

Marriage of Benjamin and Mara Phelps

Conducted at the Westboro Baptist Church in Topeka, Kansas

Pastor Fred Phelps: Dearly beloved, we're gathered together here, in the presence of God, the Church being assembled, being compassed about with a great cloud of witnesses, and an innumerable company of angels, and the spirits of just men made perfect, and to the general assembly and the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to Jesus Christ the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel. [Hebrews 12:22-24] To do one thing: to join this man and this woman together in holy matrimony. To establish a new body, a new organism, a new house: the most ancient of all human institutions. This institution, ordained by the Almighty God in person, in the Garden of Eden, before man fell; and all the rules laid out. We go way back for this institution. Before there was any other institution: any government, any corporation, any court, any parliament; this institution was established; and peculiarly so. The Almighty said, it's not good for man to be alone; for I will make him an help meet, m-e-e-t, appropriate for him. [Genesis 2:18.] He caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam; took a rib, and made a woman. And, brought her unto the man, and he said, this is now flesh of my flesh and bone of my bone. [Genesis 2:21-23.] And, at that point, the Lord God said, For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother—and mind you, beloved, nobody ever heard of a father or mother, nobody ever heard of a baby, when this institution was created—for this cause shall a man leave his father and mother and cling—it's inseparable—to his wife; and they twain shall be one flesh; [Genesis 2:24] one body; one institution. And, what God has joined together—said the Almighty in Eden—let no man put asunder. [Matthew 19:6.] So, we've come to do that today. It is emblematic of Christ and His Bride [Ephesians 5:31-32]; and therefore, may not be dissolved; inviolate for time and for eternity. "And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they

which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, these are the true sayings of God.” [Revelation 19:9.]

Who giveth this woman to me married unto this man?

Mara’s Father: Her mother and her father.

Pastor Fred Phelps: Her mother and father. Thank you, sir, and, thank you, ma’am; for giving this young lady to this man. Ben has been a good son and a good grandson; and I am sure he will be a good husband for your little girl.

Now, Ben, I’m going to ask you a question or two. And, you better have the right answer. Wilt thou have Mara to be thy wedded wife to live together in the holy state of matrimony?

Benjamin: I will.

Pastor Fred Phelps: And wilt thou love and cherish her, and deal truly and faithfully with her; and render honor unto her as unto the weaker vessel and as being heirs together of the grace of life that your prayers be not hindered; and forsaking all others—

Benjamin: I will.

Pastor Fred Phelps: I’m not through, boy. Forsaking all others, keep you only unto her; until God by death shall separate you?

Benjamin: I will.

Pastor Fred Phelps: And, Mara, wilt thou have Ben for thy wedded husband and to live together in the holy state of matrimony?

Mara: I will.

Pastor Fred Phelps: And wilt thou love and obey him, and being in subjection to him in all things, and forsaking all others keep you only unto him, until God by death shall separate you?

Mara: I will.

Pastor Fred Phelps: Okay, Ben take that ring please, sir, and put it on Mara's finger and say to her: With this ring, I thee wed.

Benjamin: With this ring, I thee wed.

Pastor Fred Phelps: And, Mara, will you please take that ring, and put it on Ben's finger, and say to him: With this ring, I thee wed.

Mara: With this ring, I thee wed.

Pastor Fred Phelps: Now hold hands. In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost, I pronounce that you are man and wife; and what God hath joined together, let not man put asunder. And, Ben, kiss the bride, but don't go crazy.

And, it's time to get in earnest about this thing you've done today. And, memorize a lot of Bible. Memorize, memorize, memorize. You've got a new body, and you're the savior of it. Strong words in Ephesians 5. That marriage goes to pieces, it's your fault. And, we're not going to put up with it. And, you know we're not. The Church of the Lord Jesus Christ will never allow you to be a member, if you divorce or deal treacherously with this woman and this thing goes to pieces ever, you can't be a member of the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ. Because, you see, the metaphor runs from Genesis 1:1 to Revelation 22:21 that it's a type of the Lord Jesus Christ and his bride, and therefore it may not be dissolved. I didn't tell you to do this, you did this.

It is called treachery against God Almighty, if you deal treacherously with her. And, you can read that in Malachi Chapter 2. And you ought to read it, and you ought to memorize it. And, the children of Israel didn't understand why the Lord God said you have dealt treacherously against me. And, so they said, why do you say that? The Lord God said, when you dealt treacherously against the wife of your youth, you dealt treacherously against me. And, I've been a witness between thee

and the wife of thy youth, with whom thou hast dealt treacherously. And, I hate putting away. And, haven't you read where it is written that he made them one in Eden? And, she's still thy companion and she's still the wife of thy youth, even though you think you have put her away. And, he had the residue of the spirit. The meaning, the old rabbis say of that verse is, that if the Lord God had wanted to make Adam and Eve and Mary and Sue—you take the point—he could have. One man, one woman. [Malachi 2:11-17.]

You need, I suggest, to start off this marriage, by memorizing: Psalm 127: Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain. Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them." [Psalm 127:1-5.] You ought to memorize that.

And, then you ought to memorize Psalm 27. That's easy to remember: 127 and 27. Because there it tells you: that you're supposed to make the Lord God your light and your salvation. And, when the wicked, even your enemies and your foes, come upon you to eat up your flesh, they will be the ones that stumble and fall. And, though war should rise against you, or an host encampeth against you, you will not fear; because you will say, I have only desired one thing, primarily, in my whole life, and that is that I may find where God meets with his people on earth and dwell there with them. Verse 4: "One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life." [Psalm 27:1-4.]

You are starting a new body today, and you are responsible for it. Mara has the easy task. All she has to do is, "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body." [Ephesians 5:22-23.] So, her part's easy. You're responsible for her; and that she serves the Lord.

And, Abraham, old, past the age of having children; and his wife being 90, and past the age of having children; and the Lord God visited them down in the plains of Mamre, on the way to punish Sodom and Gomorrah for their sins. And, you read about it and memorize it, in Genesis 18. And the Lord God said, I am not going to hide from Abraham that thing I purpose to do to this evil city, because I know him; and that “he will command his children and his household after him and they shall keep the ways of the Lord.” [Genesis 18:29.] And, that ought to be said of you, sir. No reason why it shouldn’t be. I know Ben, says the Lord God, that he will command his children and his household after him and they shall keep the ways of the Lord.

And, Joshua, just on the eve of his death; called all the children of Israel together, and said, “if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom you will serve; whether the gods of our fathers that they worshipped in Ur of the Chaldees, on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the heathen amongst whom we dwell; but as for me, says Joshua, and my house, my house, we will serve the LORD. [Joshua 24:1-15.] And that’s what you ought to say. And, you ought to mean it.

You ought to memorize the Sermon on the Mount. 3 Chapters; Matthew 5, 6 and 7. We’ll just take the last part today. The last four or five verses, where the Lord Jesus Christ says, Therefore—this is about verse 24—Therefore, you build your house upon a rock; and he that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken unto a wise man, that built his house upon a rock. And the rains descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it stood: for it was founded upon a rock. He that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, is likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: and the rains descended, and the floods came. I’m telling you beloved, the rains are going to descend upon your house, the floods are going to come upon your house, and the winds are going to blow upon your house. And it fell: because it was built upon the sand. Because that fool heard my sayings and ignored them; went through life ignoring them. This is the closing words of the

Sermon on the Mount. Everybody loves the Sermon on the Mount. At least, everybody talks about the Sermon on the Mount all the time. I'm telling you what it says. And great was the fall of it. Great was the fall of it. And, then, that was the end of the Sermon on the Mount. And, the people that were gathered around and listened to all three chapters of it commenced to chatter. The next to the last verse of Matthew 7 says, the people were astonished—astonished--at his teaching: because he taught them as one having authority, and not as the Scribes and the Pharisees. And, that's the way that Chapter of the Sermon on the Mount ends. [Matthew 7:24-29.]

I think you ought to pay close attention to Ephesians 5, where the relationship of husbands and wives are set out in some detail. It starts out, "Wives submit yourselves to your own husbands, as unto the Lord." And, ends up, "For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two"—spoken out of Genesis 1 and Genesis 2, you see—"shall be one flesh," or one body. And then Paul says, "This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church." [Ephesians 5:25-32.]

And, 1 Peter 3: "Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without [argumentation] be won [over] by the [chaste behavior] of the wives; while they behold your chaste [behavior] coupled with fear." And, remember that, "even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement" how this things going to turn out if I let him be boss—"not afraid with any amazement." "Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge," and be not bitter against them, ever [Colossians 3:19], "giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life;" and all in order "that your prayers be not hindered." [1 Peter 3:1-7.]

Now, the Lord Jesus Christ, upon an occasion, was assaulted with impudent questioning by ignorant, hostile religionists; lasted for two verses, the third and

fourth verses of Matthew 19. And the question that they came down with there was—and it says, in order that they might tempt him—the question was: Master Is it lawful for a man to leave his wife, or put away his wife for any cause? To which the Savior said: Have you never read—can't you read?!?—where it is written that he that made them at the beginning made them male and female, and said, for this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cling to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh. And, for this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cling to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh. So, that there's no more twain, but one flesh. He that made them at the beginning, made them male and female, and said, for this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cling—it's indissoluble. [Matthew 19:3-6.] And, the relationship and the body that is created this day is inviolate. And, we won't allow you to mess with it, because it is the standing metaphor for that relationship that exists between the Lord Jesus Christ and his people, who are called his bride. And it is our hope and prayer for you that you will so live out your days upon earth, that you will be invited to that thing, that glorious thing, that's called in the Revelation 19—as the book of God is winding up—that is called, “the marriage supper of the lamb.” And, the next verse says, for his wife, his wife has made herself ready. And, she shall be clothed in white linen, pure and white; and that white linen is the righteousness of God's people; that righteousness that they lived out. [Revelation 19:7-8.] They lived soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ. [Titus 2:12-13.]

And, everybody knows that these things that I have told you are true. And every time some important thing happens, like when the U.S.S. Cole gets bombed, and 17 sailors get killed; and they hold a big meeting like they did this week in Norfolk, Virginia to have a memorial; they can't have it without playing and singing our songs, and without taking up our Bible. Without our songs and our Bible they're left without nothing but Honky-Tonk music of the devil and hell, and lying doctrines. But there they are. And, some top sergeant says, “Ship company: man

the rails!” And then about a thousand of those guys in white uniforms line up on those boats; and a thousand more gathered around; senators and admirals. I watched it. I like to watch stuff like that. They showed every bit of it on C-Span about 2:00 one morning. And, then a long limousine pulls up, and it’s the Anti-Christ Clinton from the White House; he hops out. And, then the top sergeant barks out: “The United States arriving!” Yeah. There goes the Chief whoremonger, the Chief pervert; Anti-Christ from the White House; and he is the “United States.” I’m telling you, beloved, kings and empires fall; and there’s nothing stable in this world except that blessed book that I’m urging you to memorize big chunks of. Big chunks of. And hear these sayings of the Lord Jesus Christ, and do them. I’ll tell you what songs they sang. And, they sang and played with the navy band, and with piano; and they had choirs; and they sang five songs, and they sang all the verses of all those songs. And, they’re all our songs. They’ve got to get Brother Watts’ songs. They’ve got to get “Rock of Ages,” by Augustus Montague Toplady. And, they’ve got to get, “All Hail The Power of Jesus’ Name.”

If—I told you the other day, Ben that—if this thing that’s happening today with Mara results in even a fraction of the happiness and joy that your grandmother has given me, it is a good thing that you do.

And, we will sing one of those old songs now and close this meeting. Please. The words and music are set out in the program: “The Sands of Time Are Sinking.” There are, in fact, thirty verses to this song. And, in our Church we sing all thirty of them, although all thirty are not here. “The Bride eyes not her garment, but her dear Bridegroom’s face; I will not gaze at glory but on my King of grace.” Let us sing that song.

The Congregation sings: “The Sands of Time Are Sinking”

The sands of time are sinking, the dawn of Heaven breaks;
The summer morn I’ve sighed for—the fair, sweet morn awakes:
Dark, dark hath been the midnight, but dayspring is at hand,
And glory, glory dwelleth in Immanuel’s land.

O Christ, He is the fountain, the deep, sweet well of love!
The streams of earth I've tasted more deep I'll drink above:
There to an ocean fullness His mercy doth expand,
And glory, glory dwelleth in Immanuel's land.

O I am my Beloved's and my Beloved's mine!
He brings a poor vile sinner into His "house of wine."
I stand upon His merit—I know no other stand,
Not even where glory dwelleth in Immanuel's land.

The Bride eyes not her garment, but her dear Bridegroom's face;
I will not gaze at glory but on my King of grace.
Not at the crown He giveth but on His pierced hand;
The Lamb is all the glory of Immanuel's land.

The end.