

# Seeing Jesus *in Relationships*



## Week 34: Seeing Jesus in Our Marriages

**Scripture:** Genesis 2:18-24, Matthew 19:4-6, 1 Corinthians 7:1-16, Ephesians 5:22-33, Colossians 3:18-19, Revelation 21:2, 9-27

### **Devotional:**

If you've been watching the Olympics the last couple weeks, no doubt you've seen some of the (incredibly many!) commercials that have been running during the telecast. One of the commercials that I've seen several times involves two Olympic athletes who also happen to be married. The couple is Ashton Eaton – a decathlete for the U.S. – and his wife Brianne Thiesen-Eaton – who competes in the Heptathlon for Canada. In the commercial, the couple “competes” to see who can be first in a number of domestic scenes, from reading a book to brushing their teeth.

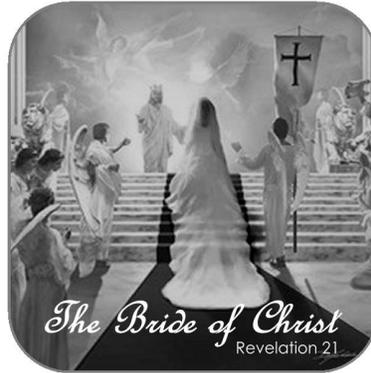
Of course this commercial is meant to be playful (and it is rather funny), but it got me thinking about what a commercial might look like if there was one based on God's view of a marriage relationship. A fitting scene might actually be the complete opposite of the Olympic spot, with a couple competing to see who could be last instead of first. In our relationships in general, Jesus calls us to love others and to seek to serve, just as he came to earth to serve and not be served. But the marriage relationship is to be a sort of ideal form of this, where love and service flourishes and is seen in its true beauty. God intends our Christian marriages to be windows into which people can see what God intends for all of our relationships. Relationships defined by things like love, unity, commitment, selflessness, faithfulness, good communication, sacrifice, and sharing.

This is the ideal, but as we are often painfully aware, we fall far short of this ideal from day to day in our marriages. Just like all facets of our lives, God has a high calling for us in our marriage relationships. Too often we might not even think of this calling as we go through the busy days of a week. We need to remember that God brings us together in marriage not just for each other – though this is true – but also as a witness to how God relates to us in Christ, and how he intends for us to relate to each other as human beings. It is intimidating and humbling to think about, but God entrusts us with this, and

empowers us for it in the Spirit. This is also why it is so important for the Church to be praying for our marriages, and for those in marriage relationships to be praying about the way we relate to each other within them. We need God's grace and presence in our marriages so we can begin to live into his intention for them. When this happens, even on a small level, our marriages display not only the love we share for each other, but witness to the incredible love God has for humanity in Christ.

### Song

"Great Is Thy  
Faithfulness"



### Activity

Take time out  
to pray with  
your spouse.  
Try to make  
a habit of praying  
together daily.

### Memory Verse:

Matthew 22:37-39

Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart  
and with all your soul and with all your mind.'

This is the first and greatest commandment.

And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

### Questions to reflect on this week:

How have I seen Jesus in the **B**ible?

How have I seen Jesus in the **L**ove I show toward God/others?

How have I seen Jesus in **E**arth he's created?

How have I seen Jesus in **P**rayer?

How have I seen Jesus in the **O**thers he's placed before me?

[ **BLEPO**: means "to see" in Greek ]

**Seeing Jesus is believing in Him!**



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