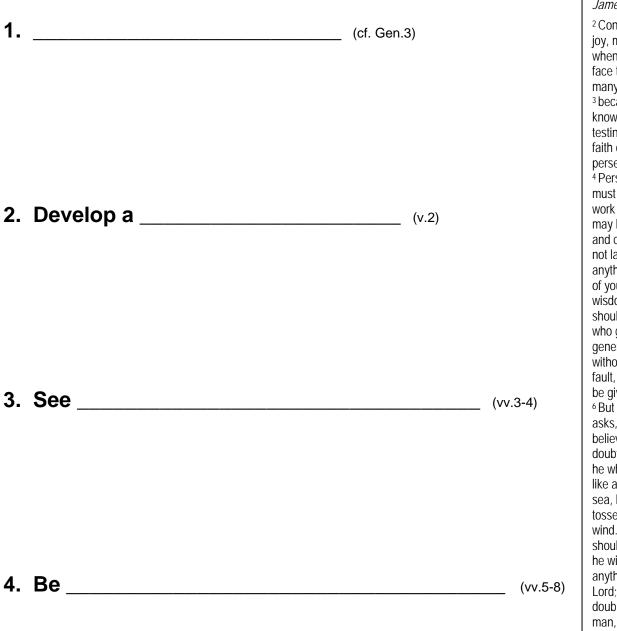
Date: July 3, 2005 Text: James 1:2-8 Topic: Marriage. Trials. Week: 2 of 3

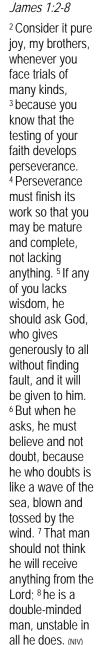
Msg. #: 05-22

## bart 5 **Those Words at the Altar**

Rethinking Marriage as a Divine Test



Dr. Mike Fabarez



## **Application Questions**

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's message. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's message. It is also helpful to discuss your answers with others. This can take place with friends, your family, accountability partners, or ministry groups within the church

1. While the Bible presents marriage as a gracious gift from God, it is obviously a gift that comes with a number of very real challenges. Being mindful of this is critically important! What are some of the unrealistic expectations that you had about marriage when you were younger?

What are some of the current sources of unrealistic expectations regarding marriage in our culture?

2. List some of the practical advantages of being spiritually mature (versus immature)?

How has your "covenant relationship" with a sinful husband (or wife) caused you to grow spiritually?

3. What can you do to keep your desire for spiritual growth and maturity in mind as you work through your next

marital challenge?

4. Read **James 1:5**. Write out a prayer that in your own words asks for God to grant you the divinely-guided skill of being a better husband or wife.

Read **James 3:17**. How would the "wisdom" of James 3:17 look in real life if you were to put an extra measure of it into practice in your marriage this week?

Bible in a year! Here is this week's schedule. July 3rd 2Chr.13-14 & Ps.38-39 July 4th 2Chr.15-16 & Ps.40-41 July 5th 2Chr.17-18 & Ps.42-43 July 6th 2Chr.19-20 & Ps.44-45 July 7th 2Chr.21-22 & Ps.46-47 July 8th 2Chr.23-25 & Ps.48-49 July 9th 2Chr.26-28 & Ps.50-51 July 10th 2Chr.29-31 & Ps.52-53

We are reading through the

Here are some resources which may help you understand and apply the truths presented in this week's sermon.

Bridges, Jerry. Trusting God: Even When Life Hurts. NavPress, 1988.

Carson. D. A. How Long, O Lord? Reflections on Suffering & Evil. Baker Books, 1990.

Elliot, Elisabeth. A Path Through Suffering. Servant Publications, 1990.

Guinness, Os. God in the Dark: The Assurance of Faith Beyond a Shadow of Doubt. Crossway Books, 1996.

Gushee, David P. Getting Marriage Right: Realistic Counsel for Saving & Strengthening Relationships. Baker, 2004.

Mason, Mike. The Mystery of Marriage: As Iron Sharpens Iron. Multnomah Press, 1985.

Piper, John. Future Grace: The Purifying Power of Living by Faith. Multnomah Press, 1998.

Swindoll, Charles. Strike the Original Match. Multnomah Press, 1980.

Tada, Joni Eareckson. When God Weeps: Why Our Suffering Matters to the Almighty. Zondervan, 1997.

Wagner, David. Secret Sins of the Heart: Freedom from the Chains of Pornography. Essence Publishing, 2001.

Yancey, Philip. *Disappointment with God.* Zondervan, 1997.