



193 Nana Sita Street. Corner Paul Kruger Street, Pretoria Central.



MARRIAGE DEVOTION – 15/04/2020

TOPIC: THE IMPACT OF COVID 19 LOCKDOWN AND ITS LONG-TERM CONSEQUENCES TO OUR MARRIAGES AND FAMILIES

By Preacher: S. Netshiya

1. INTRODUCTION

I guess this lockdown period is highly cherished by women because we as husbands has not been around either physical or even emotionally.

Deuteronomy 24:5 is the most favourite scripture by most women because God came out very clear to defend them against the busy schedules of most husbands. Ever woman appreciate quality time with her husband.

It is therefore time that both of us can take advantage of this lockdown to **claim back our marriage from the devil, hence our topic last week which most of you may not have received the clip because it was only distributed through the what sup platform.**

Today's topic is about assessing the possible impact of the 35-days lockdown (in South Africa, other countries have different period). The lesson will further look at the long-term consequences of the COVID 19 lockdown to our families and the application of our Christian duties.

2. BACKGROUND

The introduction of lockdown was a shock to the family system because for once, couples and children found themselves locked up under one roof for this long period. Some of us are normally working away from each other in different cities and only get to meet over weekends or sometimes once a month or during holidays.



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The introduction of lockdown in other countries (China and the USA) have unfortunately resulted in high number divorces and family violence (according to the Herald 05 April 2020)

In South Africa, it was reported that the Gender Based Violence and Child Abuse cases have increased beyond the normal trend during this period. This is according to the ministerial report and the SAPS report published last week.

It is therefore clear that this lockdown (**FORCED PROXIMITY**) has negative impact to some families and the same may happen to us if we don't find coping mechanisms to survive this period. However, it is not only the negative impacts that this lockdown can have in our families, but it can have some positive outcomes.

Let us now consider these potential impacts and how to avoid the negative impacts

1. The lockdown may either strengthen or weaken your family focus on the KINGDOM of God – Matthew 6:33

- a. Children are not going to Sunday Schools any-longer and parents are not going to church. This may weaken the child spiritual development
- b. Like Priscilla and Aquilla in Acts 18:23-25, invest some of this time in studying the Word of God and praying together.
- c. This is the time for partners to answer ask different questions and request for clarity in certain scriptures – 1 Cor 14:35
- d. If your spouse is not a Christian **yet**, this is the time to show her/him more love than ever before. Invite him/her in your bible study sessions. Your spouse will follow you after to church services after this lockdown because of your love and humility displayed during this lockdown period – (1 Peter 3:1-2)



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2. TIME TO IMPROVE UNDERSTANDING EACH OTHER AND REDUCE

CONFLICTS: TIME FOR FAMILY BONDING

- a. Under normal circumstances, couples have a way to avoid each other or avoid facing certain weaknesses on each other by using the backdoors (Church activities, work, sports, visiting friends etc)
- b. Some people are still doing so by spending so much time on social media, chatting with friends whilst you have this wonderful opportunity to communicate freely and playfully with your partner.
- c. This is not the time for unnecessary conflicts and angry busters because you will be so lonely yet in the house with someone – Ephesians 4:25-26

d. **WIVES : Time to reduce complaints and quarrels**

- ◇ [Proverbs 21:9](#) : It is better to live in a corner of a roof
Than in a house shared with a contentious woman.
- ◇ [Proverbs 21:19](#) : It is better to live in a desert land
Than with a contentious and vexing woman.
- ◇ [Proverbs 27:15](#) : A constant dripping on a day of steady
rain And a contentious woman are alike;
- ◇ [Proverbs 19:13](#) : A foolish son is destruction to his father,
And the contentions of a wife are a constant dripping.

e. **HUSBANDS: TIME TO SEEK TO UNDERSTAND YOUR SPOUSE AND YOUR CHILDREN BETTER THAN BEFORE (HIS NEEDS and HER NEEDS)**

- f. Ephesians 6:4 "Fathers,^[b] do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the **training and instruction** of the Lord.
- g. This is the time for training your children the way of the Lord
- h. 1 Peter 3:7 "Husbands, in the same way **be considerate as you live with your wives**, and treat them with respect as the weaker



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partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers”.

i. **Husbands – be Kind to your wives and listen to them attentively**

Esther 5:1-3 “On the third day Esther put on her royal robes and stood in the inner court of the palace, in front of the king’s hall. The king was sitting on his royal throne in the hall, facing the entrance. ²When he saw Queen Esther standing in the court, he was pleased with her and held out to her the gold scepter that was in his hand. So Esther approached and touched the tip of the scepter. ³Then the king asked, “What is it, Queen Esther? What is your request? Even up to half the kingdom, it will be given you”.

3. Creating the Bond

- a. Watch those crazy TV shows and movies together (date my family, perfect wedding, Johannesburg housewives etc)
- b. Talk about the good and the bad from the shows that you are watching because its not everything on TV that we should adopt in our families.
- c. This is the time to appreciate your spouse for who he/she is and not complaining about what he/she is not
- d. This is time for reconnection, confessions, forgiveness and renewal of vows – until death do us part
- e. Learn to listen to each other intimately

4. TIME TO LIGHT UP THE FIRE ONCE AGAIN

- a. Play those soul touching music albums, trying to reconnect to the good old days
- b. This is the time to take your love to a different level



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5. LONG-TERM IMPACT: ADJUSTMENT AS A FAMILY

This is the time to start answering the following HARD questions:

- a. How do we adjust our work schedules and patterns to avoid attracting COVID 19 in the family?
- b. How does the outbreak impact our way of practising love and hospitality to friends and church members?
- c. What is our position regarding welcoming visitors in the house even after the lifting of the lockdown?
- d. Do we give people lift in our car/s or they are now strictly family cars?
- e. Are we going to host the home-cells and marriage classes in the future?
- f. Do we share in the meals that are prepared at church for fellowship?
- g. Do we or our children participate in church outings (social gatherings)?
- h. Our house maids and servants – are they allowed to visit families and friends during their off-period?

6. CONCLUSION

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If you need any prayers for your marriage during this time, send a message to 082 328 3849 and the elders of the church will pray with you!

May God Bless Your Marriage!