups that your elders will be considering.

Regardless of how we feel about them, we must realize that they exist and that their needs are sometimes more than they can swing alone. The feeling that someone cares and that someone shares their problems goes a long way in making our group worthwhile.

The elders at West End can probably identify many from their congregation who are not members of the group but who need the encouragement and fellowship. It seems that at Granny White all 3 groups are increasing daily.

I trust that this summation can give the elders a reason to support this activity.

Sincerely and thanks again,

Mrs. Sue Denberg
Brother Jim Bill McInteer
West End Church of Christ
3534 West End Avenue
Nashville, Tennessee 37205

Dear Bro. McInteer:

Thank you for accepting my letter with the spirit with which I tried to express it and your kindness in asking if you might use parts of it. You not only have my permission but the very thought flatters me immensely. Thank you.

In fact it rather winds me up - I guess I inherited that trait from the long-winded preachers in the Lewis family. But I want you to know that I have thought a long time about the "derogatory" label of "Lonely Hearts Group" and I know now that is most descriptive.

I wouldn't want to "argue" with our elders because they have so many problems to contend with that we aren't even aware of, but I would want to say to some who are so smug and so critical: You may be only I heart beat away or one wink away from a conviving secretary's eye before you qualify as the loneliest heart in the world. I don't ever spell it out but I know what it sounds.

Actually there is too much distrust and suspicion in the world now, to sew such seeds but I must admit that I might have been a little better prepared if I had ever dreamed of such.

This idea of loneliness hit me with force one day when a co-worker called me aside and confided that she had been a faithful worker in the Church of Christ until her husband walked out on her. She said that she was shunned because their friends felt they would be choosing sides (and I think this is a real problem).

This is the part that hurts and makes you wonder what I would have done to help this lonely soul: The Baptists invited her to join their groups for dinner, they included her in planned activities and she felt that they had saved her sanity and enabled her to make a living. It had been some 20 years but she felt so grateful that she still couldn't return to what she had been taught as a child. If I had not had such a wonderful family to stand by me -- and still do, I might have lost my way too.

Three of us from Granny White who participate in the Christian Singles now, had already discovered what we could mean to each other and we are wholeheartedly for the group. It so happened that the 3 of us were trying to send our child thru Lipscomb High by ourselves. Many a time we helped each other along the way and even now we get together and admit that we don't know how we could make it without sharing. Actually we didn't have anything to share but our problems, but the sharing made the bearing more endurable.

Please, Bro. McInteer, don't feel that you need to take your precious time to answer this in writing. I just appreciate your being kind enough to listen.

There is one quote which I find very effective which we share with the children at Tennessee Preparatory School where I work: "If life deals you a lemon, MAKE LEMONADE". It is a good therapy.

Well I have worn out the ribbon so that is time to stop.

Thanks again,

[Signature]

Saturday November 27, 1976
Please forgive the error. I pray that God won't try to tell me something when the ribbon kept jumping off the track!

I certainly didn't intend to hurt anyone, but this is a problem that engulfed me and even though I don't know all the answers--I certainly know all the questions!
Excuse Me

Test your teacher with these riddles:

1. What letter is an insect? 2. What letter is watery?
3. What letter is a part of the body? 4. What letter do I like?
5. What table has no legs? 6. Why was the little ink drop so blue?
7. Why is it so cool at a football game? 8. What is copper nitrate?
9. Why did the little girl go to the football game?
10. How do you keep a person in suspense?

EXCUSE ME—1. B. 2. C. 3. I. 4. U. 5. The multiplication table. 6. His father was in the pen finishing out a sentence. 7. You have fans on both sides of you. 8. Overtime pay for policemen. 9. She thought the quarterback was a refund. 10. I'll tell you later.
1. Write down any three-digit number, using three different digits.
2. Reverse the first and last digits.
3. Subtract the smaller three-digit number from the larger.
4. Reverse your answer.
5. Add this number to the answer from step 3. The total is 1089.

Teacher: “Give me an example of a collective noun.”
Pupil: “Garbage can.”

Difficult days have come & lit too tired to work, too poor to quit!