

Sermon Series: When God Enters

12/14/25 “Committed Relationships,” Matthew 1:18-21, MEV

INTRODUCTION What would you do if you had an indication your future spouse had been unfaithful?

Jewish betrothal

Disclaimer: God does not call us to remain in an abusive relationship. Safety becomes first priority. Extensive time of healing required even to see things clearly. **[this is for other relationships]**

MAIN IDEA: God will help us through difficult times in our relationships. How? Here is a five-step process.

I. First, discovery (18)

- A. we find out something we didn’t know
- B. we must guard our reactions...*slow ourselves down*
 - 1. prayerfully listen
 - 2. consider other person’s perspective

James 1:19, NLT: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry.

- C. we must walk in the Spirit

Galatians 5:16, 22-23, MEV: 16 I say then, walk in the Spirit, and you will not fulfill the lust of the flesh. **22** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness, faith, **23** meekness, and self-control;

ILLUSTRATION:

II. Second, discretion (19)

- A. avoid our natural reactions...*to blow up, to use a megaphone, to attack...aggressively or passively*
- B. we guard the other person’s reputation
- C. we show agape love toward the other person

ILLUSTRATION:

III. Third, discernment (20)

- A. we consider the facts
 - 1. what part has God played?
 - 2. what is the person’s responsibility?
 - 3. what part has someone else played?
- B. what is the truth about the situation?
- C. we seek God’s will in the situation

James 1:5, CEV: If any of you need wisdom, you should ask God, and it will be given to you. God is generous and won't correct you for asking.

ILLUSTRATION:

IV. Fourth, decision (24)

- A. we reach a point of conviction
- B. we decide a course of action that honors God
- C. we decide the best way to continue in & strengthen our relationship with the other person

ILLUSTRATION:

V. Finally, dedication (25)

- A. we devote ourselves to the other person
- B. we take on whatever responsibilities we need to
- C. we walk with God with the other person
- D. our goal is to honor God

ILLUSTRATION:

CONCLUSION:

ALTAR: