Husbands, love your wives … (Eph 5:25)

Part three

I heard a story once about an island kingdom where things were bought and sold for shells. The king was looking for a bride for his son. To the best of my memory the story goes something like this.

People from around the island were bringing their daughters hoping that the king would choose her to be the princess. They wanted to give their daughter to the prince because they valued the prince. But the king was wise and said he would not accept a gift bride for his son. He would give the family a gift if their daughter was selected by the prince. I think he promised 100 shells. The young man searched the island and found the woman he wanted to be his bride. People were surprised at his choice. She was not the prettiest woman on the island. She was not a particularly good cook. Her sewing was average. When it came time to give her father the shells, he declared that she was not worthy of 100 shells. The father agreed and offered to accept 50 shells. The young man said, “You do not understand. She is not worthy of 100 shells – she is worthy of 1,000 shells.” When the people of the island heard that he gave 1,000 shells for his bride, her value went up in their eyes. Her value went up in her father’s eyes. Her value went up in HER eyes.

Do you have a 100-shell wife? Have you discounted her to 50 shells? Maybe 5 shells? In the Son’s eyes, she is a 1,000-shell wife. Jesus shed His own blood for her.

Do you think your marriage problems are because your wife doesn’t try to meet your needs? Have you tried holding her up to the Light of the World to look for the rainbow of light, the sparkle that you once saw in her? When was the last time you listened for the clear sweet song that comes from a proper touch?

If you refer to her when with your friends as “my old woman” – she is a 5-shell wife.

If you tell your kids how unreasonable she is - she is a 5-shell wife.

If you yell at her - she is a 5-shell wife.

If you let your kids do something that she said they cannot do - she is a 5-shell wife.

If you complain about her cooking - she is a 5-shell wife.

If you roll your eyes at her when she is talking - she is a 5-shell wife.

If you are unwilling to mute the TV when she is talking to you - she is a 5-shell wife.

If you sigh when she asks you to do something around the house - she is a 5-shell wife --- to you.

Not to God.

Love your wife! It is choice, not a feeling. She will be how you treat her. You may have spent years treating her as just a common vessel. It will take you years to re-establish her true worth. Trust me – it is worth the effort!

Maybe I have convinced you to try. As I am sure you have heard it said – Do or Don’t, there is no TRY! It’s a simple choice – a choice you will have to make every day. Make the choice to pay 1,000 shells for her. See her as a 1,000-shell wife and she, as well as everyone around her, will start to believe that she is worth every shell.

I dare you to prove me wrong.

Tom