

# How to Ruin Your Life by 40, Part 1

## By Steve Farrar

Hello, OK. People are still kind of shuffling in, but if there's any room, like for people to scrunch, then do it. But if there's not, then, you know, that's all right. I'm OK. This might be a little hectic, but let's bow our heads together and pray. That's quite gracious, Lord. We thank you for another opportunity to come and hear from your word and hear from you. Father, we we do pray, Lord, that we would not take the things lightly that are being said. Lord, we realize that there's a lot of different things being said, Lord. But we pray that as you will Lord, you would convict our hearts. Lord, what it is you want us to hear. Father, I pray that you'd empower Dr. Farrar now as he comes and shares the word with us. And we just thank you so much for the states in your holy name. We pray. Amen.

So you guys know Dr. Farrar. Thank you. We got some juice here. Oh, there you are. Back there, OK. How are you guys doing? All right. It's great to be here in Seattle, but this is nuts. This rain thing, this is called rain. For those of you who are natives of Southern California. I got my cell phone on. That's not too bright. How many of you have cell phones? I do the drill. Let's turn those suckers off or put them on vibrate. OK, you all agree to that. All right, good. Let's do it corporately as an act of worship.

OK, I can't believe I'm just going to turn the call and put that turn it off for me or something when you're put in your pizza box or something. OK, all right. This is a I think this is a workshop, I've never understood what that means, but that's what they call them. And, you know,

one of my problems is, is when you do a lot of speaking, they want titles way in advance. And my problem is I never know what I'm going to speak on. You know, I'm doing say something a year from now in Colorado and they'll call and we'd like the titles of Steve's four sessions. Well. Number one, I don't even know I'm doing four sessions and how would I know a year in advance what God wants me to say, to be quite honest, so I usually don't give titles and but, you know, they wanted some titles and and usually what I do when they press me for titles and I don't know what I usually just say, well, just tell them I'm going to speak on the great mystery.

In fact, when I leave here, I speak tomorrow night. And it's kind of an unusual weekend for me because I usually don't do a whole week somewhere. But I go from here. I leave. I don't live like this. I want you to know before I tell you what I'm going to do this week, it's very unusual for me to have a week like this. But I've already booked a thing in Colorado. And then Ron called me and asked me if I could do this. And I love Biola and my kids have gone here. So I said, sure, I'd love to do it. But I spent Thursday night and then I take a flight out of LAX Saturday.

That's Friday morning at 6:00 because I get to speak at some deal in the Rocky Mountains that night at seven. And whoever is putting us on, they're all freaked out about the titles, so I gave him the one title and then he wanted the other three titles. So we're doing the great mystery part one, two, three and four. Now, fortunately, I know what I'm going to do here, and are you guys demonstrating or is this a sit in or what are we doing here from the 60s or you're just there are no seats.

I thought maybe this is a demonstration or something. You guys were protesting. Why don't you guys just come on up here? Because we've got other demonstrators trying to get in. Yeah, we got Greenpeace trying to get in there in the back. Yeah, we want to make room for the animal rights people. All right. OK, hey, Josh, how are you doing? Randy, you made it, T.J. You guys made it was John. John didn't make it, but his roommates did.

OK, great. That's all right. All right, here's my title, my title is How to Ruin Your Life by the Time You're 40. And I'm dead serious about this. Just to get a number, I'm going to pick the age of 20 as an average number for those of you in this room. Some of you are 18, 19, some of you are twenty one. Twenty two. I don't know. How are you? Let's just say 20. Four for the first roughly 18 years of your life. Let's say let me just say 20 for the roughly the first 20 years of your life. Decisions have been made for you. You have parents. They have made major choices and major decisions to help you in life. That's right, guys. Just come on in. Just find a spot anywhere where we're easy here.

For the first 20 years of your life, someone else has been making critical decisions for you. But you're in college, you're kind of in transition because you're going to get out of here and you're in a process of entering adulthood now. What do you want your life to look like when you're 40? That is a significant question that most people who are 20 don't spend much time thinking about. But you see, here you are and you're 20 years old and a lot of what has happened to you is because of the choices that your parents have made for you.

Some of those choices have been good. Some of those choices have not done so good because your parents are flawed, just like everybody on the face of the earth is flawed. They've made mistakes. They've done some things right. They love you with all their heart. Sometimes you don't think that, but they do. They've done the best that they can do. Generally speaking, they have now. Now the mantle is being handed to you. And here you are, 20, but before you know it, you're going to wind up at 40 faster than you can believe, you're going to hit 40.

What do you want your life to look like at 40? Will you be married? If you will be married, what kind of person will you be married to? Will you have kids? All right, let's say you do have kids. What is it that you want to teach your kids? What is it that you want to instill in your children? What is important to you that they know? How do you want them to be disciplined? How do you want them to be taught? What kind of schools do you want them in?

You see, when you start thinking about what you want your life to look like at 40, what you have to do then is that you have to work your way back from 40 to where you are right now. Because the decisions that you make today and in this year and the next year and the year after that are going to determine the quality of your life when you hit 40. You know, it would be great if when you hit 40, you could say, thanks, God, for being so great to me. Thanks for blessing me. When I hit 40, I couldn't believe I hit it, but I was there and my wife, Mary, she she's not here right now. She's back to the hotel, just kind of resting up a little bit.

But Mary had arranged for friends of mine from around the country. She called them in advance. And every half hour from about one o'clock on, I got a phone call from a friend somewhere in

the United States. And so all day long, I just talked to friends who were calling me, wishing me happy birthday. That was very exhausting. But it was kind of neat, I remember going to bed that night and thinking, well, you know, because I'll tell you, when I was in college, I used to think a lot about being 40. I don't know why I did, but I did and you know what I wanted when I was 40? I wanted the favor of God in my life. I wanted them to bless me when I was 20, what I hoped for when I was 40 is that I want to I wanted to have a great marriage and I wanted to have a great wife.

And when I was twenty seven, I met this little peach from Georgia. She's about five feet. She weighs about 95 pounds. Yeah. Oh, yeah, she couldn't speak English, she spoke Southern, but she was a cute little sucker and she was real smart and I met her in a theology class because she was that she came to the seminary that I went to. I never planned on meeting my wife of seminary, but she was there getting her master's degree in church music. And you had to take theology courses and I'd sit up in the back. We had this tiered classroom and I'd sit up in the back row up there.

And I remember I kept hearing this. This there was this girl down there that kept asking these penetrating, insightful questions, I can still remember kind of being sprawled up there, you know, and I remember she asked, I remember going to that. Who is that? Who is that down there? Well, that was my wife. I just didn't know it, you see? And I was engaged to another girl at the time. And she was a great girl, I mean, wonderful girl. She just wasn't the girl that God had for me and I wasn't the guy that God had for her, but the Lord had us in a relationship for two and a half years to get us ready for the persons that he wanted us to marry.

We had to work through some things in that relationship, we, now, we could have got married, but we didn't because as we worked through some things and we looked, we were asking the Lord, Lord, what do you want to do here? And we were, you know, we were trying to we were trying to use wisdom. We were trying to use wisdom. And God took us through a process that at times was really good and at times very painful. But in hindsight, He was getting us ready not for one another, but for two other people.

At 40, I was a very blessed man. I had three kids at 40. I was getting ready to embark on a whole new chapter of my life that I knew nothing about I was pastoring. And I was about to get fired by a church. And I remember the day that it happened and I thought, God, what are you doing? And I have guys all the time asking me, how'd you get in? How'd you get involved in men's ministries? I remember being a promise keeper. Seventy thousand guys at the Charlotte Motor Speedway.

And this young guy comes up to me and he says, hey, how do you get to speak here? So you don't want to know, man. Everybody I know speaking there, they're shocked, they're speaking and they didn't seek it, God just kind of did it. But every guy I know that was there speaking that day and I was speaking with Brian's dad, Crawford, that day. Looks back and see the goodness of God I got in the men's ministry because I got canned by a church, that's how I got into it. God had to push me out because I didn't have enough faith to go do it on my own.

But I remember the day I got canned and I was real mad. Are you guys taping this? Would you taping this? OK, I get to edit what I say. Now, because the people in the church don't know I got canned, it was an internal thing that had to do with some, anyway, I'm already in trouble because someone's going to hear this. But what the heck, it was a long time ago. What are they going to do, fire me? They already fired me [Audience laughter].

But I remember when I got the news that they wanted me, I was out, they were going to can me if I didn't resign. And I remember I got real upset and I got real mad. I thought, I'm going to take those suckers on, who the chump to those guys think they are? People in the church knew about that. And so I'm kind of, you know, in this posture to - and I remember very was listening to the phone call and she hung up and I said, well, I can't, you know, [mumbling] yeah, you know. And we were just talking to her and she said she said, just let me ask you something. She said, Do you think God wants you here long term? I said no. She said, then don't fight this. God, just moving on to the next chapter. I said, yeah, but you know what, if they're going to fire me and you know what I - and she said, you know, Steve, you've been getting all these speaking opportunities and you have this book coming out to in.

She said, Steve, I think God's going to use this book to mend. I said, yeah, but it's just coming out and she said, Steve, you're beginning get all these opportunities, they want you to come and speak and do these conferences. I said, yeah, but I've been turning them down because I pastor in the church. And they always were a year out, I said, Mary, if I start saying yes now, it'll be a year before I can go speak and get honorariums and have income. I don't know how we're going to make it in the interim, she said, Steve God'll take care of us. That's wisdom. You know what I

needed? I needed a godly woman to walk with me. I need a godly woman who had faith in Jesus Christ.

You see, I needed that when I was 40. So you go back to when I was 20. What did I need when I was 20, what did I need? Did I need some Barbie doll? Is that what I needed? Some Barbie doll walking around a low cut thing with her boobs hanging out? Hey, I'm not messing around here, guys, OK? I'm just being straight with you. I needed a woman of God is what I needed.

And how many you were in chapel yesterday or the day before, whenever that was going on? OK, I want to say this again. If you're a woman of God, don't expose your breasts, alright? He's getting legalistic. Don't expose your breasts. Those are for your husband. You'd be a virtuous woman. OK. The guy you're looking for, he's looking for someone like that. You don't want a guy who wants anything less than that? That's not the kind of guy you want, that's not the kind of guy you want to father your children. Is it?

You want a man of God, you want a man who loves Christ, you want a man who your children can look up to. And whose father's life, his life, he'll not only teach them with his words, he will teach them by his life. Every girl in this room, that's what you want and in your heart, you know what, that's what you want, but you're thinking they're not out there. Well, you only need one. If you needed 15, you'd be in trouble, but you only need one, you see. If that's the kind of guy you want then to be that kind of woman.

Same thing for you guys. See you want to marry a woman who can who can raise your kids with you. And who's going to model character and virtue and a love for Christ and when you get down and when you get defeated and you're having a hard time and you're thinking about caving, she'll say to you, you know what, God will take care of us. You just do the right thing. God will honor us. You honor him, Steve. God will honor you. Don't take a shortcut here. That's what you need.

I've been up last couple of years, I spent a lot of time in the Old Testament and last year I did a study called Living Lessons from Dead Kings. Forty Three Kings in the History of Judah and Israel. And what is really sad is the deterioration of the king's. You had a few good kings, most of them were losers. Out of forty three kings, maybe eight of them could be called good in about four of those guys are marginal. They were men who should have been spiritual leaders. They were men who should have prepared their sons to ascend the throne for them when they died, they should have been preparing their son to take the spiritual leadership of the family.

But really, none of them did that other than David with Solomon. You see, here we are, what is today, what is this, the 20th, what month is it? October 2004. So that's where we are today. But you realize your life, you realize God knows your children will be? And do you realize God knows your grandchildren will be? You ever thought about the. He knows your grandchildren will be you're going to be a grandma one day [audience laughter], you better pop some Valium here real quick, but you're going to be a grandmother. Did you know that see, we always think right now, right here, right where we are, but life's bigger than that, you're going to go through

chapters. Not only are you going to hit 40, you're going to hit 80. So the choices you make in your 20s are very, very important.

Now, when you study the kings of Israel, of course, you look at David and we all know David made a big glaring error, huge mistake. But he was a man after God's own heart. Then he had a son by the name of Solomon, as I said, of the Old Testament Kings, the only guy I saw who tried to mentor a son and get him ready spiritually to assume the leadership of the nation and the leadership of a family. And it's a father's job to be preparing his sons to follow after him. That's his job, the only guy I see in the history of Israel and Judah that tried to do that, at least that is delineated on the page of scripture is David. And he tried to do with Solomon after he blew the other three boys.

Now, you know the story of Solomon Solomon when he took the throne, God said, I'll give you anything you asked for. He asked God for wisdom because he asked God for wisdom, God through everything else. Solomon had a tremendous start as a young man. He came out of the blocks just I mean, he had he had it all. He had he had a heritage. He knew Nathan, the prophet. He had been taught the scriptures. As many of you. You've had that kind of heritage. God appeared to him twice. You know what happened to Solomon? Solomon wound up an idol worshipper. He ruined his life. Solomon was the wisest man who ever walked the face of the earth other than Lord Jesus Christ. What is really interesting to me and what is really tragic is that, you know, at a certain point, Solen, begin to depart from what he knew to be true. He knew the word of God.

What he wrote is the word of God, but he began to depart and see, the problem is when we depart from the word of God, when when your father guys when you women become mothers and you're married and you've got kids watching you, when you teach them one thing and then you do another, you're going to confuse them. This is what Solomon did, Solomon had the proverbs in his head and he wrote them down by the spirit of God, but Solomon didn't put the proverbs in his heart and he didn't obey them.

So Solomon's life became a proverb, Solomon is one of the great shipwrecks in all of history, don't I don't want you to walk away from here saying, well, then what he wrote doesn't apply. No, it was the inherent word of God. It's truth. Truth is truth. He just didn't live up to what he wrote. The name of the game in your life, because we're all teachers here. You're all going to teach, one day, you're all going to have kids and you're going to be teaching your kids if. If your words of teaching match up with your behavior, there's going to be congruence and there's going to be something called integrity.

And what you want to do is marry someone who has the same passion and the same love for Christ and the same love for the word of God and someone who, no matter what comes, you guys won't split and you won't divorce. That's what you need. I'm just shooting straight with you. If you guys are true to the odds, if you're true to the statistics, half of you in this room will divorce. Even if you marry Christians, because you see truth is no longer important in the Church of Jesus Christ. Every time I get up to speak, I figure it's my last time to ever speak there. Because I almost [mumbling] we had some people offended. Why are you telling me that that's not my issue? Now, if I was rude to them, that's an issue. But see, so often what the problem is,

they don't want to hear truth. We want to be "seeker-sensitive", you know, that, you know what was behind that? A great motivation to bring unbelievers in and make them comfortable.

You know, in many churches, you know, what seeker sensitive has developed into don't say anything to offend anybody at any time. If you're going to preach the Bible, you're going to offend people. God doesn't want you to divorce. So when you look for a mate, you're 20. What do you want your life to look like at 40? Find someone who is a who's committed to Christ and who in their heart, divorce is not an option.

Hey, if you run short when you're married, let's say when one month visa bill comes in and you spend three hundred dollars more than you realized, your wife spent some and you guys get the bill. It's three hundred more than you thought. This is an option for you to go down to 7-Eleven and pull out a handgun and say, give me three hundred forty dollars, don't give me everything on the register, I just need three hundred forty bucks to pay my visa bill. No. You're laughing why? Because that's not an option you would never go commit armed robbery, would you? You're laughing. You'd never do that. That's why it's funny. You've eliminated armed robbery as an option in your life. Do that with divorce. It's not an option. It doesn't exist. Then you won't get divorced. If you marry someone who holds that. Solomon was the wisest man who ever lived. Solomon raised a son. Who was one of the greatest fools in the Old Testament? You guys remember with Sanfield? Aren't you godly people, don't you watch Seinfeld? Solomon had a son by the name of Redbone, now Solomon and David is that it took him 80 years to unify the kingdom of Israel and put it together.

When Solomon died and it's unreal, rehabbing took over, it took Rehavam 72 hours to destroy everything that his father and grandfather had taken 80 years to put together in three days. He screwed the whole thing up. You want to know why? Because he was a fool. I think Rehoboam was the Kramer of the Old Testament. The wisest man in the Old Testament raised one of the greatest fools, the text that I'm looking at a second Chronicles Chapter 10. Actually, I begin with chapter nine, verse thirty one. And Solomon slept with his fathers and was buried in the city of his father, David and his son reborn, drained in his place. I'm going to do this real quick here.

All right. I'm going to speed read this thing. So you stay with me then. Redbone, he's the new king. He goes to shake them. That's just north of Jerusalem for all of Israel, had come to shake him, to make him kings. The big inauguration thing went. And there's a guy named Javerbaum who had worked for Solomon. Not not Rehavam Jawbone, Jawbone had worked for Redbones dad, and he was a great leader, but Solomon got jealous of him and he had to flee to Egypt.

That's a whole nother story, but that's huge problem. So this guy gyroball, who was in Egypt, when he hears that Solomon is dead and his son is on the throne, Jera Boehme, who was sort of the leader of the ten tribes in the north, comes back. He's a big time leader. All right. This is gyroball. When Javerbaum comes back, I'm going to three herem speed reading. All Israel came and they spoke to remarkable, the new king saying your father made our card. Solomon, to build all the stuff that he built, the temple in the house that he built in the house for the many wives. He would take these these kids, he would draft them from the northern kingdom and bring them down to the south and they would have to work hard to build all these amazing projects. And it was really a strain on the families.

Your father made your card now, therefore, light in the service of your dad, your father and his heavy yoke, which he put on us. And we will serve you. In other words, they're saying, hey, listen, we got the ten tribes up here in the north. We've been busting our tails for your dad, but he's been too hard on us. We need you to lighten the load, he said. All right, let me think about it for three days, so I'll get back to you. Watch this. And by the way, this guy Rehavam is forty one years old. We know that from Second Chronicles 12. What is. I think it's three. Sorry it's 13, actually. That's the basis he's 41 years old when I was 17, so they said, hey, we just lighten the load, man, and we'll keep everything going and we'll work things out. So what does he do then? King Rehoboam consulted with the elders who had served his father, Solomon, while he was still alive, saying, How do you counsel me? He he checks in with these older men who had served his dad and says, hey, tell me what you think I had to do.

For seven, they spoke to him saying, if you will be kind to this people and please them and speak good words to them, then they will be your servants forever and catch this. But he forsook the Council of the Elders, which they had given him, and consulted with the young men who grew up with him and served him. Who did he consult with, the young men who grew up with him and served him, you know, he consulted with he consulted with the guys in his fraternity. That's who we consulted with, Sigma Chi Epsilon, Delta C, whatever those frat things are, you know, I'm talking about, you know, those right guys, those are the guys you check in with.

And this guy is 41 years old. Hey, it's one thing. It's one thing. You ought to be different at forty one than you were twenty. That didn't happen to this guy. He first took the counsel of the elders,

he checks in with the young men he grew up with. So he said to them, what counsel you give me that we may answer the people first hand. The young men who grew up with him spoke to him saying, thou you shall say to the people who spoke to you, your father made our yoke heavy, but you make it lighter for us. You shall say to them, my little finger is thicker than my father's loins.

I'm going to tell you what this really means. This guy is going to you tell your dad that your little finger is bigger than your father's sexual organ. That's where this guy was. That tells you the caliber of friends that he had. You know, guys that even think that way, guys that even talk that way. Those aren't kind of guys you want to be hanging around. Because they know nothing about masculinity. They know nothing about maturity when they're when you're around anybody. And we live in this wretched culture and there's all this talk and you guys know what I'm talking you hear this stuff all the time, the size of some guy's sexual organ. You get away from that stuff!

Bad company corrupts good morals, don't you hang out with people like that, you don't need them in your life. That's gutter talk. God's called you to something much higher, much cleaner, much pure. What do you want your life to look like? What, you're 40 and let me ask you something. What are you going to instruct your little kids when they're four or five, six and seven and say, Daddy, I heard this joke. What do you see? They need to look for you guys and they need to see moral purity in the lives of their dads. So you don't hang around, you don't talk like this crap. Can I say that here, I just just said it, but that's what it is, isn't it? Is that not what it is? It's what it is. These guys are you know, these guys, these are forty one year old macho guys that never grew up.

Here's the rest of the story I just told you three days later, they all come back Jeraboam. So what do you say, Jeraboam? And he says, Hey, move here fingers than my dad's. You know, he did. He split the team in 72 hours. He destroyed the whole thing. And the nation broke into. That's just one of the dumb things you see, I say this guy was the Kramer of the Old Testament. Why is this man in the world? Race is one of the biggest force, why was - Rehoboam had to be confused by what he saw in his dad's life because his dad was teaching one thing and his dad was doing another. If you read Ecclesiastes, what if Solomon said he said the greatest thing in life is to live life with the woman you love. Enjoy the wife of your youth. So what it's Solomon do were not married, seven hundred women. Kind of a disconnect there. Then what else did he do then he had three hundred concubines and some Old Testament scholars say, well, the reason he had so many wives, that's how they made political alliances. They didn't have the United Nations and Kofi Annan. So he'd go marry these girls. And, you know, well, I won't attack you because, you know, you married my daughter and will be at peace. Well, yeah, that's part of it.

But Solomon had a sexual issue. I'll guarantee that a sexual issue, because you've got 700 wives, why the heck would you need 300 concubines? He didn't have those 300 concubines to extend world peace, did he was a sexual addict, so do you see he's got a confused son. My dad says this, but my dad lives like hell. Some of you have dads like that. And you struggled and you're confused a little bit. Can I tell you something great, you don't have to do that for your kids. You don't have to do what your dad did, so many of your dad's model it for you. Thank God for your dad, some of you, your dad's a screwed up. Quite frankly. They told you one thing and they've done another. You don't have to repeat that. Your kids can have a different life than you had, but

that ball's in your court, you got to decide how you're going to live. You've got to decide what kind of man you're going to be.

Bomb ruined his life by the time he was forty one. That's the other talk we turn this over, I'll give you today's talk. Let me give you a couple of shots and why he ruined his life. And let's see how this fits with you guys. Number one, he ruined his life because he was a perpetual adolescent. All right, I'm said again. He ruined his life because he was a perpetual adolescent, you know, it's interesting with kids.

Do your kids get to high school, just kids? You know, it's interesting with kids, the state teenage boys, let's take boys, let's just take junior high boys. Everything about junior high boys, they never want to go to bed. And then once they get in bed, they never want to get up. Now, that can happen all the way through high school, some guys do that through college, some guys do that when they get out of college, they never go to bed and they never get up.

Well, what do you want your life to look like at 40? If that's how you live your life, you're not going to get too far at 40, are you? No, you're not going too far. You see, that's what young kids start out as fools. Kids don't know what they need, but at a point you stop being a kid and you start you have to start making your own decisions and you start to getting discipline. And when that clock goes off at five thirty in the morning, you know, you don't want to get up, you get up.

You don't live on how you feel you live and what's true. You see, you got to be the perpetual adolescence, never learn responsibility, perpetual adolescence, never learn discipline. Think

about Seinfeld. Think about what are these guys, Jerry and Elaine and George and Kramer, what do they do?

I mean, they're thirty five years old and they sit in a coffee shop all day trying to figure out what movie they're going to see that night. And they're trying to figure out they're going to score with that person. What kind of life is that? I mean, look at George. Think about George. Georgia, still Georgia's never cut the cord with his parents sucker, still lives at home. Honestly, think about Kramer, an absolute fool, Jerry.

He's a clean freak organ. You know, he's worried about cleaning. Don't mess up his kitchen. Everything's clean. But he'll sleep with any slut that he can come across. Is why not a pastor anymore? As I talk like this, but you know what I'm saying, don't you? I remember when Magic Johnson came on the news, he got AIDS. So, you know my son, Josh. And so, you know, John and I was in the car driving the boys to school and came over the radio, Magic Johnson has AIDS and I remember Josh in the back seat.

He couldn't believe that. And he said, we're talking about Magic Johnson getting AIDS and. He said, gosh, I don't know if he was seven or eight, something like that. He said, Dad, I hope I never get it. So, you know, Josh, you know what, you can guarantee you'll not get it. Is it you're kidding? I said no, I said no. Some people get it through a blood transfusion, but that probably won't ever happen.

That's so minuscule, the odds of that. But you know why Magic Johnson got it. Because he was having sex with someone other than his wife, I said, you know, the great news is, Josh, if you don't have sex with anyone except your wife, you'll never get AIDS. He says, you're kidding. I said, no, I'm not kidding. He says, For real, Dad. I said, for real. That's what I'm going to do. I said, wait a minute, that's called AIDS research, I'm sorry, but that's AIDS research and you know, in your heart, that's true, isn't it? We were talking.

I said, you know what, Josh, there's a thing called genital warts. He said, what? I said was all kinds of stuff you can get man these guys to sleep around with girls, you know, girls sleep around people, they get these diseases. They don't tell you about this at school, do they? We're just having a teachable moment there on the way to school. He said, you know, that wart you got on your finger, you can't get off. He goes, Yeah, yeah. I said, you know, there's a disease you get and you get and you get warts all over your genitals and they'll never go away [gagging noises]. Hey, I'm just telling you, man, I'm just telling you, Bill Clinton won't tell you this.

They want to fund more sex ed. I'm giving you sex-ed right here, man. They never tell you you can get genital warts, but they never go away, Josh. You don't want that, do you? Just wait to have sex with your wife. You marry godly girl. See, right now, some of you are feeling bad because you already violated that. So what do you do? You run the Jesus Christ. And you repent of that. And you throw yourself on his mercy, you say, Jesus, I don't want to live like this. I need you to clean up my life and I want to be a virgin from here on out till I get married, you'll forgive you.

If you've got a broken heart, he'll forgive you. And when you meet that right individual for you, they'll forgive you. But you can't keep living like kill. You can't keep being irresponsible, you know, you can't be an adolescent forever. You've got to grow up. Don't you? You guys stay with me. Huh? I'm trying to be real subtle here this afternoon.

Here's second thing. What kind of life you want to have at 40? Let me tell you what this guy did. He ruined his life. He was a fool at 40. He ruined his life. Because he wasn't teachable. He wasn't teachable, if you heard Bryan this morning and didn't he do a great job? Guy is a preacher. He teaches the word Brian was talking about the book A Prophet, and he said, you're going to reduce proverbs to one word. Listen. Well, he's dead, right? Listen, are you teachable?

I remember years ago, speaking of Campus Crusade, Christmas conference, like ninety one ninety two in the Denver and they had all this Midwest stuff, all these schools. And I was getting up to speak main session. And there were like six girls from the university, Nebraska, and they were all they came up to. Can we ask you a quick question? I said sure. They said we all want to be married one day. We want have great.

If we could just look for one thing in a man, one trait you could give us that we need to have and a man to marry, what would it be? I didn't have much time, so I said money.

As I said, you know what he said. I thought for a second I said, OK, one trick, if you don't listen, I don't have any time to think this through, but here's what I say to you. Only find one. If you're looking for one trait, find a guy who's teachable.

You marry a guy who's teachable. He's going to be fined. But if he's not teachable, don't you touch that sucker with a ten foot pole. Because he thinks he knows what he's doing, he's not going to listen to anybody, he's going to keep putting his head against the wall, he's going to make mistake after mistake after mistake. You know what insanity is? Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again with the same result.

You've got to be nuts to do that. If you're not teachable, you'll never grow up, you'll grow old, but you'll never grow up. Cramer grew old. Kramer never grew up, did he? You've got to be teachable. Brian says some great things today. So are you defensive? Can people who love you, can they tell you the truth and you know they love you and you know, they're telling you, are you man enough to listen? Are you woman enough to listen?

Proverb says, Many times in an abundance of counselors, there's wisdom and an abundance of counselors, there's victory. It makes sense to listen to older people. But let me tell you, just because somebody is older than you are doesn't mean they know what they're talking about. You need to listen to older godly people. There are all kinds of people that are older than you are. There are all kinds of people who are older than you are who are fools.

You want to be a fool or you want to be a person of wisdom. Once again, it's your choice. It's your call. It's not from here on out. It's not your parents call. It's not your dad's call. It's not your mom's call. It's your call. You're going to be a fool, but you'll be a person of wisdom. And see, guys, you're at the most critical point of your life because the decisions you're going to make

over the next five, 10 years are going to determine what the rest of your life is going to look like. Are you teachable? Do you listen? Do you seek out older people, you respect their walk with Christ and their integrity and what they say ends up with how they live?

Listen to those folks. We'll save you a lot of pain, they'll save you a lot of heartache. Or are you listening to your friend's Bible says bad company corrupts good morals? I can tell you if you're a fool or not by looking at your friends. My son John will tell you that he was a fool for a section of time in his life because of his friends. God worked in his life, John changed his friends. You see, what kind of friends do you have?

This stuff is real simple. What kind of people do you hang out with? I got one more here out of this guy, what's his name, Redbone. Did I do teachable? That was number two. But number three, I don't think I said this, although I just covered it. Number three is he ruined his life because he chose the wrong friends. OK, don't you she was right for it, and you know what that'll mean, that will be there will be times in your life when you won't have any friends.

That's OK. So there's going to be a point in your life where God is going to test you and you're just going to go one on one with the Lord, and quite frankly, in most people's lives, there's a point in your life will be a chapter, your life, where you'll take most of your friends away and it'll just be you in the Lord. It will be a time of isolation in your life and you'll be lonely. And nobody wants that, but we all need that from time to time in our lives because we grow and we develop and we you learn to stand alone.

You're not going. Your life is going to be lousy at 40 if you never learn to stand alone. See, this guy never learned to stand alone. There's something else about him. He loved his friends more than you love truth. Heela popularity more than you love wisdom. And he ruined his life. I got one of the things say about friends that would take some questions. OK, I know how you guys sit that long down there. I'd have to call triple-A to get me up off that floor.

But you're so limber and you're so flexible, that's great. I used to be that way, but I'm not anymore. I digress. Let's talk about one of the thing on friends, find a best friend and Miriam. Let's put some context to that. OK. If you're a girl, find a guy who can be your best friend and marry her, marry him, not her, marry him, check the equipment is what I'm trying to say.

I keep digging myself in on it, but have older, wiser councillors check the equipment. Don't you do it, you know what I'm saying? Are we so screwed up in this nation? We're so screwed up that marriage can be man and man, woman and woman? No, it can't. God owns marriage. God invented marriage.

There's never been a culture in the history of the world that is attempted, that has had the hubris to redefine marriage. Other than the four fools in Massachusetts who wear black robes. And there are fools. Kunsong, 14, says the fool has said in his heart there is no God. And they went to Harvard and Yale and they're fools. There are more fools per square inch on a university campus than anywhere else on the face of the earth. I'm not I'm a Christian colleges, I'm talking about Harvard, Yale, Stanford, UCLA.

There are fools everywhere professing to be wise. They became as fools. They're fools, they're Kramers. They know he exist and they deny him. Now, you know, he's there, so you find somebody you can love and someone you respect. And that you can have a great friendship and partnership with and you go through life together and you'll have a pretty darn good life, you know, you have good times. You have some rough times. She'll get sick. That's OK, he'll get depressed, that's OK, because you're going through together and the two are stronger than one.

It's really good stuff. And you have a great time, you love each other and then you'll have times you can't stand each other, but, you know, there's nonnegotiable. You'll never leave. You just stick it out. You just keep going because it'll get better.

It'll get better. It's for better or worse, it's to report in sickness and in health and all that stuff is going to happen. But you stick it out. And it's really good. And God bless you. I'm just telling you guys. So it's your it's your ballpark, it's your decision from here on out. You can be a fool or can you live wisely and God will bless your life. It's your option. You can ruin yourself by the time you're 40.

My buddy that I talked about in chapel committed suicide was a forty seven when he committed suicide. There are broken lives everywhere around this guy, broken lives. Don't you do that? You follow Christ with your heart, the eyes of the Lord Rome, to and fro about the Earth, looking for those whose hearts are fully his, that he may strongly support them. It's a good life. It really is.

Let's take some questions. All right, let's close in prayer now.

These Q&A things go real good when someone ask a question, otherwise they're pretty boring. Let's get right back here, huh? I'm sorry, you know, I can't hear. Can you speak up a little? Me. Yeah. Yeah, I still feel like, yeah, I rather be here now a little bit. Yeah, right. Sure, yeah, yeah. Well, thank you. Yeah, well, that's very sweet, I thank you for that and I got a great wife and some good friends that tell me when I screw up because I do.

And, you know, problem with a guy like me, I can get too blunt. I can I can be so truthful that I lose kindness. And the scripture says, right, truth and kindness around your neck and those of us that are truth oriented, sometimes we've got to work on the kindness side.

You know, those of you, you know, speak the truth and love, we're all we all go one way or the other. Some of us are very truth oriented. And we can. And we can. You said I'm blunt. Blunt instruments can kill somebody. Right. And I am blunt. You know why I'm blunt? Because I you know, I love you guys, but I do. I want you to have a great life. Down in the Florida Keys, they had these long, long ridges and sometimes a sectional bridge will come out and some ghile cars go into the water and some guy pulls over and he puts his blinkers on and he's running up the the road. He's going like this. Why? He doesn't want people to die. He doesn't want people to go over. That's what I'm trying to do. I'm trying to go ahead.

And some of you were going to get you're going to listen. Some of you go, I'm going to keep going. Seventy five miles an hour and go right into the drink. That's why I'm blunt. I'm telling you, you know what the Bible says, faithful are the wounds of a friend. You've got a good friend there, somebody else. I saw someone back here in the middle there. Yeah, right there. Hi

[inaudible audience question]. Characteristic of a good friend. Sure. Let me talk about who you ought to marry. Because that's really what you want to get to [Audience laughter].

I don't know. No, I didn't mean that, that no, let me come out, I I'm not reading your heart. I'm not saying that's what you want, but ultimately, that's the best friend you ever want. OK, so just I didn't mean to embarrass you. I didn't mean to disparage you. Yeah, I was very blunt, I'm sorry, I didn't mean to do that. Oh. Let me do this real quick. All right, you want a good friend.

A good friend is someone you can share your heart with. They won't go talk about it behind other people, they'll keep confidence. They'll defend you when you're not there. They won't slander you. They won't mock you, your purity. You're going to follow Christ, they won't make fun of that. They'll encourage you in that. A good friend, read Psalm One, the opening statement and Psalm one, it'll tell you the kind of friends to avoid. And then it goes on and I'll tell you kind of person that you need to be and you look for those kind of people.

Let's talk about a friend to marry. OK, we'll give you six things real quick. You guys need to stand up in the middle here, guys. OK, you guys are unbelievable. OK, all right. You ready? You go. Are you can you guys handle this real quick? I don't want to lose you. All right. OK. All right [inaudible audience comment]. I like you. Here's first thing you need to find someone that you're compatible with intellectually. You can you can think alike.

You you don't think the same, but you can think through things together. When you get married, you're going to be thinking through issues together. All right. So let me ask you something.

When you get married, are you going to use credit cards? Or you're not going to use credit cards? When you get married. Are you going to send your kids to public school or are you going to send your kids to Christian school or are you going to homeschool your kids? See, with your husband, with your wife, you're going to have to think that through. So before you ever marry them, you find a person that you can think through issues with to see if you're compatible. Does that make sense? OK, if you can't think it through, if they're not teachable, if anything you bring up, they can't handle it. That's not your person. They're out. They're done. Phht.

You don't need them because you're going to screw up your life. Why would you marry somebody like that? That makes no sense. And you girls, there's a guy that's real controlling. Don't marry that sucker. You don't need some control freak runin' your life. He's not your priest, Jesus is your high priest. Now you have a right spirit before Jesus Christ, but if he's telling you everything, what to do and who to see and all that, that's not healthy and he's not healthy. You avoid guys like that, like the plague! No, I'm serious. And if a guy is like that, you just tell him lovingly, you'll probably get defensive because most guys like that can't handle truth. There's another verification, he's not your guy. Because you can't think things through together.

Let me give you an excellent look for a guy, you're a guy great. Look for someone who you're compatible emotionally with. Do you feel understood by them? When you're down, do they understand that? Do they want to understand? Do they accept you? If they don't, don't, marry'em. You don't need that in your life, you're going to have all kinds of stuff happening out there when you come home, you don't need someone giving you grief. You need someone that will understand your heart. If you don't have that, forget them. It'd be better to live alone.

Here's the third one, but for someone who you're compatible with socially and social situations, are you embarrassed by them and things they say and things they do? Then don't marry them? No, I'm serious. I'm I'm dead serious. Don't marry that person if you're embarrassed by them. All right. Because it's going to keep coming up and keep coming up and, you've got to figure this out before you get married. Um, how many am I at? I have three. You know, you don't know how many I have [audience laughter], what'd we do, emotional? Somebody help me [audience mumbling collectively]. Thanks, intellectual, emotional, did I do social.

All right, here's the next one, volitional, what does that mean, V-O-L-I-T-I-O-N-A-L, that means you make decisions together. So you got to think it through together, then you got to decide together, can you make decisions together before you're married? Where do you want to go tonight? Oh, I don't care. Where do you want to go? Oh, it's not. Didn't matter to me. Where do you want to go? Oh, I don't care. What do you want to do? You'll be there for six years! [audience laughter] You got to learn how to make decisions together. You see, this is real life. People divorce over this stuff. Christian people that go to churches that teach the word of God, divorce over this stuff because they're not compatible.

You know what our culture says? Find out if you're compatible sexually before you get married. "Well, we had to sleep together to see if we're compatible, sexually," you know what, go take biology one on one. You're compatible sexually [audience laughter]. Right. You know what that is? Girls, let me tell you something, that's just some guy who wants to have an orgasm with, you. Now, I'm sorry, girls. Listen, who else is going to tell you this? Don't buy this crap from these

guys, and there are guys like this in this school, in this room. And you guys know who you are. And you ought to be ashamed of yourselves! You avoid those guys like the plague, they are using you.

All right. You know, that's true. You don't need to find out if you're "compatible sexually." You are. So you need to find out if your Campath is this guy compatible you emotionally, socially, intellectually and spiritually. Oh, there's an interesting one. Does he love Christ if he doesn't, though, Daddy? Well, you know, Steve, I'm trying to figure out I'm a Christian and he's not. And I'm praying. What do you praying about? What do you praying about, God, can I violate your will? God, would you give me wisdom here? Would you tell me if I should be an idiot or not? If you're dating a non Christian, you're an idiot. I'm sorry, but you are. You're asking for it. The Bible says you're not to be unio you're not the yolked unbelievers, so don't do it. Imma tell you something, the most miserable woman I've ever met in my life. In 30 years of ministry are women who married unbelieving men. Every day is hell for them. Just telling you straight up, so don't do it. Now, how many did I give you, five.

There's one more, there's one more, and that's the physical. That's the physical side of the relationship. All right, look at that list. I've got a question for you. How many of those areas are developed by touching? I got this from Dr. Grant Howard 30 years ago. It's not my stuff. How many how many of those areas are developed by touching the other person? One, how many are developed by talking to the other person? All right, I took a course in logic one time. I would dedoose that if five areas and developed by talking and one area is developed by touching before you get married, your relationship ought to be characterized by a maximum of talking in a

minimum of touching, because when you touch too quickly, you think you're close and you're not close at all.

Makes sense, doesn't it. And that at a time. I'll take one more right there [inaudible audience comment]. You're talking about having relationships with non-Christians. Sure, yeah, yeah, hey, listen, you can't just, you know. Yeah, you can't live in this chapel every day of your life. Right. Yeah, but you got to have a base, you've got to have a foundation. You just you've got to be salt and light. I'm not saying don't have anything to do with non-Christians. I'm just saying who influences you? You've got to have a base, you've got to have people that love the word of God. There you go. How blessed is the man who doesn't walk in the council of the ungodly or sit in the seat of scoffers, but his delight is in the law of the Lord and he meditates on a day night? That's it.

Someone one more. One more. We're going to take a break right here. Yes. Jealousy. Help me with that. Just real quick [inaudible audience comment]. OK, I got it, all right, if you if you have any suspicions of jealousy, there can be two reasons. Number one, you're insecure. And what this guy needs to do is make you so secure in your love that will never come up in your mind again. You need to know he's a one woman kind of man, he is committed to you with his mind, with his eyes, with his thoughts, with his hands, with his feet. When women go by, he's not he's not checking them out. He's a one woman kind of man. You see, then you're not going be jealous because, you know, he loves you unconditionally.

There are all kinds of pretty girls walking around. But you know what? He loves you. You see, there'll always be pretty girls, there's always, like there's always new cars. Now, don't take this wrong. I'm dead serious now, don't don't get feminist on me here. I'm dead serious. I've had guys say to me, gee, I thought when I get married, I wouldn't see these are the pretty girls. there's always be pretty girls. Don't don't get weird on me here, OK? It's like, you know, you get a nice car, then you bring up new model. I wish I had that. I was you. And that's when a guy starts looking at girls and cars like objects. They're not objects. They're people. They're made in the image of God, women are made in the image of God, they're valuable. They're not cars, they're not trucks, you're not checking them out, looking for a new one. You commit to one. You find a guy that loves you with his whole heart that would die for you and the jealousy issue will go away. I think. If it doesn't, he's not loving you enough or you've got issues where you won't accept the love, you see. But generally speaking, you've got a guy that loves you with his whole heart and you've got his heart, that won't be an issue. You don't get married to find a guy like that. It is over 3:00. Then we're over.

[End of Recording].