

Number 5 Lightning Strikes

11-1-20

#1 The family is a 'world in miniature', where life lessons are learned!

#2 A Biblical marriage Exalts the woman and demands Leadership by the man!

#3 A Biblical marriage relationship will teach healthy lifelong values to children!

#4 Sin messes up everything!

Question: Have you and your spouse ever been pleasantly enjoying one another, then out of the blue, you are immediately “cross ways” with each other, and immediately tensions arise. As the title of the message says, “Lightning Strikes!” How can this happen? Even when it happens, you probably say, “How did this happen?” The Bible warns us that we should think about what, how, and when we speak.

Proverbs 15:23 (ESV)

To make an apt answer is a joy to a man,
and a word in season, how good it is!

We should think about situations before we speak. It is most satisfying to be able to give timely and fitting response.

Proverbs 25:11 (ESV)

A word fitly spoken
is like apples of gold in a setting of silver.

To say the right thing at the right time requires knowledge and wisdom. Wise people have an open heart and open ears.

Proverbs 18:15 (ESV)

An intelligent heart acquires knowledge,
and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge.

Last week we learned that husbands tend to focus on Facts and Goals while wives tend to be more sensitive and more in tune with relational aspects of the marriage. Today we will build on this knowledge and gain some more insight about how we communicate to each other. **Facts are facts, but the marriage relationship goes beyond pure physical facts. This means it is necessary to recognize sensitivities that bind hearts together. These realities not only bind human hearts, they also connect us with the heart of God.**

#1 Facts plus sensitivities connect with the heart!

In marriage, we need to think relationally. Example: You have to live in an apartment for a year, before moving into your new home. There is a huge picture window in the living room. The husband assessing the situation, tells his wife that he has an old blanket in storage that he can nail over the window. **LIGHTNING STRIKES!** The wife says something to the equivalent of, “Over my dead body!” Husband was factually correct without relational awareness. James has great advice in all such situations.

James 1:19 (ESV)

Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak!

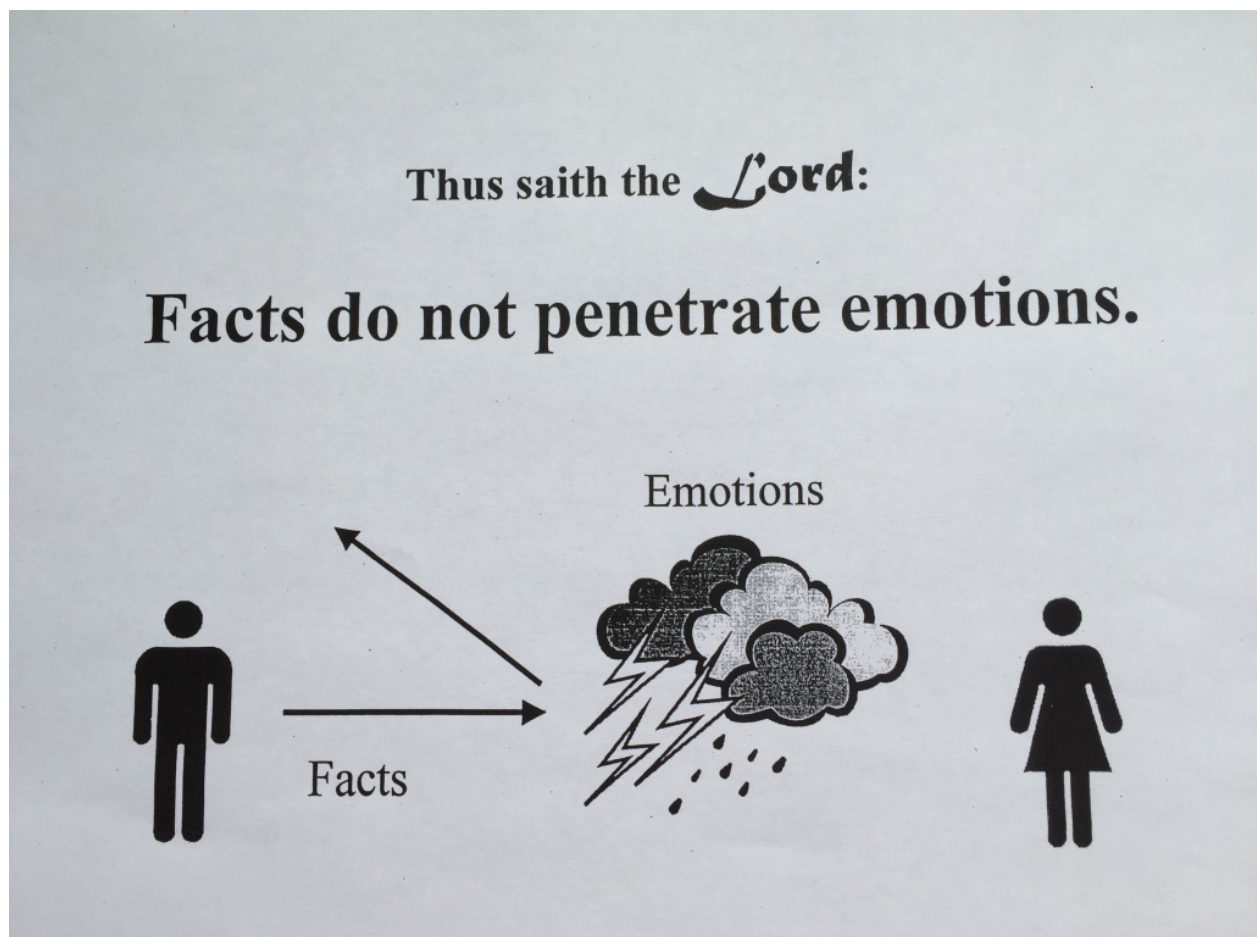
#2 Facts plus sensitivities connect with the heart!

Marriage activities are not only factual activities but also relational activities. Perfect example learned the hard way: After 10 years of marriage Linda and I separated for two years. After about a year of separation, I was getting my act together and was trying to put things back together. At the time Linda did not show any interest. I would attempt to initiate conversations, but she would only minimally participate. One day she was going to the store to buy our son a coat and asked if I wanted to come? Wow, I thought, "This is a big breakthrough!" As we entered the store, she stopped in the shoe section, where she looked at several different styles of shoes. Then she went into the shirt section and looked at several different shirts. Then she went into the pant section and was looking at pants. About now I began thinking that I had misunderstood her. So, I asked, "Did we come here to buy a coat?" Linda said, "Yes." Then I blurted out, "Why are we looking at pants?" LIGHTNING STRUCK! Linda said, "We are going home now!" So much for initiating conversations. When she gave a me a chance for some quality communication, I was so focused on the goal I could not see the opportunity. Just to show I did learn something, months later she asked me again to go shopping with her. She was looking at some shoes. She picked up a pair and asked me if I thought they looked nice. I thought, "She has a pair just like those at home." But I also thought, "If I say the wrong thing, we are heading back home." So, I just answered the question, "Yes, they look nice." Then she said the most remarkable thing!

She said, "These are nice, but I have a pair like them at home." She put them back and went to the dress section and looked at a dress. There she asked me, "Do you think this dress is pretty?" I thought, "I can do this!" I answered, "Yes, it is pretty!" Then she hung it back up and we went to another store. Granted that Linda and I were in a very bad situation, but God used this hard time to teach me the relational truth of integrating the goals and sensitivities in marriage.

#3 Facts plus sensitivities connect with the heart!

Marriage is the most intimate of relationships filled with a constant flow of various emotions!



Therefore, every marriage must grasp this important Biblical truth: Thus, saith the Lord, “Facts do not penetrate emotions!” **Please look at the handout you were given that will illustrate this fact.** **Confession: I can’t find this statement in the Bible, but it should be.** You have the husband on one side and the wife on the other. By the husband you have the word “Facts” and by the wife you have thunder clouds with lightning and the word “Emotions” written. We see that the husband is trying to share “facts” with his wife, but they cannot penetrate the “emotions” the wife is feeling. His facts keep bouncing off the wife’s emotions. Example of how this works: The wife drives up while the husband is in the yard working. She gets out of the car and she is visibly upset. She tells her husband that someone just rear ended her. The husband assesses the damage to the car and tells her that they have insurance that will repair the damage. LIGHTNING STRIKES! Now, not only is the wife still upset, she is also upset at the husband! She angrily repeats the details of the accident. Then the husband tells his wife, “Don’t get mad at me, I told you, I will get the car fixed.” LIGHTNING STRIKES AGAIN! **The wife angrily replies, “You care more about the car than you do me!”** The husband self-righteously responds, “You are impossible!” LIGHTNING STRIKES AGAIN! She defiantly says, “After you fix the car, you can fix your own dinner tonight!” How could this have been handled better?

- 1) Recognize the Emotion! In this case simply say, “I can see you are angry.” This communicates that you understand what she is feeling. You are making a connection with her (not the car) in the specific situation.

- 2) Validation! Put yourself in her place. Say, “If that happened to me, I would be angry also.” When you say this, you are telling her that she is okay and how she is feeling is understandable. She is Validated!
- 3) Be Available! You ask if there is anything you can do for her, not the car. She will most likely will say, “No but thanks for asking.” Then she will say, “We have insurance and it shouldn’t be a problem.” **Notice: She knows they have insurance and doesn’t need her husband to tell her.** She just needed her husband to understand what she had gone through and to connect with her.

Marriage lesson 101, “Facts do not penetrate emotions!” The very same thing happens when a man operates out of his emotions. You can make the application yourself.

Hear completely by hearing the emotions!

Proverbs 18:13 (ESV)

If one gives an answer before he hears,
it is his folly and shame.

Sin messes up everything, but proper teaching and the Baptism of the Holy Spirit will lead God’s people to behave like Christ which will **Exalt the woman and demand Leadership by the man which will model godliness to your children.**