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***MEET THE
KUBALAS***

PAGE 6



Redemption *In* Marriage



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The journey through marriage follows a similar story as the passion of Christ. Most couples experience the bliss of the wedding and honeymoon experience, being united with the person they love. Similarly, Jesus Christ experienced a triumphant celebration as he entered Jerusalem, where he was welcomed as King. But it wasn't long after that the same people who were once following Jesus were now looking to crucify Him. His disciples ran away. He was betrayed Judas, and denied by His most loyal follower, Peter.

In marriage, after unmet expectations and the stressors of life increase, husbands and wives start to change their perception of each other and how they approach each other. When things don't go our way, we start to perceive our spouse as the problem. The same person who was given a vow to be honored is now treated like the enemy.

How often do we treat our spouse harsher than others? Or want to run away, like the apostles? Maybe we didn't intend wrong, but we get stuck in a defensive state like Peter.

Disappointment and betrayal should not surprise us in marriage; even Christ was betrayed by his closest friends. But the story doesn't end with betrayal. The turning point is seen in the difference between what Peter and Judas do after they betrayed Jesus. Judas gave up and withdrew, leading to a tragic ending. But Peter turned back towards Christ for redemption.

In marriage, this approach is often what is needed. With any hero or saint, the climax of the story isn't the fall, but the defining internal change within that person that helps them to move forward. Jesus looked deeper than our flaws and mistakes and saw a greater redemption to come in our story. The marriages that make it do the same. Couples can turn to one another, work towards reconciliation, and enter a new chapter of their relationship—a relationship tested with fire.

We all make mistakes. But the story doesn't stop there. When it comes to the next chapter, I don't want to be like Judas; I want to be like Peter. The virtuous husband and wife see their own need for healing in Christ. With the help of the Lord, we can turn a new page.

Brad lives with his wife and three children in New Brighton. As well as being a counselor, he loves sports and taking his family on outdoor adventures to explore Minnesota.

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