



October 12, 2025

United - Ephesians 5:26-33 - Marriage Garden - Water Part 2

SUMMARY: In this sermon, we continued our journey through Ephesians 5, focusing on the metaphor of marriage as a garden, specifically the role of "water"—the nurturing influence wives bring to the relationship. We explored how words and attitudes can either nourish or poison the marriage, using the story of David and Michal from 2 Samuel 6 as a cautionary tale about how even well-intentioned correction can go terribly wrong if delivered without grace. The message highlighted the unique power wives have to build up or tear down their husbands through their words, and the deep insecurities men often carry as a result of the fall. Through personal stories and biblical wisdom, we were challenged to use our words to bless, not curse, and to focus on moving forward together rather than digging up the past. The call was to be intentional in nurturing our marriages, choosing grace, encouragement, and a forward-looking perspective.

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 5:26-33; proverbs 18:21, 12:4; 2 Samuel 6:20-23; Hebrews 12:15; James 4:1,6

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

1. Think about a recent disagreement or correction in your marriage (or a close relationship). How was it handled? Was it more like Michal's approach or more gracious? What could have been done differently?
2. Wives: The sermon said your words have a unique power to either build up or tear down your husband. Can you remember a time when your encouragement made a difference in his life? What about a time when criticism hurt more than you realized?
3. Husbands: How do you typically respond when you feel criticized or disrespected? Are there insecurities you carry that your spouse may not know about? How could you communicate these more openly?
4. Are there old wounds or past mistakes that keep coming up in your marriage? What would it look like to "look through the windshield" instead of the rearview mirror? Is there something you need to forgive or let go of?
5. The sermon challenged us to be intentional about blessing our spouse with our words, actions, and attitudes. What is one small, specific way you can do this for your spouse this week?
6. When you notice something that needs to be addressed in your marriage, how can you make sure your words are graceful, timely, and private? What practical steps can you take to avoid public or harsh criticism?
7. The message said, "If your husband is the king, that makes you the queen." How does this perspective change the way you see your role in your marriage? What would it look like for both spouses to "reign" together with grace and encouragement?