



# Marriage Growth-Track

## Week 7 - Day 2

### Treasures and Crowns

by Jarrod and Katy Wilson

*Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.*

1 Corinthians 9:24-25

For every competition, there is a winner and a loser. If there is a competitive spouse in a marriage, this can be an issue. A competitive person can lose sight of their spouse as someone to be cherished and instead, view them as an adversary to be beaten. Sometimes, in the heat of discussions, being right, or 'winning' the point at hand becomes far more important than peaceably and calmly resolving a conflict. Our human nature gets the better of us and, for whatever reason, we feel the need to be proved right.

This was recently the case for a young couple in our church. Because the wife was a stay-at-home mother and the 'atta-girl' comments were few and far between from her four children, she pushed the point of proving she was right on a particular issue with her husband. She wanted his acknowledgement that she was right on this matter; he refused to concede just over the principle that 'all she every really wanted was just to be right.'

But there was more to it than that: Sure, she wanted the momentary victory in this instance, but here's why: she wanted her husband to see her as smart and to be proud of her. However, in her push to be 'right,' her husband became an adversary, an obstacle to her temporary crown of being right in the moment.

Matthew 6:21 tells us clearly that the treasures you seek to store clearly reflect the matters of your heart. If we are always striving to be the winner in dealings with our spouse, our selfish ambition, ego, and momentary satisfaction come at the expense of our spouse's feelings. Sadly, these victories are usually short-lived and ultimately hollow. However, when we strive for victories with our spouse, not over our spouse, we have treasures of much greater significance that will last considerably longer.

Be competitive, but do it alongside one another, in matters that really matter.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Can you honestly say that you regard your spouse as a treasure?
2. How do you express feelings of mutual appreciation?

**Action Steps:**

1. Do something nice for your spouse this week. A simple gesture can go a long way.
2. Simply say "thank you" to your spouse for the everyday actions that they do ( dinner, laundry, chores, etc.).

**Prayer:**

*Heavenly Father, we love and praise you. Father, we are thankful for the many blessings you have given us. We pray that you will give us humility when we are competitive so that we do not become selfish and unable to celebrate our spouse's accomplishments, too.*