



Elizabeth Marie Hajian
and
Rex Palma Javar

Saturday August 23, 2014
1:00 pm
Whitehorse Church of the Nazarene

"Dear beloved; we have come together in the presence of God to witness and bless the joining together of this man and this woman in Christian Marriage. Marriage is a holy estate, established by God in creation and signifies the mystery of the union between Christ and His Church. Therefore, the marriage covenant is not to be entered into unadvisedly, but reverently and in the presence of God."

"Who then gives this woman to be married to this man?"

First of all, I want to welcome you to this happy occasion. Together, we have the privilege of taking part in one of the happiest and holiest moments in the lives of Rex and Elizabeth.

Sometimes we think of everyone who comes to a wedding as "witnesses". I want you to know that you are more than witnesses - you are not just an observer. Most every one of you have been a part of the lives of either Rex or Elizabeth. You have invested in them, you have befriended them, you went to school with them, some of you worked with them, many of you rejoiced with them during their time of joy and wept with them in their time of sorrow. And that is why you are here - you *are* a part of their lives. This ceremony would be less meaningful without you.

But this ceremony is not just about Rex and Elizabeth. There is a third party and that is God. This ceremony is not a social occasion with some religious overtones; it is a service of worship, from beginning to end, in which vows are made, prayers are offered and a blessing is given.

And so, we would do well to begin our service by inviting God into this time and place. Let us pray.

[Prayer]

"Rex Javar and Elizabeth Hajian, if either of you knows any reason why you may not be lawfully joined together in holy matrimony, you do now confess it."

"Rex Javar, do you take this woman to be your wedded wife, to live together after God's ordinance in the holy estate of matrimony? Will you love her, comfort her, honor and keep her in sickness and in health; and forsaking all others, keep yourself only unto her, so long as you both shall live?"

"Elizabeth Hajian, do you take this man to be your wedded husband, to live together after God's ordinance in the holy estate of matrimony? Will you love, honor and keep him in sickness and in health; and forsaking all others, keep yourself only unto him, so long as you both shall live?"

Rex and Elizabeth, in just a few moments you will be exchanging vows and entering into the covenant of marriage. It's an exciting moment. It's something that you probably dreamed about long before you even met each other.

On the one hand it is all terribly exciting... and on the other hand it can be somewhat frightening. Not because you are unsure of the person you are marrying, but because so many changes will be taking place.

In the course of time, the two of you will laugh together, you will cry together, you will have celebrations and you will have struggles. But you will be together - so long as you both shall live. That's what makes the covenant of marriage, *Christian marriage*, so special.

- Christian Marriage is not a social contract. It is not some sort of legal agreement.
- It is not even a mutual consent to live with one another, share a home, raise a family, and enjoy a life, together.

Christian Marriage, at its core, is a spiritual event. There is something happening between you, your spouse, and God. There is a connection, not between two, but three.

- So when you make your vows, before this assembly and before God, you are entering into a covenant relationship that includes the Lord Jesus.

The importance of God in a home is highlighted in Joshua 24:15. "*As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.*"

- Notice, Joshua didn't say, "As for me and my house, we will believe in the existence of God".
- In the Bible, the book of James says even the demons believe in God.
- Joshua says, "as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.
- The Lord becomes the center of your lives, even as a couple.
- A lot of people struggle because they try to fit God into the left-over spaces of their lives.
- That never works very well – in fact, it doesn't work at all.
- We need to keep Christ as the center – in other words, everything else, revolves around Him and our relationship with Him.

Rex, if you want to have a strong, vibrant, exciting and meaningful relationship with Elizabeth, you will need to have a strong, beautiful, exciting and meaningful relationship with Jesus.

And Liz, the same goes for you. When the pressures mount, it is your relationship with Jesus that will give you strength and joy and peace even in your relationship with Rex.

We all know how easily a single thread is snapped. Wind two around one another, and well, it

doesn't hold together all that well. But add a third, and now you can braid it into a strong cord.

- The Bible says, a cord of three is not easily broken.
- Again, that includes you, your spouse, and God. That's what makes it strong.

Keep Christ at the center of your marriage and keep your marriage within the fellowship of a Christian community, and in 50 years from now you'll be celebrating a milestone anniversary.

- 50th anniversaries don't happen by accident. Fifty years from today, you won't be celebrating your 50th anniversary because you were "lucky".
- You will celebrate your anniversary because you will have learned what it means to love as Christ loves.
- "Husbands, love your wives as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her".
- Love sacrifices. Love puts the other ahead of one-self. Love abandons selfishness.
- Or, as 1 Corinthians 13 puts it, "Love is patient, love is kind, it does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices in the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."

It is because you want to love each other *in this way*, that you enter into the holy covenant of marriage.

God said it himself, "For this reason, a man will leave his mother and his father and be united with his wife. The two will become one flesh".

- There will be no person on earth, more important than your spouse.
- Not your father, Elizabeth. Not your mother Rex. Not your siblings.
- We are all part of your lives - as we should be - but no one, not a single person, *on earth*, will ever hold top spot, in your heart and in your life, other than your spouse.
- That's something you will need to guard.

Are you ready to make that commitment? If so, then let us proceed.

I would like to ask you now to face each other, joining your hands, and repeat your vows after me, remembering that this isn't just between the two of you; it is between both of you and God himself.

I, Rex Javar, take you, Elizabeth Hajian, to be my wedded wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, and forsaking all others, till death do us part, according to God's holy ordinance.

I, Elizabeth Hajian, take you, Rex Javar, to be my wedded husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, and forsaking all others, till death do us part, according to God's holy ordinance.

Wonderful! I encourage you to print and frame these vows; make them a centerpiece of your life. But you can't carry a framed print with you everywhere - but you can carry rings.

Rings are a symbol of your commitment to one another. They symbolize the permanency of your marriage.

At this time, I'd like for you, Rex, to take this ring and as you place it on your Elizabeth's finger, repeat after me, "This ring I give you as a token of my love and as a pledge of my faithfulness."

And Elizabeth, take this ring and as you place it on Rex's finger, repeat after me, "This ring I give you as a token of my love and as a pledge of my faithfulness."

Earlier in the service, the two moms each lit the candles you see up front. These women gave you life, raised you, but now they also release you. They release you to become one with your spouse. So I invite you to go and light the centre candle together - a new entity. The centre candle will represent your life together in Christ.

[Prayer]

Rex and Elizabeth, in as much as you have consented together in holy wedlock and have given and received rings in token of your pledge, I now declare you husband and wife in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord. What God has joined together, let man not separate.

Rex, you may kiss your bride.

It is a privilege to present to you the new and improved Mr. and Mrs. Rex & Elizabeth Javar.

