

# On Marriage

04 – Jacob

Marital Disorder



# Welcome!

Thank you, Father Saroky. Thank you Paul Jonah

## Welcome Everyone!

### A Bible Study in 8 Parts On Marriage

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1	March 13	Prologue	Bird's Eye View
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2	March 27	Eden	Marital Union
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3	April 3	The Flood	Moral Imperative
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4	April 24	Jacob	Marital Disorder
	5	May 14	Egypt	Material Comfort
	6	May 28	The Desert	Inner Journey
	7	June 5	The Cross	Marital Crucible
	8	June 26	The Church	Marital Strength

### Format

- Talk 7:00 – 7:55 p.m.
- 5 min break
- 30 min Q&A

### Target Audience

- Catholic
- Adults
- Children at Parents' Discretion

### Style

- Direct (2 x 4)
- Detests Ambiguity
- Aims at Catholic Living

### Bible

- RSVCE (Ignatius)
- Litteral Meaning

### What to Bring

- Notepad
- Bible
- Water

### Q&A Ettiquette

- Questions, not homilies
- Stay on topic
- If I don't know, I'll say so



OUR LADY  
Of  
MOUNT  
CARMEL

# Qr-Codes

## The Third Talk

[Qorbono.com](http://Qorbono.com)  On Marriage.

## Phone Your Questions





OUR LADY  
Of  
MOUNT  
CARMEL

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth.

O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations, Through Christ Our Lord,

Amen.

# On Marriage

04 – Jacob

Marital Disorder



OUR LADY  
Of  
MOUNT  
CARMEL

# What We'll Cover

1. Divine Curses in the Old Testament
2. One Key Question
3. On Faith
4. Jacob's Discord
5. Q&A



# Divine Curses

In the Old Testament





OUR LADY  
Of  
MOUNT  
CARMEL

# Old Testament Divine Curses

## 1. Genesis

Genesis 3 – **The curse upon the serpent, Eve, and Adam after the Fall.**

Genesis 4 – The curse on Cain for murdering Abel.

Genesis 9 – The curse on Canaan (Ham's son) by Noah.

## 2. Exodus

Exodus 7-12 – The Ten Plagues on Egypt (divine punishments).

Exodus 20:46 – **The curse upon idolaters in the Ten Commandments.**

Exodus 23:20-33 – God's promise to drive out the **Canaanites** and curse those who oppose Israel.

## 3. Leviticus

Leviticus 26 – Blessings for obedience and curses for disobedience.

Leviticus 20 – Curses related to idolatry, **sexual immorality**, and child sacrifice.

## 4. Numbers

Numbers 12 – **Miriam's leprosy as a punishment for opposing Moses.**

Numbers 16 – The earth swallows Korah and his followers.

Numbers 21 – Fiery serpents sent as a punishment.

Numbers 22-24 – **The attempted curse of Balaam (but God turns it into a blessing).**





OUR LADY  
Of  
MOUNT  
CARMEL

# Old Testament Divine Curses

## 5. Deuteronomy

- Deuteronomy 11:26-28 – A blessing for obedience, a curse for disobedience.
- Deuteronomy 27-28 – The blessings and curses of the covenant pronounced at Mount Ebal and Mount Gerizim.
- Deuteronomy 29-30 – Curses for breaking the covenant.

## 6. Joshua

Joshua 6:26 – Joshua curses the one who rebuilds Jericho.

Joshua 7 – Achan's curse and execution for stealing from Jericho's spoils.

## 7. Judges

Judges 9 – Jotham's curse on Abimelech and Shechem.

Judges 21 – A curse on those who do not aid Israel in battle.

## 8. 1 & 2 Samuel

1 Samuel 2 – Eli's household is cursed for corruption.

1 Samuel 15 – Saul is cursed for disobedience.

2 Samuel 3:29 – David curses Joab's household.

2 Samuel 12 – Nathan's prophecy of suffering on David's house after his sin with Bathsheba.



OUR LADY  
Of  
MOUNT  
CARMEL

# Old Testament Divine Curses

## 9. 1 & 2 Kings

- 1 Kings 13 - The curse on King Jeroboam and the false prophet.
- 1 Kings 21 - Elijah pronounces a curse on Ahab and Jezebel.
- 2 Kings 2 - Elisha curses mockers, and they are mauled by bears.
- 2 Kings 5 - Gehazi is cursed with leprosy.

## 10. 1 & 2 Chronicles

- 1 Chronicles 10 - Saul's death as a divine punishment.
- 2 Chronicles 21 - A plague is sent on King Jehoram.

## 11. Psalms (Curses in the form of imprecatory prayers)

Psalms 5, 7, 10, 35, 58, 59, 69, 79, 83, 109, 137, 140 - Prayers calling for divine judgment on the wicked.

## 12. Proverbs

- Proverbs 3:33 - "The Lord's curse is on the house of the wicked."
- Proverbs 26:2 - "Like a sparrow in its flitting, a curse that is undeserved does not come to rest."



# Old Testament Divine Curses

## 13. Isaiah

Isaiah 5 - Woes (curses) on the wicked.

Isaiah 24 - **The curse on the earth due to sin.**

## 14. Jeremiah

Jeremiah 17:5 - "Cursed is the man who trusts in man."

Jeremiah 25 - **The cup of God's wrath against the nations.**

## 15. Lamentations

Lamentations 3 - The suffering of Jerusalem as a divine curse.

## 16. Ezekiel

Ezekiel 14 - Curses on idolaters.

Ezekiel 34 - **Judgment against false shepherds.**

## 17. Daniel

Daniel 9 - **The curse of exile due to Israel's sin.**

## 18. Hosea

Hosea 4 - Curses due to **Israel's unfaithfulness.**

Hosea 9 - The curse of **barrenness** for Israel.



# Old Testament Divine Curses

## 20. Amos

Amos 4 – “Yet you did not return to Me” (series of judgments).

Amos 5:18-20 – The curse of the Day of the Lord.

## 21. Micah

Micah 6 – Curses for corruption and injustice.

## 22. Nahum

Nahum 3 – The curse on Nineveh.

## 23. Habakkuk

Habakkuk 2 – Woes (curses) against wicked nations.

## 24. Zechariah

Zechariah 5 – The flying scroll, a symbol of a curse.

## 25. Malachi

Malachi 2 – **A curse on the priests for dishonoring God.**

Malachi 3:9 – A curse for failing to tithe.

## 2. One Key Question





OUR LADY  
Of  
MOUNT  
CARMEL

# Proposition

If you live according to the marital covenant, God will bless you. If you don't, God will curse you.





# Objection

I know a Catholic family that has lived faithfully to the marital covenant, yet their child:

1. Left the Church
2. Adopted an immoral stance
3. Passed on dramatically
4. Passed on from a long sickness
5. ...



# Beware of Job's Friends' Syndrome

Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar held to a simplistic theological model: "God blesses the righteous and punishes the wicked. Therefore, Job must have sinned."

They repeatedly urge Job to confess hidden sin, believing that his immense suffering must be deserved punishment.

Eliphaz: "As I have seen, those who plow iniquity and sow trouble reap the same." (Job 4:8)

Bildad: "If your children have sinned against him, he delivered them into the power of their transgression." (Job 8:4)

Zophar: "Know then that God exacts of you less than your guilt deserves." (Job 11:6)



# Beware of Job's Friends' Syndrome

Their theology is not *entirely false*—Scripture does affirm that God is just—but their application is presumptuous, reductive, and lacking mercy:

1. They assume knowledge of God's will based on outward circumstances.
2. They reduce God's justice to immediate cause-and-effect.
3. They ignore Job's protestations of innocence and the deeper mystery of redemptive suffering.

The Church sees a profound mystery of innocent suffering in Job's story, pointing toward Christ, the truly innocent sufferer. In CCC 1501, the Catechism teaches: "Illness can lead to anguish, self-absorption, sometimes even despair and revolt against God... But it can also make a person more mature, helping him discern what is not essential so that he can turn toward that which is."

*Suffering is not always punishment, but can be a means of purification, testing, and even union with God.*



# Prophetic Function

**CCC 436** – “The people of God share in the threefold office of Christ: he is anointed not only as priest and king, but also as prophet.”

**CCC 785** – “The lay faithful are made to share in the priestly, prophetic, and kingly office of Christ; they have therefore, in the Church and in the world, their own assignment in the mission of the whole People of God.”

“They are called... to be witnesses to Christ in all circumstances and at the very heart of the community of mankind.”

*This means the prophetic mission involves bearing witness to the truth, not predicting the future, but speaking and living God's Word courageously, often in difficult or countercultural contexts.*



OUR LADY  
Of  
MOUNT  
CARMEL

# Can God be Indifferent?

1. If God is neither blessing nor cursing you, he's ... what?
2. If God is not providing you with the graces you need to attain salvation, what is that?
3. Therefore, God is either blessing you or cursing you ... at all times ...





# Blessings and Curses are Counter-Intuitive

- Blessings are about what's required for salvation
- Curses are about what our fallen nature wants.
  - The most common curse is ... an obscured reason.
- Interference from Larger Societal Issues – Lot's fate.
- In Saint Faustina's diary (Entry 1533), Jesus expresses His inability to endure the sins of a nation any longer, implying impending chastisement:
- "I saw the anger of God hanging heavy over Poland. Jesus said to me: 'I cannot suffer that country any longer. Do not tie My hands, My daughter.' I understood that if it had not been for the prayers of souls pleasing to God, that whole nation would have already been chastised."





# In Summary

- We are called to obey the covenant
- God is active at all times
- What our life will be is in his hands
- But he is always faithful to the promises he made, and if we persevere in our obedience, he will ultimately bless us.

# 3. On Faith



# What Is Faith According to Catholic Tradition?

- Faith involves three elements:
  - - Intellect (reason)
  - - Will (choice)
  - - Grace (divine assistance)
- Faith is:
  - "An act of the intellect assenting to the divine truth by command of the will moved by God through grace."
  - — Catechism of the Catholic Church §155



# Role of the Intellect

- Faith engages the intellect:
  - - We assent to the truth God has revealed.
  - - Faith seeks to understand: "Faith seeks understanding."  
(CCC §158)
- However, faith does not come from human reasoning alone:
  - - Divine truths surpass natural reason.



# Role of the Will

- Faith requires the will:
  - - The will commands the intellect to assent.
  - - Belief is a free, personal decision to trust God.
- Vatican I (Dei Filius) teaches:
  - "We believe not because of the intrinsic truth [seen by reason], but because of the authority of God Himself."
  - (Denz. 3008)



OUR LADY  
Of  
MOUNT  
CARMEL

# Role of Grace

- Grace is essential:
  - - It moves both intellect and will toward God.
  - - Without grace, we cannot make a true act of faith.
- Faith is a supernatural virtue:
  - "Faith is a gift of God, a supernatural virtue infused by Him."  
(CCC §153)





OUR LADY  
Of  
MOUNT  
CARMEL

# Summary Diagram

Faculty	Role in Faith	Moved By
Intellect	Assents to divine truth	Will
Will	Commands the intellect to assent	Grace
Grace	Moves the will & Intellect	God

- **Faith = Intellect + Will + Grace**
- **Key Concept: Faith is a free, reasonable, and graced response to God's self-revelation.**



# The Understanding of Faith ... In Math

Given the interval  $]0 \dots 1[$  (excludes 0 and 1)

Find the smallest number ...

0.1

0.01

0.001

0.0001

**There is no smallest number ...**

You understand the steps ... you don't understand the conclusion

You believe because you trust the rules of Math



# The Understanding of Faith ...

## Jesus Christ is God and Man

God is omnipotent ...

He Created Man

He can provide the seed for creating a body

He can deliver that seed to fertilize an egg

He can create the human soul

He can unite the soul and body to the Second Person of the Most Holy Trinity

**Jesus has two natures and two wills...**

You understand the steps ... you don't understand the conclusion

You believe because you trust that God is all God, that He doesn't deceive nor be deceived

# 4. Jacob's Discord

Exploring how relational brokenness intersects with covenantal faithfulness.



OUR LADY  
Of  
MOUNT  
CARMEL

# Jacob's Life

1. Jacob Deceives Esau and flees to Laban – Gen 27–28
2. Works for seven years for Rachel, but is deceived and marries Leah – Gen 29:18-25
3. Marries Rachel as a second wife – Gen 29:28-30
4. God sees that Leah is unloved and opens her womb – Genesis 29:31
5. Rachel gives Bilhah, her maid, to Jacob – Gen 30:3
6. Leah responds by giving Zilpah, her maid – Genesis 30:9
7. Rachel steals Laban's household gods – Gen 31:19
8. Family rivalry intensifies among wives and children – Gen 30–35
9. God reaffirms the covenant and renames him Israel – Gen 35:9-12
10. Despite the disorder, Jacob becomes the father of the twelve tribes – Gen 49:28



# Conformity to Tradition and Human Respect

## 1. Why did Jacob accept Leah?

1. Jacob was **deceived** by Laban after working seven years for Rachel.
2. Culturally, refusal may have **dishonored** Leah or brought **shame** to the family.
3. He may have believed himself **bound** by custom or duty

Obedience to the Covenant requires the Cross: Even if you were deceived, or if your action will dishonor or shame your family of origin, you cannot acquiesce to human customs that contradict God's moral law.





# Conformity to Tradition and Human Respect

## 1. Why did Jacob take Rachel?

1. Jacob loved Rachel deeply (Gen. 29:18-20)
2. Either he was married to Leah and committed adultery with Rachel, or he was committing adultery with Leah
3. Is human love always in conformity with God's will?

Obedience to the Covenant requires the Cross: Even if you were deceived, or if your action will dishonor or shame your family of origin, you cannot acquiesce to human customs that contradict God's moral law.



OUR LADY  
Of  
MOUNT  
CARMEL

# Love, in itself is good—but it must be rightly ordered

A man may feel romantic love (eros), but that love must be disciplined by reason, virtue, and grace. If his love leads him into lust, adultery, scandal, or idolatry, it is disordered, even if it "feels right."

**1 Thessalonians 4:3-5** – “For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from unchastity... not in the passion of lust like heathen who do not know God.”

**St. John Paul II, Love and Responsibility**: “A person’s rightful due is to be treated as an object of love, not as an object for use.”

## Saints Who Loved but Had to Let Go

1. St. Francis of Assisi gave up a potential marriage to follow Christ.
2. St. Rita of Cascia submitted to a troubled marriage out of obedience.
3. St. Thérèse of Lisieux felt human affections yet offered them to God in purity.
4. St. John Paul II as a young man had strong emotions and attachments, but entrusted them to the Lord as he discerned celibacy.



# Love, in itself is good—but it must be rightly ordered

A man's love for a woman does not automatically conform to God's will simply because it feels deep or sincere.

It must be:

1. Purified by grace
2. Ordered by reason and faith
3. Confirmed through prayer and discernment
4. Tested by time, virtue, and the cross



# The Occult and the Family

## 2. Rachel stole Laban's household idols (Genesis 31:19)

1. The teraphim were likely used for divination or as tokens of inheritance
2. Their theft and concealment show the continued influence of idolatry within Jacob's household.
3. Why didn't she tell her husband?

Her concealment of the idols ironically leads to silence and spiritual barrenness: not long after, Rachel dies in childbirth, never reaching Hebron, the land of full covenantal rest (Genesis 35:19).



OUR LADY  
Of  
MOUNT  
CARMEL

# The Occult and the Family

Rachel's act of stealing the teraphim—small idols used for divination or as symbols of inheritance—highlights the spiritual confusion and compromise that had taken root in Jacob's household.

Despite being married to the patriarch of the covenant family, Rachel's heart remained tethered to her past, to her father's household, and possibly to its pagan ways. This act, though secretive, reveals much about the disorder of divided loyalties within the marriage and the household.

Rachel was the beloved wife, but in this moment, Leah becomes the more faithful figure: she never touched the idols. Rachel, instead, conceals them—both literally and spiritually—by sitting on them, as if trying to keep two allegiances: one to Jacob's God and one to her father's world.

Rachel introduces spiritual confusion and compromise into Jacob's household.

Rachel's heart remained tethered to its pagan ways. This secretive act reveals much about the disorder of divided loyalties within the marriage and the household.

Rachel was the beloved wife, but in this moment, Leah becomes the more faithful figure: she never touched the idols. Instead, Rachel conceals them—literally and spiritually sitting on them, as if trying to keep two allegiances: one to Jacob's God and one to her father's world.





OUR LADY  
Of  
MOUNT  
CARMEL

# The Occult and the Family

Despite being married to the patriarch of the covenant family, Rachel's heart remained tethered to her past, to her father's household, and possibly to its pagan ways. This act, though secretive, reveals much about the disorder of divided loyalties within the marriage and the household.

Rachel was the beloved wife, but in this moment, Leah becomes the more faithful figure: she never touched the idols. Rachel, instead, conceals them—both literally and spiritually—by sitting on them, as if trying to keep two allegiances: one to Jacob's God and one to her father's world.

Rachel introduces spiritual confusion and compromise into Jacob's household.

Rachel's heart remained tethered to its pagan ways. This secretive act reveals much about the disorder of divided loyalties within the marriage and the household.

Rachel was the beloved wife, but in this moment, Leah becomes the more faithful figure: she never touched the idols. Instead, Rachel conceals them—literally and spiritually sitting on them, as if trying to keep two allegiances: one to Jacob's God and one to her father's world.





# Increased Moral Disorder: Polygamy.

## 3. Why did Jacob accept the Maids?

1. Rachel gave Jacob her maid Bilhah to bear children (Genesis 30:3)
2. Leah responded by giving her maid Zilpah (Genesis 30:9).
3. These actions mirror Sarah's earlier desperation (Genesis 16), and violate God's marital covenant

Love is replaced by emotional manipulation and control, permitted by Jacob's silence and compliance.

The dissent and strife is a mirror image of the dissent and strife between the mothers.



# Increased Moral Disorder: Polygamy.

## 3. Why did Jacob accept the Maids?

1. Competition between Leah and Rachel bred tension.
  2. Their rivalry extended to their maidservants' children.
- This fractured love led to a fragmented family, but did not nullify God's promises.

Love is replaced by emotional manipulation and control, permitted by Jacob's silence and compliance.

The dissent and strife is a mirror image of the dissent and strife between the mothers.



# How does God respond?

1. God remains faithful to His covenant, which he reaffirms with Jacob (Gen 35:9-12). He changes Jacob's name to Israel
2. He blesses all four women with children who become tribes of Israel.
3. God's grace works through human weakness to advance salvation history.

Marital disorder does not  
overturn divine fidelity



# How does God respond?

1. Rachel's barrenness caused deep anguish (Genesis 30:1).
2. God eventually remembered Rachel and opened her womb (Genesis 30:22).
3. She bore Joseph and Benjamin, favored sons of Jacob.

Most Blessings are not due to  
our worth; they're due to  
God's faithfulness



# How does God respond?

1. God saw Leah was unloved and opened her womb (Genesis 29:31).
2. Her sons' names reflect her desire for Jacob's love and God's compassion.
3. Leah bore Judah, through whom the Messiah would come.

In due time, God will ease our  
loneliness





# What did we learn?

1. As the head of the family, a man should not compromise on questions of faith and morality
2. As the heart of the family, a woman should not disobey the covenant for culture fad or conformity, fear of shame, or desire to fit in
3. Still, God's faithfulness to the Covenant brings blessings in abundance, though undeserved
4. God's faithfulness prevails: He works through brokenness, not because of it