



JOURNEY – March 17th Teaching Outline

(Meant 2 Live Intro VIDEO – Dating)

MEANT 2 LIVE INTRO:

This year we're learning how God has an intended design for life, and it's best.

- We know there is something so much more than what we see around us...
- But what does God's design look like for us?

RELATIONSHIPS RECAP:

Through healthy RELATIONSHIPS we experience God's amazing design for life.

First, we must have a personal relationship & connection to God

- You've got to get to know each other, **SPEND TIME TOGETHER**, invest time
- Talking to God, reading the Bible, music, walks, etc.

Secondly, we must believe GOD IS AT WORK IN US...THROUGH OUR PARENTS.

- Will you to TRUST that God is working for our GOOD through our parents?

Then last week we wrapped up our conversation about our friendships

- Your friendships have enormous power in your life...for good or evil.
- Are your friendships helping you pursue God's version of life?
- Are you choosing your CLOSE friendships WISELY?

Your friendships will either DRAIN you of God's life, or FILL you with God's life.

- Do you have a few core friendships that are a positive influence in your life?
- Do you have casual friends you are committed to sharing Christ's love with and being a good influence on?



TONIGHT – DATING Part 1:

Bridging the gap...

- I know I am married, not in high school, and getting old
- But in high school I was usually chasing after a girl, and dated fairly often
- I desperately wish someone would have told me these things I am about teach you
- You can choose to write me off...not listen...or you can learn incredibly valuable truth tonight that will protect you, and help you find what you are really looking for
- The choice is yours...do you really think you have nothing to learn about dating?

This is a HARD topic...it's tricky, sticky, and complicated...no simple answers.

So here's our opening question...why do we date? (answers from audience first)

- Feels good to like someone & be liked and have that attention
 - o Amazing how badly we want to impress girls/guys & get their attention
 - o And not always through dating...we want this attention all the time

(Planet Earth - Mating call VIDEO)

- It's nice to have someone to call and talk to, go out with, go to prom with
- The touches, the kisses, just feel good...natural drive towards being physical
- The social pressure to have a girlfriend – a status symbol
- We think GF / BF = happiness
- Trying to find what we want in our future husband or wife

There is the deep drive inside us that pulls us towards dating. What is it really?

- What are we REALLY LOOKING FOR when we date?

Quenching your thirst illustration – on stage

- 3 kids on stage, eat crackers, then offer drinks
- Pour Coke into cups (with salt in it) – then eat more crackers
- What you're really thirsting for is ice cold water – pour into cups and drink
- Just because it looks good doesn't mean it tastes good
- We are all thirsting for something, but we reach for the wrong thing
- Quenching our thirst with the wrong thing often deeply hurts us

What are we really looking for when we date?

- Acceptance, love – that's what attention is about...feeling good about ourselves
- Friendship, companionship – having meaningful core friendships
- Physical intimacy – God designed us to want and enjoy sex in marriage
- Identity, confidence, purpose – know we mean something to someone
- Joy, laughter, happiness

At their root, these are all natural, good, God-given desires of our HEARTS

- Our hearts are supposed to LONG for these things
- God's perfect design for life FULFILLS all these things in healthy, safe ways

But so often we try to quench the desires of our heart in all the wrong ways

- We don't PROTECT our hearts
- We give our hearts away and invest it in the wrong places

Proverbs 4:23

Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.

The bible teaches us that our hearts are the key to who we are.

- Our hearts determine...
 - o Who we trust
 - o What we want
 - o Who we love
 - o What we choose to do

When we give our heart to something, that's what we want and love and choose

So we have this beautiful heart God has given us, and it thirsts for these desires...

- We have a choice to make...what will we do with this treasure...our heart?

**But when we try to quench those thirsts with the wrong thing (a girl or a guy)...
...that's how we trash our hearts. That's how we don't guard our hearts.**

And when our heart is trashed, and not guarded...

- We don't trust God
- We don't want more of God
- We don't love God
- We don't choose to live for God
- We experience pain
- We keep looking for our God-given desires in the wrong place

Our hearts were designed by God to beat for HIM. But we fail to protect our heart from all the fakes that want to steal our heart.

When it comes to dating, what is it our HEARTS really want?

- Acceptance, friendship, love, happiness...

Where do we really find those things (in healthy, lasting ways)?

- A relationship with God
- A relationship with our parents
- Life-long core friendships

Like I said earlier, I've experienced all this.

- I remember wanting that attention and trying to fill a void in my heart with a girl
- I wish someone would have said, "Mark, a girl isn't what you are thirsting for. What you're looking for is deep friendships, love, and a connection to God."
- Those girls I dated were just a poor substitute for God's version of life.
- Those girls are long gone, and I wish I could have that time and heart back.

I didn't do a great job of guarding my heart...I gave it too easily away.

I should have protected it and invested it in God, my friends, and my family.

We all have this beautiful heart God has given us, and it thirsts for these desires...

- For genuine love, a connection to God, deep friendships...
- Our hearts thirst for God

Are we giving our hearts away to a boy or a girl to try and quench a thirst that only GOD can FILL?

Are you guarding your heart?

- Are you protecting it by investing your heart in God, good friends, and family?

Our conversation about dating is not finished. This is a series that will build.

- Be here the next several weeks as we take you someplace beautiful and powerful and discover God's truth about dating.