

PULPIT COMPANION

**GOD'S DESIGN FOR
LOVE THAT LASTS:
BUILDING WHAT
STORMS CAN'T
BREAK - PART 2**

MATTHEW 1:20-21

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09:45 AM

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In this powerful exploration of God's design for love, we're reminded that prayer is not just about us talking to God, but also about listening intently to His voice.

The story of Joseph and Mary teaches us that sometimes, the most profound prayer is when we 'shut our mouth and let God speak.' This silent, surrendered prayer allows God to realign us with our original assignment, speaking past our emotions and doubts. We learn that love is kept strong when God's voice becomes louder than our uncertainties, and when we position ourselves to hear His whispers beyond our fears.

This message challenges us to seek those moments of divine silence, where God can step in at our breaking point and guide us back to His purpose for our relationships and families.

SCRIPTURES FROM PULPIT AI

- Matthew 1:20-21 - This is directly quoted and discussed in detail.
- Matthew 2:14 - Directly referenced and quoted.
- James 1:4 - Directly quoted.
- Ruth 1:16 - Alluded to when discussing Ruth saying "your people shall be my people, your God my God."





DEVOTIONAL

Day 1: Listening for God's Voice

Reading: 1 Samuel 3:1-10

Devotional: In our noisy world, it's easy to miss God's voice. Like Joseph in his dream, we need moments of silence to hear God speak.

Today, practice intentional silence. Find a quiet place and spend 10 minutes in stillness, opening your heart to God's guidance. Remember, sometimes the most powerful prayer is simply listening. Ask God to speak into your current struggles and uncertainties, trusting that His voice is louder than your doubts.

Day 2: Persevering Through Seasons

Reading: James 1:2-4

Devotional: Life, like love, has its seasons. We experience times of joy and times of hardship. Joseph persevered through difficult seasons, protecting Mary and Jesus even when it meant fleeing to Egypt. What season are you in right now? If you're in a "winter" season, hold onto hope for the coming spring. If you're in a season of blessing, prepare your heart for future challenges. Ask God for the strength to persevere, knowing that steadfastness produces spiritual maturity.

Day 3: God's Design for Relationships

Reading: Ruth 1:16-17

Devotional: Ruth's commitment to Naomi reflects God's design for deep, purposeful relationships.

Today, reflect on your key relationships. Are they built on shared purpose and mutual growth? For singles, focus on finding your calling before seeking a companion. For couples, examine how you can deepen your partnership through humility and dedication. Pray for God's wisdom in nurturing relationships that honor Him and support your spiritual journey.





Day 4: Purity and Passion

Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:3-7

Devotional: In a culture that often devalues purity, remember that boundaries are blessings. Like Boaz, who protected Ruth's dignity, we're called to guard our hearts and honor God with our bodies.

Today, consider areas where you might need stronger boundaries. How can you cultivate purity in your thoughts, actions, and relationships? Ask God to help you see purity not as a restriction, but as a path to deeper, more fulfilling passion aligned with His will.

Day 5: Faith in Action

Reading: Matthew 1:18-25

Devotional: Joseph's obedience to God's voice led to the protection of the Savior. His faith moved "at the speed of obedience." Where in your life is God calling you to act in faith? It might be a relationship that needs mending, a ministry opportunity, or a personal change. Like Joseph, you may face uncertainty or risk. But remember, faith isn't just believing – it's acting on that belief. Pray for courage to step out in obedience, trusting that God's plans are greater than your fears.





SMALL GROUP GUIDE :

"God's Design for Love - Part 2"

Opening Prayer:

Begin the session with a prayer, asking God to open hearts and minds to His wisdom as you discuss the sermon content.

Key Scripture:

Discussion Questions:

1. The pastor emphasized the importance of listening to God in prayer. How can we cultivate a practice of listening prayer in our daily lives?
2. Reflect on Joseph's story. How does his obedience to God's voice demonstrate the power of prayer in relationships?
3. The sermon mentions "seasons" in relationships. Can you share an experience of persevering through a difficult season in a relationship? What helped you stay committed?
4. How does the concept of "purpose before partnership" challenge or affirm your view of relationships?
5. The pastor said, "Perseverance is the glue that keeps love from crumbling under pressure." How have you seen this play out in your own life or in relationships around you?
6. Discuss the statement: "Real love is improving in battles, not butterflies." How does this perspective change our approach to love and relationships?

Practical Applications:

1. Practice the "shut your mouth and let God speak" prayer this week. Set aside 10 minutes each day for silent listening prayer.
2. Identify a relationship in your life that needs perseverance. Commit to praying for God's strength and wisdom in this area.
3. If you're single, reflect on your purpose and calling. How can you pursue these while preparing for a potential future relationship?
4. For couples, discuss how you can better support each other through different "seasons" in your relationship.
5. Write a prayer asking God for perseverance in your most important relationships.





Key Takeaways:

1. Prayer keeps love strong, especially when we listen to God rather than just talking.
2. Perseverance makes love lasting, moving at the speed of obedience.
3. God's design for love includes: purpose before partnership, partnership over preference, purity protecting passion, prayer powering through, and perseverance making it permanent.

Closing Activity:

End the session with 2-3 minutes of silent prayer, practicing listening to God's voice as discussed in the sermon.

Closing Prayer:

Close the session by thanking God for His design for love and asking for His guidance in applying these principles in our lives and relationships.

