



Dear Beloved of God –

On the western slope of the Mount of Olives, just across the Kidron Valley from Jerusalem, sits a small chapel, Dominus Flevit, from the Latin: Dominus – “the Lord”; Flevit – “wept.” The name of the chapel comes from Luke’s Gospel, which contains not one but two accounts (13:31f; 19:41f) of Jesus weeping over Jerusalem. According to tradition, it was here, that Jesus wept over the city.

Inside the chapel, the altar is centered before a high arched window that looks out over the city of Jerusalem. Iron grillwork divides the view into sections, so that on a sunny day the effect is that of a stained-glass window except that what you see through the window is not colored glass, not an artist’s rendering of the holy city, but the city itself, with the Dome of the Rock in the bottom left corner and the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in the center (www.seetheholyland.net/church-of-dominus-flevit/).

Down below, on the front of the altar, is a picture, a mosaic medallion of a white hen with a golden halo around her head. Her red comb resembles a crown, and her wings are spread wide to shelter the pale, yellow chicks that crowd around her feet. There are seven of them, with black dots for eyes and orange dots for beaks. They look happy to be there. The hen looks ready to spit fire if anyone comes near her babies.

And around the edge of the medallion is a Latin text written in red: “Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!”

The last phrase of this text is set outside of the circle, in a pool of red underneath the chicks’ feet: you were not willing. Jesus’ words of lament: “Jerusalem, Jerusalem...,” of yearning: “How often have I desired

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to gather your children...,” of rejection: “And you were not willing.”

Lament, yearning, rejection – for the city of Jerusalem, which Jesus sees across the valley, is a city like a chicken coop filled with pale, yellow chicks and at least one fox – Herod.

Jesus weeps over the city seeing that some of the chicks have taken to following the fox around. Others are huddled out in the open where anything with claws can get to them: helpless, unsafe, unprotected.

And Jesus, standing on the hillside, looking across the valley weeping, is like a white hen with a golden halo around her head who is clucking for all she is worth. Most of the chicks cannot hear her, and the ones that do make no response or ignore her clucking call.

Raised on the farm in the days when chickens often roamed freely around the *(Continued on page 2)*

DO ALL YOU CAN
DO ALL THE GOOD YOU CAN,
BY ALL THE MEANS YOU CAN,
IN ALL THE WAYS YOU CAN,
IN ALL THE PLACES YOU CAN,
AT ALL THE TIMES YOU CAN,
TO ALL THE PEOPLE YOU CAN,
AS LONG AS EVER YOU CAN.
-JOHN WESLEY

chicken coop I have seen how a mother hen gathers her brood in protection if it began to rain or if the rooster was let loose or if it was dusk and time to settle down for the night or if the dog came to close. The hen's wings were large and seemed to expand to cover a surprisingly large number of chicks. The hen would simply cluck and somehow the chicks would know to gather under her wings. And not once did I see a chick ignore the hen.

But here, Jesus laments because the brood is unwilling to be gathered. This hen clucks and raises her wings but they do not come, they do not gather. And Jesus weeps.

The depth of his love, his lament, is profound – beyond words. Wings spread, breast exposed, he stands open in the most vulnerable posture in the world. Vulnerable to the dangerous, fearful, deathly work of this fox in the chicken coop, for if the fox wants them the fox will have to kill the hen first.

Which the fox does, as it turns out. He slides up on her one night in the yard while all the babies are asleep. When her cry wakens them, they scatter. She dies the next day where both fox and chicks can see her – wings spread, breast exposed.

In a few short days, in Jerusalem, this lament, this weeping will echo throughout the city and throughout all time. The compassion of God will be exposed for the entire world to see. For in Jerusalem, Jesus, like a mother hen spreading her wings to gather and protect her chicks, will spread his arms on the cross, spread them wide enough to embrace the world, spread them wide enough to embrace us for all time.

May you be sustained in your Lenten journey knowing this expansive, loving embrace.

In Christ Jesus – Shalom,
+Bishop Larry Kochendorfer

How To Build Lasting Love In Your Marriage

by Ngozi Nwoke

Do you desire to have lasting love in your marriage? This is surely the wish of many Christian couples, however many of their relationships are either struggling or collapsing. This is not God's desire for any of His children. This article aims at enlightening you on how to build lasting love in your marriage.

He who does not love does not know God, for God is love - I John 4:8 (NKJV).

Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away - I Corinthians 13:4-8 (NKJV).

Marriage is a spiritual institution and so should not be entered into or followed in the flesh, you need the help of God. Marriage is more than mere "I DO" though it's part of the beginning. It is the bonding of a woman and a man spirit, soul and body. That's why if you have sex, which is of marriage, with a harlot you become one with her and reap the consequences of it, the wrath of God.

For one to have lasting love in marriage you must know LOVE Himself. God is love (I John 4:8)! How much you know Him determines how lasting your love for your spouse will be. Your love for God determines how much you will love your spouse. I'm not talking about Eros (Love of the body or sexual desire) or Philia (Brotherly love), though you need them in marriage. I am talking about Agape love if lasting love is what you desire to have in your marriage. You need to love your spouse with the love of God. It will always pass the test of time. Others may fail but not Agape love.

God's kind of love

The scriptures in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 give a description of what God's love is. This is how to love your spouse, no conditions attached. That was how Jesus loved us that while we were yet sinners He died for us (Romans 5:8). God expects us to love our spouses like Jesus loves us. You are to love him or her, not because he or she loves

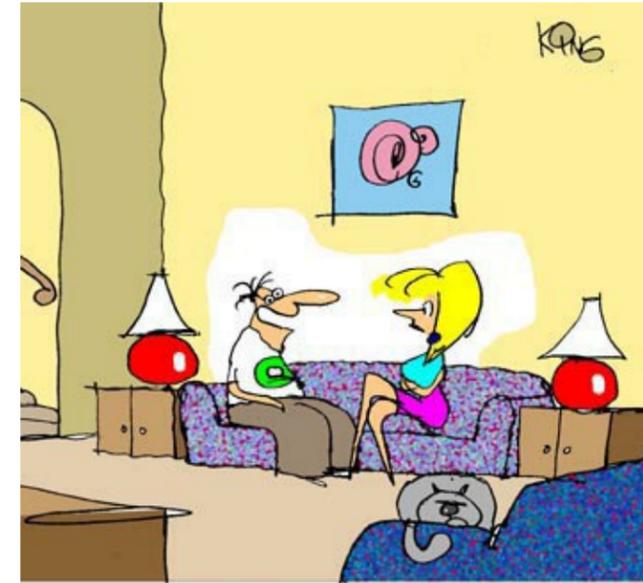


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you but essentially because you love God and you want to please Him. Otherwise, if you ever think that your spouse doesn't love you again, you may quit loving him.



"I wanted to keep your anniversary gift a secret, but I think I'll tell you now-- me and the rest of the guys are letting you sit in on tonight's poker game."

What next?

In marriage, it's not about what you can get from your spouse or what he or she can give you; it is about what you can contribute into his or her life. Marriage is about what you can give him or her. God thought about marriage and instituted it because He felt something was missing in Adam and He made a helpmeet for Him (Genesis 2:18). So, in marriage you are to supply whatever may be lacking in your spouse. You are not to get him or her to supply what is lacking in you; that shouldn't be your focus. For you to have lasting love, you need to mind your own part of responsibility and believe God to help your spouse do his or her own part.

The truth is that if you are depending on your spouse to make you happy you will be in trouble. He or she doesn't have the capacity to do that. Your happiness and joy lie in God. If He fulfills it through your husband or wife, that's great. But you must choose to solely depend on God for everything in your marriage. Choose to please God all the time and you will always please your spouse, and he or she will reciprocate same to you. Jesus, desiring to please God, the Father, always was a blessing to the people (John 8:29, Acts 10:38).

Furthermore, you can't love and not give. You may give without loving, but there is no way you will love and not give: your time, energy, and resources. Giving is living. God showed what it means to love by giving His only Son and there is nothing else He won't give you (John 3:16, Romans 8:32). Therefore, learn to give your best and all to your spouse.

In conclusion, do you desire to have a lasting love in marriage, then first know God (who is Love) and obey His instructions, choose to please your spouse, putting him or her first before you and make giving a lifestyle in your relationship and you will be building a lasting love in your relationship.



FAITH COUNTRY SHARED MINISTRY

~ April 2019 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 World Health Day 10:00 Trinity Communion Service	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Palm Sunday 9:00 Hope Communion Service 11:30 St. John's Eucharist Service	15	16	17	18 Maundy Thursday	19 Good Friday	20 Holy Saturday
21 Easter Sunday 10:00 Trinity Song Service	22 Easter Monday	23	24 1:30 Hope Worship Committee	25	26	27
28 9:00 Hope Communion Service 11:30 St. John's Morning Prayer	29	30	Notes:			

THE LAST SUPPER WORD SEARCH



BiblePuzzles.org.uk

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|-----------|---------------|------------|
| BETRAY | GIVEN | PREPARE |
| BLESSED | HYMN | REMISSION |
| BLOOD | JESUS | SINS |
| BODY | JUDAS | SON OF MAN |
| BREAD | KINGDOM | SOP |
| BROKEN | LAST SUPPER | SORROWFUL |
| DESIRE | LORD | TABLE |
| DIP | MASTER | TAKE |
| DISCIPLES | MEMORIAL | THANKS |
| EAT | NEW TESTAMENT | UPPER ROOM |
| EVENING | PASSOVER | VINE |
| FATHER | PETER | WATERPOT |
| FRUIT | POURED | WINE |



FAITH COUNTRY SHARED MINISTRY

~ March 2019 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 St. David's Day	2
3 10:00 Trinity Communion Service 12:00 Hope Luncheon & AGM	4	5 Shrove Tuesday/Mardi Gras 5:00 Hope Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper	6 Ash Wednesday	7	8 International Women's Day	9
10 9:00 Hope Communion Service 11:30 St. John's Eucharist Service	11 Commonwealth Day	12	13	14	15	16
17 St. Patrick's Day 10:00 Trinity Song Service 11:00 Trinity Lunch & AGM	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 9:00 Hope Communion Service 11:30 St. John's Morning Prayer 12:00 St. John's Worship Committee	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	Notes:					