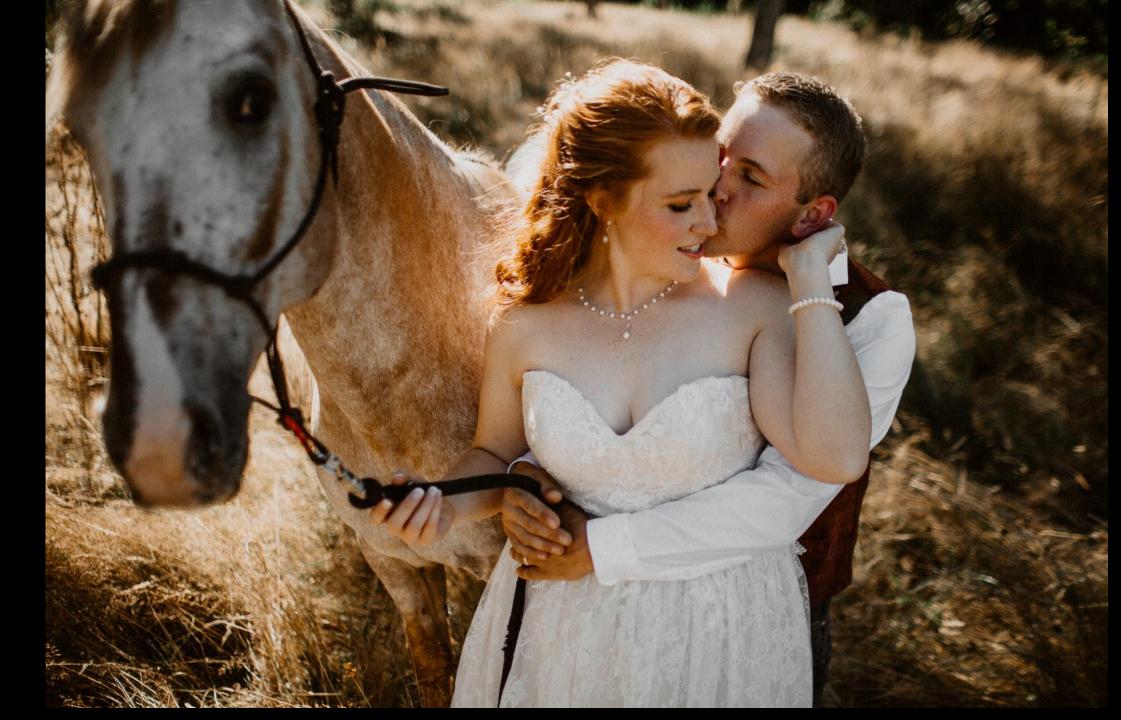
# Messenger:

Marriage—It is a gift worth fighting for!

Malachi 2:16





Malachi 2:15-16

Has not the LORD made them one? In flesh and spirit they are his. And why one? Because he was seeking godly offspring. So guard YOURSELF in YOUR spirit, and do not break faith with the wife of your youth.

Malachi 2:15-16

16 "I hate divorce," says the LORD God of Israel, "and I hate a man's covering himself with violence as well as with his garment," says the LORD Almighty. So guard YOURSELF in YOUR spirit, and do not break faith.

Proverbs 20:5

The purposes of a person's heart are deep waters, but one who has insight draws them out.

- Understand my stuff.
  - How did your family relate to each other?
  - How did your family handle conflict?
  - How were sinful attitudes modeled in your home?

- Understand my stuff.
- Repent of my stuff.
  - I repent to my Father.
  - I repent to my spouse.
  - "How have these patterns been present throughout our relationship?"
  - I receive my Father's grace.

#### **Matthew 7:3-5**

3 "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? 4 How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? 5 You hypocrite, FIRST take the plank out of your own eye, and THEN you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye

- Understand my stuff.
- Repent of my stuff.
- Love the one I'm with.
- Engage with mentors who have weight.

Galatians 6:1

Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently.

- Engage with mentors who have weight.
  - They know the heart and ways of our Father.
  - They know the heart and ways of the person.
  - They guard their heart from getting lost in the fog of toxic empathy.
  - They are courageous.

What are you watching for? What are the clear and subtle threats in your life that you need to watch for? How do you guard yourself in your spirit so that you don't break faith with the wife of your youth?