**Marriage and Singleness Goals**
Family Matters Week Three

According to Dana Adam Shapiro in his book, “You Can Be Right (or You Can Be Married)”, about 17 percent of marriages are happy.

I think because people go into marriage with wrong or high expectations or a wrong understanding of what marriage is and what it should be.

Jacob and Leah.

He's thinking to himself most likely, if I can just marry this chick, then finally my life will have meaning.

 If I can just get married to her, then finally this marriage will fill the emptiness that I feel so deeply inside.

. The story picks up and says this: **Genesis 29:16-20 NIV**, “**16**Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the older was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. **17**Leah had weakeyes, but Rachel had a lovely figure and was beautiful.

**18**Jacob was in love with Rachel and said, “I’ll work for you seven years in return for your younger daughter Rachel.” **19**Laban said, “It’s better that I give her to you than to some other man. Stay here with me.” **20**So Jacob served seven years to get Rachel, but they seemed like only a few days to him because of his love for her.

, **25**When morning came, there was Leah! So Jacob said to Laban, “What is this you have done to me? I served you for Rachel, didn’t I? Why have you deceived me?” (

Whenever you believe that marriage is the answer, you are going to think that you've gone to bed with Rachel, but you're always going to wake up with Leah.

**TO REALLY BE FULFILLED IN LIFE, YOU HAVE TO FIND THE ONE. God is my One. My spouse is my two.**

**Make Christ my first love.**

**Matthew 22:37-39 NIV**, **37**Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’**38**This is the first and greatest commandment. **39**And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’

We cannot occupy a position that only God was meant to have.

**Make Christ your first love while preparing for your two.**

It’s once you are indifferent to marriage, and be committed to a life of loving union with Jesus then you are in a place where you can experience the joy of marriage. Make Christ your first love.

**Make marriage your first ambition.** The word ambition means a strong desire to achieve something.

This is the thing, you can make God your One, and put other things and other people in your two.

**Make healthy singleness your first ambition**.

**Make your spouse your first passion**. Passion, according to the Oxford English Dictionary, is “a strong and barely controllable emotion.”

1. Pray for greater passion.
2. Cultivate passion.
3. Intentionally affirm one another
4. Do what you once did

**Make JESUS your first passion while waiting patiently for your two**.

**Ruth 1:16 NIV**, “16 But Ruth replied, “Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God.