



# Marriage Growth-Track

## Week 7 - Day 4

### Honor and Hurt

by Jarrod and Katy Wilson

*After the Lord had said these things to Job, he said to Elipaz the Temanite, "I am angry with you and your two friends, because you have not spoken the truth about me, as my servant Job has..."*

*Job 42:7*

It's always important to be truthful—especially in matters of marriage. Because marriage is a God-ordained institution, when we speak falsely about our marriage, it follows that we are not speaking truthfully of what God has created. This is what we see in this verse:

- Job was a true and honorable servant of The Lord;
- When we speak untruthfully, we anger The Lord

We all get hurt in life—it's just part of our earthly journey. And since we likely spend a disproportionate time with our spouses over anyone else, chances are they're going to hurt us now and then, too. It's just the law of odds. Which leads to wondering: How do you cherish a spouse who has hurt you?

Look to Job, friends. Job gives us a great example of how we should handle ourselves in times of adversity. He had everything he owned taken away and everyone he loved was killed. Poor guy, he had every reason in the world to be angry and bitter. From a human perspective, it would not have been unreasonable for him to give up on God and tell the world about it while he was doing so.

But he chose not to. Instead, he spoke the truth about his God.

Keep this in mind the next time your spouse does something to hurt you. Resist the temptation to shout your spouse's shortcomings from the rooftops. Hold your tongue in the company of friends and family in lieu of playing the 'poor, pitiful me' victim. Don't give in to corraling sympathy on your behalf and against your spouse. Be strong against the tendency to seek outside validation and condemnation towards your mate. Play the story out. What good will come from turning others against your spouse or making him/her look bad? Will that make the situation better? Will it hasten reconciliation?

Not so much. When we seek outside support for our side of the transgression we don't get the redemption of our self-respect we're looking for. But what we do get is the loss of our spouse's trust and even further deterioration of our marriage. Doesn't exactly seem like a worthwhile course of action, does it?

When we don't allow for mistakes and, even a little stupidity now and then, we are sending a message to our spouse that we are expecting perfection from them and, if not received, we'll take to the airways to let everyone we know about their shortfall. No individual or no relationship can thrive with such unrealistic and threatening conditions always present.

Remember—you don't want a perfect spouse because then they'd have grounds for expecting the same from you. And that keeps everything in perspective.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. How do you show your spouse you cherish them after they hurt you?
2. Do you seek outside support when issues arise?

**Action Steps:**

Share your hurts and needs instead of anger and frustration. Remember, both of you value your relationship. Neither wants to hurt or be hurt.

**Prayer:**

*Father God, we love you and thank you for the blessings that you have given us today. Please be with us daily as we learn to lean on you and grant us the peace to handle the hurtful situations that may come from the one we love the most. Please grant us the wisdom to not respond with bitterness, but to respond in the love that you have shown us for us.*