



Marriage Growth-Track

Week 13 - Day 3

Just Say No

So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days, and then he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea." "But Rabbi," they said, "a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and yet you are going back?"

John 11:6-8

Observation:

Lazarus is sick

Going back to Judea

Jews tried to stone Jesus there

Application:

Here the disciples are trying to give Jesus good advice. Imagine the conversation, "Look, they tried to kill you, and that means they don't like you. So why do you want to go back?" For us, that seems like good wisdom. However, Jesus had an agenda, and He didn't allow others to dictate it.

In life, we sometimes allow others to "control" our dreams, aspirations, and even our schedules. There's nothing wrong with listening to wise people's wisdom or advice (scripture is clear on the righteous seeking and listening to wisdom), but if we start giving them the authority to dictate our next steps, then we have practiced poor self-care. God has given us our own unique set of desires, talents, and gifts. He made each of us very unique for the mission of accomplishing His purposes.

Jesus knew His purpose and mission on earth. His disciples meant good by telling Him not to go back to Judea, yet Jesus stayed committed to His agenda. If Jesus would have listened to the disciples, Lazarus would never have been raised from the dead (I'm sure Lazarus was grateful that Jesus didn't take their advice).

We probably won't be raising people from the dead anytime soon, but is there a purpose or a dream you have in your heart to accomplish? Do you allow others to talk you into doing other things that distract you from your purpose? In marriage, our purpose is to love our spouse and make them feel most important in our lives. Learning to say, "no" can be the best word for us to say to others. The boss wants you to stay later to work on a project, but you have a scheduled date night. Saying "no" is the best response. It's simple, but knowing your agenda and not allowing others to control allows you to invest in things that matter most.

Discussion Questions:

1. What unfulfilled dreams or passion do you have?
2. What do you need to feel free to go after your dream or passion?
3. Is there anything in your life right now that you need to say no to, to make a positive contribution to your marriage?

Action Steps:

To help you say no, it's helpful to write up a script beforehand on how you are going to say no. Be clear and to the point.

Prayer:

Father God, we love you and thankful for all You provide for us daily. Give us the energy to serve each other and the ability to receive with a grateful heart. To look for ways to meet our partner's needs and express our needs. Again, thank you for modeling on earth how we are to serve.

