



# THISTLEBEND

---

## MINISTRIES

*Taking the Gospel to Heart and Bringing It to Life*

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Homework** - Lesson Two "Of One Flesh" is due next week

**Memory verse** - 1 Peter 3:1-4 ESV

**Valentine Scavenger Hunt** - Valentine's is right around the corner!! Plan ahead now!! It does not have to be elaborate nor perfect :) This is an investment in our marriages!! Valentines Day is on a Tuesday which is a school night so you can always do something the weekend before or after :)

**Created For Another** - Don't forget to read the poem!!

**Question #9 from Day Five** - Don't forget we were to think of 2 things that would encourage our husbands and try to do them this week :) Even a simple "I love you" text goes a long way :)

**TTtoH Step 3** - It will be super helpful if you put some reminders in your phones to help you to remember to be working on implementing your Step 3's!!!

### A Helper Fit For Him

I don't know didly squat. The sum total of what I don't know could circle the planet probably an infinite number of times. And yet, sadly, when I interact with my husband I typically think I'm right. As I sit here and think about this, I'm pretty much stunned by the arrogance of it. Being right, feeling right, looking right, getting it right. I would tell you that I love Jesus, but when I take a step back and think over my interactions with my husband and children, this is what becomes apparent.

In today's lecture Laurie quoted a verse that I know well. I have it memorized and probably would get it "right" every time if you asked me to say it. Proverbs 3:5-7 says, *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and turn away from evil."* Yet knowing something and actually acting upon the truth is vastly different.

Be not wise in my own eyes. Basically this means stop thinking I am right!! Don't lean on my own understanding. Again, STOP thinking I am right!! Acknowledge Him - because only God is right. Trust in the Lord with all your heart - because only God is trustworthy. Turn away from evil - pride is evil.

I believe the key to becoming the wife that the Lord wants me to be is that I must crucify my need to be right. Lay down the idol of "rightness". In other words, repent of my pride and humble myself under the Lord and His word and my husband. There is no safety in "rightness". There is no life in "rightness".

What is the chief end of man? What is the chief end of the wife? It's NOT in being right or getting it right or looking right. The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever. God is not glorified in my "rightness". Self is glorified. However, God can most definitely be glorified in my "wrongness" when I confess my sin and repent of my pride.

I am not helping my husband by continuing to try to prove my "rightness". Instead I am hurting him, our marriage, our children and our witness. Jesus *"did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant..."* (Phil. 2:6-7) *"Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves"* (Phil. 2:3).

In order to become the wives the Lord would have us be, we must admit our need for humility. Will we remain in our "rightness" or will we confess our pride and receive the full and complete and freeing forgiveness of the Lord? The gospel is true. We have to exercise our faith and make a conscious choice to believe it even if we don't feel it. *"If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves..."* (1 John

1:8). If we remain in our rightness we will be deceiving ourselves. On the other hand, *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us AND to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).*

We were created by God for His glory, not to live for ourselves, but for another. We need a lot of grace to understand this and to live this out. I've been alive almost 50 years. Fifty years living in the land of Self is a long time. But God's grace is sufficient. He is showing us the way, the way of Christ, the way of humility, the way of sacrifice, the way of the gospel. When we acknowledge him and trust in Him, He will make our paths straight. It's not going to happen overnight. It's going to take work. We will fall. But God's promises are real and rock solid. He will never leave us nor forsake us. Christ is truly in us and He is our hope of glory.

We have been given a high calling. It is the calling to be Christ to our husbands. To love them more than we love ourselves. This is God's will for us so we can rest assured it will be accomplished. *"And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ" (Phil. 1:6).* The Lord has equipped us for this calling by giving us the amazing gift of Himself. Jesus told us, *"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever" (John 14:16).*

And for the next 7 weeks, He has also given us the gift of this study. I speak to my own soul as I say again, sisters, let us not squander this gift! Let's ask the Lord for grace to put all of our heart into this study, that it would be our top priority. That our marriages would be our priority, no matter how busy we are and even no matter how deeply wounded we are. May He give us grace to believe the truth of His word, *"with man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible" (Mat. 19:26).*

I thank the Lord for bringing us all together for this journey!!  
Much love in Christ,  
Susan