

**INTRO TO  
CULTURE  
SHIFT  
MARRIAGE**

# MARRIAGE WAS DESIGNED BY GOD TO CARRY THE CULTURE OF JESUS. FIRST INTO THE MARRIAGE ITSELF AND THEN BY CULTIVATING THAT CULTURE INTO OUR CHILDREN. BY DEFINITION WHEN WE ARE SHARING THE SAME CULTURE WE ARE SHARING THE SAME VALUES AND BELIEFS, OR ATTITUDE. AGREEING ON CULTURE IS A POWERFUL DYNAMIC IN A MARRIAGE. A CULTURE SHIFT HAPPENS WHEN WE LEAVE ONE CULTURE FOR ANOTHER.

This material will practically teach you how to shift the culture in your marriage to one that will release both the husband and wife to truly live out both the heart and message of Jesus. It is designed to help you move from areas you are stuck in to breakthrough. If you have ever spent time immersed in another nation's culture you can experience culture shock. Everything from the unfamiliarity of getting from one place to another or the change in food or language can bring on a shock. The greater the shift in culture the greater the shock. To go from the safety of an American suburb to a war torn country that is experiencing starvation would be a greater shock than traveling across the border to Canada.

Jesus began to explain the culture of His Kingdom in the Sermon on the Mount. He explained both the values and the principles that were part of His Kingdom. To those that were there that day and for all of us that have read the account, we had never heard anything like that. Instead of earthly power, the Kingdom belonged to the broken in spirit, and from that sentence, line by line, the culture of the Kingdom was explained.

The entrance into that Kingdom is explained as a narrow road that few choose. Your life is found when you

lose your own. The meek inherit the earth. Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness will be filled. The merciful will obtain mercy. The pure in heart will see God. The peacemakers will be called sons of God.

Attitudes of anger without cause are addressed. Immediate reconciliation is commanded. Eyes that look lustfully at women are likened to adultery. The issue of divorce is not avoided but directly addressed. Jesus tells us to love our enemies. Go the second mile and do our charitable deeds before God and not man. When you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. Vain repetitious prayer is compared to the religious who think that they will be heard for their many words. Jesus instructs us how to pray, "Your Kingdom come, Your will be done . . . For Yours is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever." Jesus explains that if we do not forgive, our Father will not forgive us.

Fasting is not to be done with a sad face before men but in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. Treasures laid up on earth will rust or be stolen, but when we store up our treasures in

heaven, they will last for eternity. The location of our heart determines where our treasure is. Jesus tells us that no one can serve two masters for either he will hate the one and love the other. He declares that you cannot serve money and God. Judge not, that you be not judged. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. The Kingdom is not one that you look for a speck in your brother's eyes when you have a plank in your own. All of these verses, line upon line, in Matthew 5-7 immerse us in the culture of Christ.

Jesus invites us to have the culture burn so bright in us that we become the "salt of the earth," the "light of the world," and a "city on a hill which cannot be hidden." Jesus commands those who are following him to "lay down" their life and in exchange find true life. This is the unmistakable culture that Jesus brought on the earth and taught openly.

Marriage and the family are designed to carry this very culture, displaying it first to one another and then to the world. To be clear, when we speak about building a marriage team, we mean a marriage that will change the world. It is a pioneering couple that wants to put a stake in the ground to see the lost saved, trained and released into Harvest.

***As you prepare to go through this training, it is important to provide a summary of the culture we want to saturate our marriages and families with.***

#### **1. THE CULTURE OF FAITH REPLACING UNBELIEF.**

The Hall of Faith in Hebrews 11 is an incredible description of the life of faith. Faith is defined and then illustrated through each of their lives.

#### **2. THE CULTURE OF THE UN-OFFENDABLE HEART.**

The marriage says yes to the cost of walking in biblical forgiveness and not allowing offense no matter the price. The lifestyle of living tender-hearted before God and one another. Compassion and mercy replacing criticism and every attitude of judgment.

#### **3. THE CULTURE OF RADICAL LOVE: LIVING OUT THE ATTRIBUTES OF LOVE DEFINED IN 1 CORINTHIANS 13.**

Initiatory love that goes beyond not being offended into a lifestyle of generous, outlandish, outward-focused blessing and encouragement of others.

#### **4. THE CULTURE OF HUMILITY AND THE RADICAL SERVANT.**

This teaching emphasizes putting on the new patterns of humility that are ours in Christ.

#### **5. THE CULTURE OF THE SURRENDERED LIFE.**

This teaching highlights the "white flag" lifestyle that lives totally surrendered to Jesus. It specifically highlights the culture of joyfully surrendering our rights to Jesus.

#### **6. THE CULTURE OF MARY OF BETHANY.**

This teaching anchors you in the lifestyle of wholehearted devotion to Jesus as the first priority. The first commandment is clear to love the Lord our God with all of our heart, mind, and strength. This lifestyle of living hungry and fascinated before Jesus becomes the culture of our marriage, home and ministry.

#### **7. THE CULTURE OF THE COURAGEOUS HEART OF CHRIST.**

This teaching catapults you into the Matthew 10 lifestyle. So much of fear is rooted in the issue of cost. Jesus goes out of His way in Matthew 10 to define the cost and enlist joy-filled followers who are readied for the Luke 4:18 ministry of Jesus.

#### **8. THE CULTURE OF THE DAVID LIFESTYLE.**

This teaching sets the culture for living out the values and principles of the life of David, identifying key attributes of the Saul system, and setting you up for a fresh hunger to never mix David with Saul.

#### **9. THE CULTURE OF MATTHEW 9:37-38.**

Asking the Lord of the Harvest to send forth laborers means we are all "sent ones." No matter what sphere of influence we live in and minister to, we are all "sent ones" bringing and living the Gospel to every person. This is about losing our "control" and exchanging it for Jesus taking complete control of our lives through the power of the Holy Spirit. Burning with eyes of compassion and a clear message of salvation, being sent becomes the culture of our marriage and entire life.

#### **10. THE CULTURE OF PERSISTENT AND CONTENDING PRAYER.**

This is the Luke 11 training model of Jesus on prayer that "asks, seeks and knocks." It is the persistence of the friend asking for bread at midnight, "Yet because of His persistence he will rise and give him as many as he needs."