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A Love Story

Dr. T. D. Worthington

While Adam slept, God was doing something marvelous and wonderful. God was creating him a helpmate so that the man would not be alone. Adam could not help but love her, for she was created by God especially for him. She was the ideal for him, the perfect match, and the perfect compliment. Now, the spark of love that a man can only have for a wife was kindled for the first time. If there be such a thing as love at first sight, this surely qualified as the supreme example.

Adam must have flipped over her. I picture him saying, *"Lord, I don't know exactly what this is ... but I sure like it!"* Eve became the most important thing on earth for Adam. Likewise, at least for a while, he was the most important thing to her. Perhaps, for a time, Adam had enjoyed the companionship

of a puppy or some other pet, but now all that assumed its rightful position far down on his list of priorities. Adam enjoyed a perfect love, in a perfect environment, with a perfect mate, unlike any man has experienced since. For his love was not marred by a history of human sin, failure, and compromise.

Now, the drama of the ages begins to unfold, as a story of love evolves into a beautiful portrait of self-sacrifice.

Act I

We find the curtain rising as Eve enjoys a private moment of solitude. For even in the purest of love relationships, time alone can be important. However, solitude also makes us vulnerable, and at such a moment the serpent comes to her. She is away from the

protection of her husband. This becomes Satan's most opportune time for entrapment. Perhaps she is already near the tree. Perhaps she is already deeply wondering why this particular tree is so special and why a loving God who has withheld no blessing from them, yet has chosen to keep this tree to Himself.

Act II

As if right on cue, Satan enters the scene. More subtle than any beast of the field, he is more than ready for the encounter. This was more than a serpent, it was the serpent. He beguiles Eve into believing that he has something she should want. As she opens her mouth to debate the devil, she loses the battle. We are told to resist him, not try to reason with him. The devil ultimately tells her that it is all a lie; *"thou shalt not surely die."* He would not have

said that at the beginning, but now he sees victory in sight so he has the confidence to expose the true nature of his plan. He tells her that she holds within her grasp the ability to do something that God cannot do, to actually experience evil and to intellectually and experimentally know about sin.

As she continued to look at the tree, as she harkened to the words of the wicked one, she began to fall in love. Not the same kind of love as she had for Adam, but it was love just the same. She found herself in love with an idea and ideal that she did not know up to this point. How hungry am I to experience a love that I have never known before ... a love for the world? (*I John 2:15-17*) We are told that she took of the fruit and did eat.

Act III

Now, Adam enters into the picture. Exactly how much time elapsed between the sin of Eve and the sin of Adam we are not told. Perhaps he saw what she was doing from a distance and quickly ran to her. Perhaps she ran to him and told him of her failure. Regardless of the exact choreography of the moment, one thing I am sure of, during this indeterminate period of time a lot of things went through Adam's mind. For as Eve was "tempted" by love, now Adam is "tested" by love. As Eve pondered over how much do I love the world . . . Adam's question was; "how much do I love this woman?" Adam knew his love was boundless.

Adam was a smart man. He was not a bumbling idiot walking around on all fours as the evolutionist may

picture him. I believe that Adam may have had the most natural and unrefined knowledge of any man that has ever lived. Solomon may have had more wisdom due to the general increase in technology and knowledge, but Adam had great intellectual power. During this period of time Adam began to conjecture a great process of thought. From the time the fruit touched her lips, until the time it touched his lips, what were his thoughts? Let's probe the mind of Adam for a moment.

1. His love for Eve was immeasurable. His was a perfect love for a perfect woman by a perfect man.

2. He knew she was going to die. God had already imparted this information to Adam. This would be hard for any man to take. As one who has experienced such a loss, I can promise, that you will exhaust all possible avenues to avert this from happening. He has just received the report. The undisputed diagnosis is that your wife is going to die.

3. He knew they would now be separated from each other. More than just a death with the hope of one day being together again, Adam knew this was an eternal separation. It's hard to be apart from those we love. Perhaps Adam pondered ... I don't want to be in paradise without Eve. He remembers how empty that garden was before she came, and visualizes how empty it will be when she leaves. Suddenly paradise has lost its glimmer. Sometimes, if you are like me, you may think that your house is too small. Perhaps we need to add on another room. Yet, when your wife is out of town for a couple of days, you feel as if you are living in a warehouse! Suddenly your whole world seems empty.

Adam's heart begins to speak to him: "*I don't want to see the beautiful sunrise if I can't see it with her. I don't want to behold the fragrance of the rose, if I cannot share its aroma with her. I don't care to walk along the banks of the river if I must do it alone. I cannot bear to be separated from her forever.*" It was painful to be alone before, but now after experiencing the joy



of her presence, oh how great the pain will be!

Act IV

Now, Adam remembers a commitment he made even before the fall, at the very beginning of their marriage relationship.

"Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh." (Genesis 2:24)

Who was Adam's father? Before God, his Father, at the first marriage ceremony, Adam made a pledge to stick with her forever; to cleave unto her and to be bound unto her. What were the exceptions? None were given. Did this change due to her sin? It would appear not. At this moment, I believe Adam made a conscious and deliberate decision to save her, or die if need be, in the effort. And should he die, at least he would know he tried. Adam knew that Eve needed help beyond herself. She needed a redeemer. But, they were now eternally separated. They were to enjoy no more fellowship, no more oneness, and no more relationship.

Yes, I know that although it is against Scripture, Christians do sometimes marry lost people. But remember, Adam was totally pure. He was not a sinner saved by grace, for he was never lost. He was spotless, clothed in the glory of God and thereby could have no fellowship with Eve at all. He could not even look directly upon sin. No longer could he behold her countenance as she combs her hair, or as she prepares his favorite meal. Perhaps he is remembering the



times their eyes would meet, and without a word being said, volumes were still communicated. But now all that is gone forever. It will never be again. She needs a redeemer, but how can that be? Eve is the only woman on earth, separated from the only man on earth, and they two are separated by an impassable gulf. A gulf she does not have the power to cross, and Adam is keenly aware of that fact.

Act V

Now, here is a love story that Hollywood could not even come close to matching. What was the grand conclusion of Adam's thoughts? He decides that since she cannot come to him, he must go to her. He must assume her sin, share her guilt, and partake in her penalty. And with the separation removed, they could once again be one! Oh, it will not be as it once was, our relationship will lose its perfection, we will sacrifice our paradise, but we will be together as one. So by love, a perfect and unconditional love, he took the fruit and did eat! Adam perhaps surmised, "I'd sure

like to keep both! I've grown rather fond of this garden paradise. But, I also deeply love my wife. I'd like to keep both. But if I must sacrifice one, I choose to keep my bride." He made her sin his responsibility. He assumed her guilt and accepted the penalty of death that it would ultimately entail.

"And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression." (I Timothy 2: 14)

His eyes were wide open; he knew what he was doing. He may not have understood all the consequences, but he knew the general nature of his decision. He did not stumble into it. It was a calculated decision. He was not deceived.

Now, let's build on this thought of a Godly love leading one to assume sin. These terms do not seem to go together.

"Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who

is the figure of him that was to come." (Romans 5: 14)

Adam was a type of Jesus Christ. God states that Adam's sin was different. It was a transgression of another type. We are told that Adam's sin would become a figure of him that was to come, Jesus Christ. Adam, giving himself for his bride, Eve, became a type of Christ, the second Adam, giving Himself for His bride, the church. You and I sin because we are sinners. Adam did not sin because he was a sinner.

Why did he sin? Simply because he had a perfect love for his wife, an unconditional love that would pay any price. He chose to sin, at his own peril, for the benefit of another. Likewise, Jesus Christ loved the church with a perfect love. She also was deceived by Satan, separated from God, and awaiting the certainty of death. She also could not help herself. She could not come to Him. He knew the only answer was to go to her.

"For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him." (II Corinthians 5:21)

He became sin for us, just as Adam became sin for Eve. When Jesus saw the plight of the one he loved, He considered no expense too great to reestablish that loss of fellowship. Adam did not stumble into the tree any more than Christ stumbled into the cross. Each, in their own way, according to their own ability, made another's sin their personal responsibility. Did Adam make the

right decision? It is obvious that he sinned, but God acknowledges that it was a different kind of sin. What should he do? If he takes the fruit, he disobeys God. If he doesn't take the fruit, he still disobeys God; for Adam was commanded to cleave unto his wife. In the New Testament it is written this way:

"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it." (Ephesians 5:25)



Now, my belief is that any man that truly loves his wife would do the same thing. Being king in paradise would lose its luster without my wife being the queen. There is something divine and powerful about the love a man has for his wife. Even God Himself would call it different. This sin was of another type and character. "Lord, you told me not to eat. But you also told me to stick with her. If I don't eat I will be disobeying you and helping myself. If I do eat, I will

also be disobeying you, but I will be helping her. Lord, I choose to help her!"

I honestly believe that God, who is never pleased with sin, somehow winked at Adam's transgression. Not a wink of acceptance, but one of understanding. You see, that is the very same choice that Jesus Christ would make years later. He would choose to become sin for the benefit of His bride. He could stay in the paradise of heaven, but He chose to go to earth and assume the sin of the one He loved. The resurrection of Christ proved that the Father was pleased with the choice His Son would choose to make.

I know that I don't totally understand love, but I recognize it when I see it, I see it in the love Adam had for Eve, in the love Christ had for the church and, on occasion, even in our earthly relationships. May God help us as husbands to live a life in such a way that our wives will always be aware of the unconditional nature of our love.

As written by Dr. Worthington, this article was originally printed in the February, 2001 issue of CarolinaLIFE, the original name for PathPointe Magazine. It has been one of our most requested reprints. It is now being republished for the benefit of our new subscribers.



Dr. Worthington has been in the ministry for over forty years and serves as President of Pathway Ministries and Christian Bible College.

Radio**bits**

88.7, 90.1, 90.5, 90.9, 91.1, & 91.3

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Jimmy Lee Taylor 1955 - 2021

The **GoMix** family has a huge void as we say goodbye to a great friend and brother in the Lord who went on to receive his Heavenly reward. Many of you know Pastor Jimmy Taylor, or at least you know the sound of his voice. Known as “The Jesus Man” to many, his 5 minute program, “Voice of the Wilderness”, has broadcast on **GoMix Christian Radio** every Monday – Friday at 11:45 a.m. since early in 2008. Jimmy and his wife, Susie, have been long time supporters of our ministry and have always been

willing to help on-air with Share-A-Thons, answering phone calls, or whatever else needed to be done. No doubt busy with his own projects, he’d still always say, “*Call me if you need me, and I’ll see if I can help!*”

A loving husband for just under 48 years to his “rib”, Susie, the couple have been in ministry together for over 30 years. In the early 1990’s, Brother Jimmy held “house church” sharing the Word of God to whoever would listen until 1993, when the Lord led him to build and pastor **Community Church** in Trenton, NC where he has faithfully served ever since. He was a painter by trade, hotdog maker on the side, and a talent for singing while picking a 12-string guitar. It made his day to make someone laugh. He was full of jokes, magic tricks, and always

had plenty of stories to tell. As he did each of these things, there is little doubt he was telling people about his testimony and the Jesus he loved.

Goodbyes are never easy, but at least we have assurance they are only temporary for a believer. We’ll miss you, Brother Jimmy, but we’ll see you on the other side.

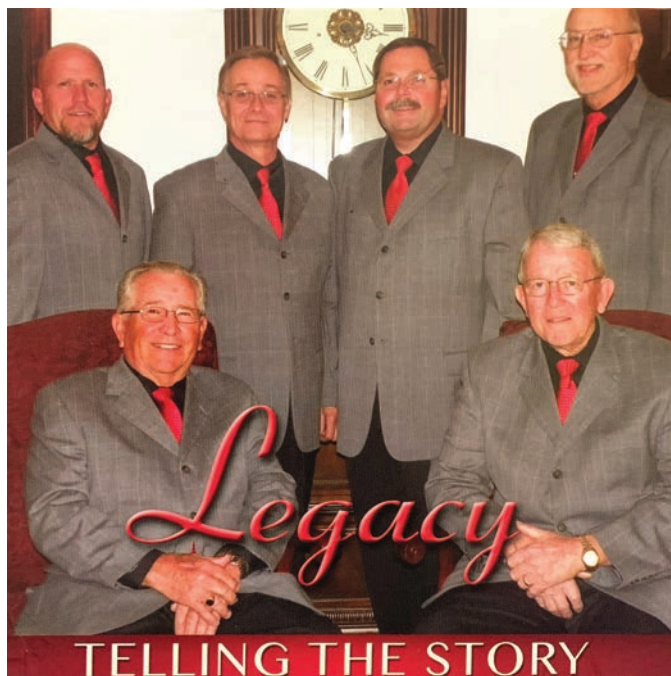
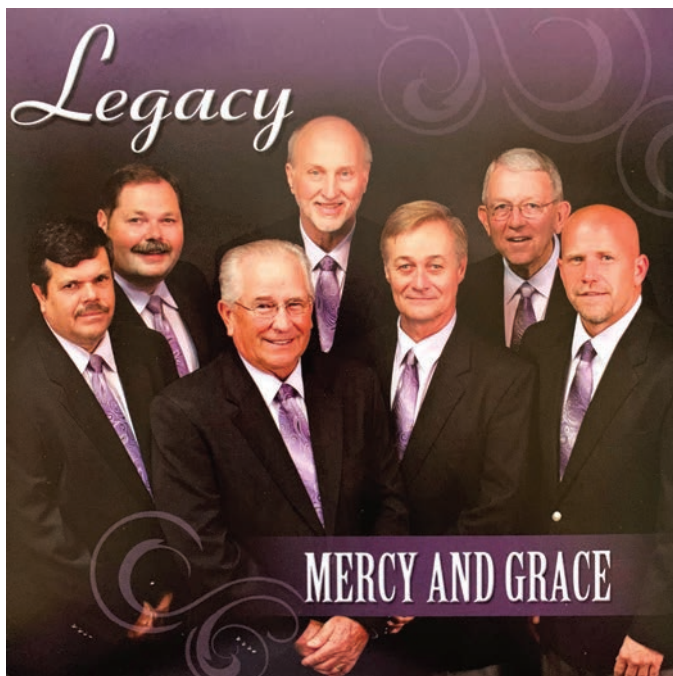


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Artist Spotlight - Legacy to Retire

Since *Legacy's* beginning in April of 1990, we have had a "business" meeting in January of each year to plan our year. We would talk about special projects or singings for the coming year. For the last few years, the word "retirement" would come up, but we never talked about it seriously until our January 2020 meeting. With some hesitation, but with everyone's approval, it was decided that 2020 would be our last full year of ministry. Little did we know what 2020 would bring. After singing in Raleigh on March 7th, the cancellations started coming in because of the Covid Pandemic. A few years back, we had decided to cut back our schedule and were doing about 50 dates per year. In 2020, we sang 18 times. Though we originally planned for more, we thank God for His blessings in allowing us to minister as we did, to God be the glory!

For those of you that have not heard, our tenor singer for the last 10 years, James C. Sauls (JC), passed away on December 20, 2020. Not long after he began singing with us in 2010, he began having some medical issues. He discovered that he was a diabetic and had several surgeries on his foot. By the grace of God, they were able to save his foot. In the next few years, there were several problems he was able to overcome with God's help. About 2 years ago, his kidneys started failing, and he had to go on dialysis. His youngest son, Daniel,

volunteered to give him a kidney. After many tests, it was determined that they were a perfect match. The transplant was to be in March or April, but because of the Covid Pandemic it was delayed. Then the date of August 19th was scheduled only to be delayed again. After several hospital stays for infections and pneumonia, the transplant was delayed until after the first of the year. But late in the afternoon of December 20th, JC got the ultimate healing! Praise the Lord he is not suffering anymore. He is resting in the arms of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Please keep *Legacy*, JC's sons, Daniel and Jay, and all the family in your prayers as we celebrate JC's Homegoing.

And last but not least, THANK YOU! Thank you for the love and support that you have shown *Legacy* for over these 30+ years. Your friendship, prayerful support, and your financial support over the years has been a blessing to us. One of our greatest memories will be the many friends that we have made over the years. Please continue to pray for the members of the *Legacy* Family, and that includes all current and former members and our families. And please know that you are in our prayers as well.

With all our love,
Legacy Ministries

MOVING FORWARD



Rev. Michael Williams

“Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.”

Isaiah 43:18-19

Paraphrase: Forget about what’s happened; don’t keep going over old history. Be alert, be present. I’m about to do something brand-new. It’s bursting out! Don’t you see it? There it is! I’m making a road through the desert, rivers in the badlands.

Believers, this is the essence of redemption!

I know it can be difficult for a Christian to move forward following times of failure. We tend to allow our guilt to keep us focused on our past failure. This is not God’s plan for you. Christians, please don’t allow your past to hamper you for the cause of Christ. Once we have come back into a relationship with God, He is wanting us to grow in Him and fulfill the plan and purpose He has for our lives!

If God has forgotten our past transgressions, shouldn’t we also forget? If God is wanting to do a new thing in our lives and ministries, shouldn’t we thankfully receive and proceed? If God is wanting to refresh us, shouldn’t we gratefully receive and be renewed? The answer to these questions is an obvious yes!

Christians, follow God’s Word and forget the former things. Allow Him to do that “new thing” He is wanting to accomplish in your life and ministries! It’s all a reflection to the world of His wonderful redemption and glory!



Rev. Michael Williams was in the ministry for over twenty years. A long time supporter of GoMix Christian Radio, Pastor Williams has recently been called home to be with our Lord.

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Love Is Blind... Or is it?

Mrs. Sherry Worthington



What do young people think about when they are “in love”? One thing for sure, it is not laundry and bills. When young couples are looking at marriage, their minds are usually on one thing. They want to spend every waking minute with the person of their dreams. Oh, he or she has some small areas of concern, but it will all go away once they are married.

I find this to be especially true of young people who have not lived on their own or been made responsible for their own care. We did try to prepare our children for the realities of life by making them responsible for their own bills and their day-to-day responsibilities. They all knew

how to work in the yards and do their own laundry, as well as keep the house clean. I guess the girls knew how to cook better than the guys, but all of them could figure out how to find something to eat.

But no matter how we tried to prepare them for the day they were to be married, it was impossible to prepare them for living with someone for the rest of their lives. I guess love truly is blind, or is it?

My husband preached a message recently that really hit home. If we would ask ourselves the questions he posed to our congregation, it would help in all relationships, especially marriage. Are you ready to be honest?

What is it that makes you difficult to live with? Wow! What a question? Of course, you realize it is my husband that is asking this question. My first thought was “Yikes! I wonder how many ways he thinks I am hard to live with. It can’t be many. I am just wonderful. No one would have a hard time living with me.” Just kidding, at least about the being wonderful stuff. **Proverbs 21:9** states, ***“It is better to dwell in a corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman in a wide house.”*** Before you point the finger, Fellows, that applies to men, too.

Married couples learn very quickly how to sin against one another. We learn how to inflect our tone of

voice, how to look at each other in a way that hurts, and what words to use to sting. We know what history to bring up that might help us twist the point of our blade. Marriage can reveal more about us, in our sin, than we ourselves knew.

Now, we also can quickly learn how to give one another joy. We know how to make life easier and how best to serve each other. And all of us are still learning. To be loved by someone who knows me for who I am is an act of sheer grace. Being one flesh is a wonderful challenge, but with the Holy Spirit, it can be a successful challenge.

What kind of marriage do we have or want to have? If we can ask ourselves some honest questions, perhaps we can be on the road to heaven on earth.

So, what makes us difficult to live with? That is a hard question. We must first admit we are not always a joy to be around. Then we must perform some deep introspection. All of us have personality traits or preferences that may not be sinful, but they do make us challenging to get along with. And guess what? Our spouse cannot escape. He or she is stuck with us.

Are you a neat person married to a sloppy person? Are you a loud person married to a quiet person? Are you an on-time person married to a late person? The questions are endless. You list your own.

We all have weaknesses, but our mates know them all. Living with someone exposes them quickly. Pride tells us it is our mate's fault. They just need to get over it and do things our way.

We all have our quirks to consider. How do we react to certain situations? Try filling in the blanks.

“When I’m annoyed, I tend to....”

“When I feel hurt I sometimes....”

“When I’m extremely tired I occasionally....”

“Concerning money, I can be a bit difficult because I...”

“I guess I fret a bit about....”

“I’m usually obsessed by....”

And of course, this list is endless, too.

Humility allows us to be aware of the ways we make things

hard on our spouses. It also enables us to serve them better, helps us avoid opportunities for misunderstanding, and makes our mate feel listened to and cared for. Confessing weaknesses also allows for healthy expectations, as your spouse knows that you are aware of your weaknesses and are trying to deal with them.

Answer that important question, **“What makes you difficult to live with?”** After you have been completely honest with yourself the next question is, **“Are you willing to work on these difficulties?”**

We have already gone through the pain of admitting how difficult we are to live with, now we have to be willing to work on it. I guess it depends on what type of marriage we want and how much we love our spouses.

When we have a beautiful marriage, we bring glory to God. The Scripture teaches that if we wish to bring God glory it is often through our weaknesses. **Hebrews 11:32** shares many Bible saints that did many mighty things even though they were weak. They were willing to



overcome their weaknesses for God's glory.

Okay. What comes next? ***“Are you willing to confess and be forgiven?”*** Are we ready and willing to obtain victory and make things right once and for all? We must be certain our attitude is one of genuine godly sorrow—the kind of sorrow that leads to repentance.

We must check our motives before confessing. We must ask ourselves why we want to make this confession. Do we have our mate's best interest at heart, or are we thinking primarily of ourselves?

It is vital to get it all straight in our minds before we open our mouths. We must get it straight that we genuinely want to repent, that we genuinely want victory, and that we want it for the glory of God. We want it for the benefit of our spouses and others that may be impacted, and finally for our own well-being and spiritual growth.

And finally, ***“Are you willing to grow through your weakness?”*** The Lord can use our trials for good. I can look back from my childhood until now and see how the different trials of my life have been used for my growth. God has taught me in so many ways through my weaknesses.

I am still growing through the weaknesses. They are not all conquered yet, but praise God many have become strengths. It has not been an easy road. Recognizing my weaknesses was a hard step. I am sure there

are more I have not admitted to myself yet.

On our drive home after the Sunday message, I asked my husband in what ways was I difficult to live with. Of course, I braced myself because I sincerely wanted to know. I began to list a few that might annoy him, and he just smiled. He said that those things were not important, and they did not annoy him. I jokingly called him a liar. He said, *“No sweetheart, there is*

nothing about you that is difficult. I have decided those things are not important.”

I guess love is truly blind, or more accurately, it chooses to be.

This article was based on T.D. Worthington's sermon *“Are You Difficult to Live With?”*



Mrs. Worthington has five children and twelve grandchildren. She serves as Principal of Pathway Christian Academy in Goldsboro.



GoMix Update - Mike Farley

When one person is missing from a small ministry, it's hard to get those shoes filled. It's a great reminder of just how valuable each and every person is. As most of you know, Brother Mike Farley has been out for a while after some medical issues requiring heart surgery. Likewise, many of you have been praying for him, and we know it is much appreciated. You have missed the sound of his voice over the past few months. We sure have missed him, too. We wanted to update you and let you know that Mike is slowly recovering and will hopefully

be back on the air when he is medically cleared to do so.

Don't think we're letting him off that easy though! Thankfully, Mike is still able to help us out a little bit from home. He's scheduling music, making song charts, and corresponding with artist promoters and music companies. A big help!

Please continue to keep Brother Mike and his family in your prayers as he heals and regains his strength.

And Finally...



Our Engagement...

Our engagement was very simple. I was wearing cargo pants (to hide the ring) and a sweatshirt, and she was wearing capris and a sweater. We took a walk in the neighborhood she lived in. I think the best part about it is that she had absolutely no idea it was coming until I pulled the ring box out of my pocket. We talked about getting engaged, and I knew she wanted a private proposal, so it was perfect for us. I told her why I loved her and wanted to marry her. She said, "Yes." I know some people like really over-the-top proposals, and that is fine for them. We've always felt that less is more, and it definitely worked for us.

D. B.

My husband proposed in the park on a snowy day, reminiscent of our very first date. We went for a walk in the park, and we stopped at a beautiful tree covered with snow. I was completely unsuspecting of what was about to transpire. He got down on one knee and said something to the effect that he could not imagine his life without me in it, he did not want to spend another moment apart, and I would make him the happiest man in the world if I became his wife. It was something like that; corny, romantic, true, heartfelt, and a total surprise. All in all, it was the perfect proposal for us.

M. A.

We went out to eat at one of my favorite restaurants for lunch one weekend. Afterwards, we took a walk in a local park. After walking for a few minutes, we crossed a little stream, and he got down on one knee and said the most wonderful and romantic things. I was so excited that I was just jumping up and down, and he had to ask again, "So, is that a yes?" I screamed "Yesss!" He also had hired a hidden photographer so we have all the photos from the engagement in the park!

S. F.

This is super cheesy, but here goes... I adopted a puppy shortly after my husband and I started dating, a little beagle. He was just as stubborn and loud as me! That little dog was a big part of our dating lives together. He went for walks with us, went to visit relatives, and watched TV with us. Before long, I was calling my future husband the "dad" of my dog. One afternoon, we were grilling out at my parent's house. I was sitting out in the yard by the grill with my parents and my little beagle, Jack, came running up with a note attached to his collar. I pulled off the note, pet Jack on the head, and began to read the words, "Please say yes to daddy!" I looked around and saw my husband on bended knee holding out an engagement ring. He shouted, "Will you?" The rest was a happy history.

W. W.

"Husband Appreciation"

We'd like your help for an upcoming edition of "And Finally..."

Husband Appreciation Day is in April! Write to us in 150 words or less and tell us what you appreciate about your husband.

The deadline for submission is February 28, 2021.

You can send an email to:
share@gomixradio.org

Attn: PathPointe Magazine

Or write to: Pathway Ministries

PO Box 1895
Goldsboro, NC 27533

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