

It only occurred to me yesterday when I was speaking to Jack at the Hurstville shopping centre

That his honeymoon would coincide with our family holiday

- I haven't mentioned this to you guys yet
- But I thought we might be able to co-ordinate our holiday

Now as nice as you are – I wasn't thinking that you could come on our holiday with us

- who wants to have a couple of newly weds tagging along like a third wheel on
- what would otherwise be a good family holiday

I was thinking... cause we wont be there... and it would be nice

- to have someone look after the house
- that you could spend your honeymoon at our house in Bathurst

Free of charge – you just kick in for your share of the heating costs

- which may not be all that much
- cause you could just light a fire in the back yard... I know your both
 - o very good with fire

What do you think?

- well before you get too excited
- I just want to let you know if you do come to Bathurst
 - o For your honeymoon

We might need to make a few things about this passage from Ephesians clear

- before you go

Because I know as Christians you want to live according to the Bible

- because you believe that's how God speaks to you
- but can I tell you... Christians... like everyone

Are capable of getting marriage so horribly wrong

- so before you head off to Bathurst... if you accept the great offer
 - o can we just clarify a few things?

- The first thing to get clear... especially if you do start your married life off in the great city of Bathurst is... there is **only one king of the mountain**... in marriage...
 - this is really clear from verse 22 and 23 of Ephesians 5... it says

Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord, for the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church

Jill – I think in many ways this is speaking to you here...but can I just explain what it's saying

This is not saying submit to Jack as though he is the Lord

- it is however saying submit to Jack as you submit to the Lord
- There is only one king of the mountain in life... and in marriage
 - And that is the Lord Jesus Christ
 - This passage is not asking you to worship Jack as Jesus
 - And it's certainly not calling him to see you as his slave

But it is saying something, isn't it, about your relationship to Jack

- the Bible's very clear that men and women are equal before God
 - but this is calling you... in the context of marriage...
 - to follow Jack's leadership
 - as you try and live your life for Jesus

It's not asking ya to obey his laws... When we think of submission... that's what we think

- but it is asking your disposition towards him... your attitude towards him
 - to be one of respect... and love
 - recognizing that God has given him the responsibility
 - of leading this marriage in Christ

- Just picture for a second... on the honeymoon... Jack sitting on a fold up chair

- at mount panorama... admiring the statue of Peter Brock
 - and him saying 'woman... get me a can of softy from the esky would ya'
 - what is this passage telling you to do?

You know... I reckon in that case... this passage is giving you permission

- with all gentleness and your disposition of respect and submission
 - to say to Jack...
 - I'm not quite sure how what you're doing models
 - Christ like headship of our marriage... dear... can we talk about it

Cause... you want to live for Christ... Jesus is the only King... not the husband... not Jack

- that being said though... this passage is calling you to be submissive to Jack
 - it ends by asking the wife to respect her husband

So if or when Jack says something to you like that... Don't just slap him in the face

- Don't just stand your ground **and claim your rights**...
 - Think about how you can love him... and with genuine respect
 - Help him to be the man God wants him to be

Because when Jesus is our king... in marriage... in life... we know it's a good thing...

- **to give up our rights**... to help others follow the Lord... the one true king
 - and as you follow the one true king... this passage is asking you and all wives
 - **to be prepared to give up your rights**...
 - to help your husbands be the man God wants them to be

●The second thing to get clear... and I suspect this is talking more to Jack

- **but the husband has a big responsibility... to be the leader...** look at v 25... it says

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church, and gave himself up for her

- this is the big catch of this passage... you read the first bit of the passage as a bloke
- and you think... I'm the head yes... I rule... I'm the leader... you beauty!

But the leader of what... the head of what... what's your area of responsibility?

- loving your wife and giving yourself up for her
 - congratulations... you're the head of the department of self sacrifice in marriage
 - stick the sign on your bedroom door
 - 'the bloke who'll do anything for his wife'

If I can just take you back to that fold away chair in front of the Peter Brock statue at mount p

- imagine yourself... a bit parched... thinking... gee I could slam a solo down fast
 - you look over and see your beautiful bride
 - What do you do?

Well... I think this passage is calling you to offer Jill your chair... to get her a drink

- I think this passage is asking you to give yourself up... if Jesus is your king...
 - In fact to be the leading giver upperer
 - To make Jill the woman God wants her to be

▼It's funny... they made you do a thousand and one different tests to be a fireman

- but your stepping up to a much bigger job here... a bigger responsibility
- a bigger commitment ... to be the head giver upperer

It'll be hard cause you're a shift worker... and I'll ring you up in 6 months time

- and ask how you're going in your marriage... if you've been praying for Jill
 - if you've been reading the Bible by yourself and with her

And you'll say... I try... but it's hard cause I do shift work... you know

And I'll say... come on mate... man up... remember that very serious commitment

- you made 6 months ago to lead your wife... to help her to be the woman God wants her to be

right now... you've got to stop thinking... how can I fit Jill in around my busy schedule

- and start thinking... a fresh... what am I going to have time to do
 - now that my main priority is helping Jill to follow Christ

This passage is saying both of you... need to give yourself up for this relationship to work

- that's how any relationship works...
 - that's how Jesus calls us to live if we follow him

Jill, it'll be very easy when you watch shows on tele... and look at the marriages of your friends

- to think... marriage is like a trip... down the M4 on your way to work
 - o it's just a means to an end

It's just you in the car... trying to achieve your goals... got the music turned up

- oblivious to what's going on... if another car slows you down... you just pass it
 - o maybe beep the horn or give 'em the finger on the way past
 - o leave it behind and continue on your way.. with your own goals

If you treat marriage like that... if you make it all about what you want...

- **you'll get what you want... but it wont be marriage**
- cause for relationships to work... according to the Bible... ya need a lot of sacrifice

This passage is actually saying that our marriages should be like

- the relationship between Christ and his people

Do you think that our relationship with God would ever work...

if Jesus just said to us... screw you...

- I've got my own plans?

People like you guys and me... and all of us... we needed Jesus sacrifice

- we needed Jesus to give himself up for us... make up for our shortcomings with God
 - o our relationship with God can only work
 - if we accept that Jesus has given himself up for us on the cross to make it work... only by his sacrifice

And this passage is saying... marriage is the same...

- the relationship will only work... when we give ourselves up for each other
 - o when our marriages point us to the greater love..
 - that God has shown us in Jesus

▼ Marriage is a great privilege... you have the chance to love somebody for the rest of your life

- that Passage from John earlier said
 - o greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends

Jesus, God's king, has given up his rights... he's laid down his life for us

It's important to understand that... if you go to Bathurst or wherever for the honeymoon

- don't get sucked into that high octane idea ...that's so tempting
- that life is all about you being the king of the mountain
 - o Jesus laid down his life for us
 - He calls us to lay down our life for him
 - He calls us to lay down our lives for each other

I pray that you would do that... I pray that we would all do that.