

Healthy Marriage Tips from A to Z
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Kingdom Focused

Dethroning King Dumb - Matt's Thoughts

I've found that praying the same brief Biblical phrase for several weeks at a time works for me. It is similar to steeping tea. The longer the phrase stays in my head to "brew" the stronger an impact it makes on me. For a couple months now, I've been regularly praying the following phrase Jesus used when he taught how to pray: "Your Kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." My understanding is that I am to be his instrument in making this happen. I want to be a part of bringing God's Kingdom to us, accomplishing His will on earth as it is being accomplished in heaven. I should live to please my King. My problem is King Dumb - that's me - wants to do his own thing. King Dumb has his agenda. King Dumb builds his castle waving his prideful banner. King Dumb feeds his desires. King Dumb cares for others when King Dumb benefits.

Living in our own little King Dumb, or Queen Dumb if that fits you better, is not beneficial to a marriage. The healthiest marriages I have witnessed contain two people with one focus, one purpose, one Lord, one Kingdom. Their lives reverberate another of Jesus' prayers, "Not my will but yours be done."

Don't Mess With My To-Do List - Laura's Thoughts

My world is full of "to-dos". I have writing to do, laundry to do, dishes to do, cooking to do, cleaning to do...a never ending list of to-dos. I get a lot of work done each day. Why? Because I'm driven and am very task oriented. I can knock out a long to-do list and then come back for more. Yes, I'm very good at accomplishing many tasks each day.

What about the kids? What about my husband? What about my church family, my neighbors, the people I run into at the store? *What about them?* Get out of my way - **I have a to-do list**. This is me when I am not being Kingdom Focused. Pretty, huh?

I've had to learn the hard way that life is not about me or my to-do lists. In fact, not only is life not about my to-do lists, it is instead very much about others. People. *God's people*. When I pry my eyes and brain away from my tasks and look instead to the needs of the people God has put in my life, I find that suddenly that laundry pile has very little significance. The clothes still make their way into the washing machine, but my heart no longer dwells on the never ending list of to-dos. When I truly seek to live as Jesus wants me to live, when I stop and listen to what God wants me to do, when I begin to care more about loving others than loving my list...much can be accomplished for God's Kingdom.

Today's to-do list? Focus on God's Kingdom.

