



Reflection Guide
Sermon Title: Are You Marriage Material?

Key Takeaways

- ⇒ Marriage was not created as a response to sin; it was created as a response to solitude.
- ⇒ Marriage is a mirror, not a maker.
- ⇒ Imprecision in doctrine produces dysfunction in practice.
- ⇒ God designed marriage to be fruitful, flourishing, fulfilling, and free.
- ⇒ Every fig leaf in your marriage is a fall symptom.

Personal Reflection

1. In what ways have you seen marriage reveal things in a person or in yourself that were already there before the relationship began?
2. Pastor Dharius argues that confusing the benefit of marriage with the purpose of marriage leads to real problems. What is the difference between saying "God uses marriage to sanctify you" and "the purpose of marriage is to sanctify you"? Why does that distinction matter?
3. Marriage is a multiplier, not just a bill-splitting arrangement. What does it look like practically for a marriage to be productive and not just functional?
4. Are there things you believe could be birthed through a marriage partnership that could not be birthed alone? What does that stir in you?
5. Pastor Dharius draws a clear distinction: "God never asked you to die in your marriage. He asked you to die to some things so your marriage could live." What is the difference between dying in a marriage and dying to something for the sake of a marriage? What are some things that may need to die in order for a marriage to grow?
6. The sermon says a suitable spouse will sometimes support you and sometimes confront you, sometimes affirm what needs to grow and sometimes challenge what needs to go. How do you personally tend to respond when a spouse or close relationship challenges rather than affirms you?
7. Adam had a perfect relationship with God in a perfect environment, and God still said something was missing. What does it say about God's design that he created embodied needs and ordained that some of them be met through an embodied person?
8. Pastor Dharius lists several "fig leaves" such as guarded conversations, managed versions of yourself, parts of your story your spouse has never been told, questions you have learned not to ask. Which of those resonates most with you, and why do you think those patterns develop?