

Worship Gathering 5.25.08 TMP – Men's Panel

SONG - Famous One

SONG – Blessed be your Name

Welcome / Greeting

SONG – From the Inside Out

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 19:14

SONG – Take My life

Intro of Panel: (30 minutes)

All the panel and host sit up front while video plays.

Two coffee tables and 5 chairs

Scott –

• **How's Your Marriage Project going?** I've heard some good feedback this week, particularly from the guys. I'm not quite sure what's going on, but many guys I've spoken to were pleasantly surprised at how much their wives appreciated a card this week.

If your wife didn't appreciate the card you got, you might need to move outside the SHOE BOX GREETINGS SECTION. I was really proud of myself this week. I was in the store reading cards trying to find the right one. Have you every read a card while in the store and just laughed out loud? I did that, and I was thinking I got to get this for Kelli. Then The Holy Spirit interrupted my thinking and reminded me "IT'S A CARD FOR HER!!!" I put that one back and got the right card – the one with a couple of paragraphs with sweet words.

If it's not going great, don't freak out. Not all my daily projects turned out great. In fact, one ended in an argument because I wasn't very sensitive. Don't give up keep going.

TMP takes a certain amount of HUMILITY when things don't go right and you need to get over it and keep encouraging your spouse.

"MIRROR, MIRROR ON THE WALL WHO'S THE FAIREST OF THEM ALL." You remember these words from Snow White. The witch asks the mirror and the mirror responds, "Snow White is the fairest of them all." Then the witch gets mad at the mirror. Before, the mirror was the greatest thing ever because the mirror said what she wanted to hear. But when the mirror spoke the truth, that you are not as hot as you think you are, she gets all bent out of shape. There is a point to all this . . .

Marriage can be like this mirror. In marriage you spouse becomes a reflection to you of yourself. When you don't follow through on a promise, when we lose our temper, she becomes a reminder that we aren't perfect. As much as we'd like a mirror to tell us we are SUPER-HUSBAND, none of us are. Marriage requires humility, particularly when you begin looking at yourself. The goal is this to see yourself how God sees you. **Romans 12:3 says, "Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you."**

I tell you that because as we discuss our marriages on Sunday morning, it's easy to get defensive, instead of humbly taking an honest look in the mirror at yourself to see what God might want to show you about YOU! It's so much easier to examine our spouse than it is to take a look at ourselves.

One marriage book I've read begins with this verses from Proverbs.

Proverbs 14:4 "Without oxen a stable stays clean, but you need a strong ox for a large harvest."

What's this mean? The large harvest is the life we are all after, but it takes oxen. And with ox, you get ox poop.

Marriage is a huge blessing in life but with marriage you get marriage poop – it's stuff that comes along with marriage.

Today, we are going to have our pastors join me on a panel to talk about how God designed men. Ladies, you gave us a lot of questions that you have about men, and we want to have a discussion around those questions.

Disclaimer – You may hear us refer to *men in general* because men are different and not every man is like this, but research validates what we are saying about what men really want and need. However, we recognize that some of what we are saying is generalizations.

I have asked Kathi, who wrote TMP, to join us and host the group. So with that Kathi let me turn over the questioning to you.

Kathi: Discussion. (See discussion questions built from the survey given week 1. Discussion went 20-25 minutes)

Wrap up: Dismiss the panel and thank them. (8 minutes)

In the area of respect and communication there is a powerful force that women have that is much more powerful than sexuality. **Proverbs 18:21 "The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit."**

1. **Your words of respect and affirmation bring life to our hearts. Likewise, your words of disrespect can bring death to our confidence.**
2. **The reason your words are so powerful to our souls is because our love for you is so deep.**

Research: In the book *For Women Only* author, Shaunti Feldhahn, surveyed over 400 men from all over

the country and asked one open-ended question and it was this:

What is the one thing that you wish your wife knew, but you feel you can't explain to her or tell her?

The number one answer by far is this:

How much I love her!

The reason your words have such power over us is that we love you deeply, even if we struggle to communicate that well. TMP is all about becoming a person who is a better encourager – someone who communicates that love to us. Women, I hope you get the sense that your man loves you, and men I hope you are getting the sense that communicating your love deeply matters to her.

God did this same thing for us . . . "For God so loved the world, that he gave us his son." God didn't stand far off and hope we could discover his love. He sent his son to our world to let us know he loved us and provided a way to have a relationship with him. Because we love, we give . . . we model God's love to our spouse

Are you ready to go and give TMP your best effort for another week?

Ushers come forward . . . We are going to do one more act of giving this morning before we leave. Ushers come forward to take our offering. I was reminded this morning as I drove by the gas station that life will always threaten our faith in God. \$4.29 a gallon, and people begin holding back money from God. Can I encourage you in this today. When you give here on Sundays it is not about supporting a local church, it is about honoring God and trusting him with your finances. He's been generous with us, and by giving generously according to what God's given you, is a statement of how we trust him. Ask God what he would want you to give. Let's pray

PRAY

Offering and Song special: All Because of Jesus

Dismiss - Scott