

The Family Time

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Matthew 24:37 - But as the days of Noe [were], so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

Matthew 24:38 - For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark,

Matthew 24:39 - And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

For the next few sessions we will speak to the youth, regarding the relationships that they have already developed, or may in the future develop. This is important because as Messages to Young People, page 456 and paragraph 2 says:

The thought of marriage seems to have a bewitching power upon the minds of many of the youth. Two persons become acquainted; they are infatuated with each other, and their whole attention is absorbed. Reason is blinded, and judgment is overthrown. They will not submit to any advice or control, but insist on having their own way, regardless of consequence. *{MYP 456.2}*

Continuing that thought in paragraph 3 of the same page, it says:

- 1.** Like some epidemic, or contagion, that must run its course, is the infatuation that possesses them; and there seems to be no such thing as putting a stop to it.
- 2.** Perhaps there are those around them who realize that, should the parties interested be united in marriage, it could only result in life-long unhappiness.
- 3.** But entreaties and exhortations are given in vain.
- 4.** Perhaps, by such a union, the usefulness of one whom God would bless in His service will be crippled and destroyed; but reasoning and persuasion are alike unheeded. *{MYP 456.3}*

Why is this so?

- 1.** It is often the case that persons before marriage have little opportunity to become acquainted with each other's habits and disposition; and,
- 2.** so far as everyday life is concerned, they are virtually strangers when they unite their interests at the altar.
- 3.** Many find, too late, that they are not adapted to each other, and lifelong wretchedness is the result of their union.
- 4.** Often the wife and children suffer from the indolence and inefficiency or the vicious habits of the husband and father. *{AH 83.2}*

Bride's Magazine says that

- The average age of a woman getting married in the United States is 27. " *Bride's Magazine*
- The average age of a man getting married in the United States is 29. " *Bride's Magazine*



University Wire, Louisiana State University magazine says that:

□ 88 percent of American men and women between the ages of 20 and 29 believe that they have a soul mate who is waiting for them. " *University Wire, Louisiana State University*

Cohabitation, Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage in the United States says:

□ 59 percent of marriages for women under the age of 18 end in divorce within 15 years. "*Cohabitation, Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage in the United States,*" M.D. Bramlett and W.D. Mosher

National Center for Health Statistics

□ 60 percent of marriages for couples between the ages of 20 and 25 end in divorce. " *National Center for Health Statistics*

What might have been prevented had careful consideration been given, reigns full sway. Listen to *Adventist Home, page 84 paragraph 2:*

Marriages Wrecked by Incompatibility.—

- 1.** Many marriages can only be productive of misery; and yet the minds of the youth run in this channel because Satan leads them there, making them believe that they must be married in order to be happy, when they have not the ability to control themselves or support a family.
- 2.** Those who are not willing to adapt themselves to each other's disposition, so as to avoid unpleasant differences and contentions, should not take the step.
- 3.** But this is one of the alluring snares of the last days, in which thousands are ruined for this life and the next. {*AH 84.2*}

Here is good counsel that we must consider. *Review and Herald, February 2, 1886 par. 5:*

When so much misery results from marriage, why will not the youth be wise? Why will they continue to feel that they do not need the counsel of older and more experienced persons? In business, men and women manifest great caution. Before engaging in any important enterprise, they prepare themselves for their work. Time, money, and much careful study are devoted to the subject, lest they shall make a failure in their undertaking. How much greater caution should be exercised in entering the marriage relation,—a relation which affects future generations and the future life? {*RH, February 2, 1886 par. 5*}