**Phil and Brittany’s Wedding**

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| July 2, 2015 | The Pines | 24 min |

PARENTS |GROOMSMEN | BRIDESMAIDS | BROOKLYN | BRIDE and UNCLE

**“Who Gives the Woman to me married to this man?”** *The family: “WE do”*

**Welcome and** **Prayer**

**WEDDING CHARGE**

**Phil and Brittany, what a privilege to be a part of your wedding today! I couldn’t be more excited to be able marry the two of you together… not to mention that we have the best seat in the house.**

**Phil, I’ve had the privilege to know you for about 6 months now and I can tell you that I’ve enjoyed all of our time together. You are a sincere, authentic, caring, great guy. You’ve inspired me with your love and commitment to Brittany. You are ready for this!** I believeGod has made you the exact man you need to be for Brittany!

**Brittany, I met you over 5 years ago. I fell in love with your family within an instant, and it’s been great to watch you grow and develop over into an amazing woman of God as you date Phil. You are one of the sweetest, most caring, and fun people I’ve ever met. You are ready for this!** God made you who He needs you to be for Phil!

**While, today is a special day, your relationship is not about just a day—the wedding— it is about a marriage. So now, as you prepare to commence on that important journey of life, I would like to give you some words of advice. But I don’t want it to be just pastor, counselor, cousin-in-law or friend advice - I want it to be from God. So as ambassadors for God, I will speak to you a few biblical thoughts on marriage that will serve you well if you keep them close.**

**PHIL:** as your brother in Christ, I want to give you a few words that I believe God is calling you to as you marry Brittany:

1. **Wash over her with the word – Ephesians 5:26, “he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word”.**
   * **This is not just a suggestion from me, but a command of God**.
   * **You already see her as beautiful –** present her beautiful to God in Heaven!
   * **I’ve mentioned this in our times together but let me mention it again – there is no greater gift you can give Brittany than to invest in her soul through the power of the Holy Spirit with the Word of God.**
   * **This (hold up the Bible) gives life**, speaks truth, comforts and changes us. Even when you feel awkward, follow Christ and bring her along.
2. **Lead her with a courage and gentleness – 1 Peter 3:7 talks about leading her so you may show her honor & your prayers may not be hindered.**

* as men, **I believe that we are called to lead our wives, not of superiority, but out of selflessness.** Serving your wife is the highest display of love!
* Be gentle. **May mercy and grace always been heard in your tone of voice, with truth and conviction on your lips.**
* **You know what it means to be a man’s man, work hard and lead (**Dad’s example)**. Take what you’ve learned from life, couple it with the wisdom of the Bible and lead with the courage and conviction in your marriage.**

1. **Prepare to bring her to present her before Christ –**

* You’re now responsible to present two souls before God – yours and hers.
* **Use everyday of your life to bring her closer to Christ and present her as complete as possible on the day you stand before God so that you may hear him say, “Well done, good and faithful servant…”**
* He **entrusted** you with a lot, (grab hands) **steward** this with all you’ve got!

**BRITTANY: I want to give you a few words God is asking of you from now on…**

1. **Cherish the friendship—**

* **I know for a fact that you consider him your best friend**. You talk about the joy he brings you; laughter, support. Keep that friendship against all odds.
* **From the first couple ever created, Adam and Eve (Gen 2:18), we see God created** husband and wife for companionship. “It was not good for man to be alone” and it is “Not good for Phil to be alone.” He needs you in love & life.
* **Don’t let the busyness of life get in the way of sharing deep conversations, unimaginable dreams and heartfelt laughter**. Have fun together. Still date. BFF’s. You won’t find another man on earth that will bring you the joy and companionship that he brings you. God designed it that way.

1. **Be a gentle voice of truth—**

* **I have been married long enough to know that often the main way God choses to speak is through my wife.** Listen to God so that you may say what God needs you to say to Phil. Nathan was called to point out to David his wrong doing in a gentle yet bold way; be like Nathan in truth and compassion.
* **As Phil leads you, speak the truth and encouragement he needs to have the courage and mercy He needs to guide you and your someday-family.**

1. **Be a helpmate in the way Christ has helped you—**

* **Some people don’t like this idea of being a “Help mate” that the Bible speaks of;** Eve was called to be a helpmate in the OT and wives in general are called to be a “Helpmate” in the New testament. My grandma, married 60 years
* **This is not degrading for it is the same term used for the Holy Spirit!**
* **God is so good to us, isn’t He!?** I know you love God so much and are moved by his kindness to you. **In the same way that God, through the Holy Spirit, helps you, help Phil.**
* **Serve him and put him before your self –** as the greatest commandment Jesus gave us states – and **allow the Lord to bless you as you give your self to Him and help Him like God helps us.** Help, encourage, give, pray.

**FOR BOTH OF YOU:** MARRIAGE IS ALL ABOUT THE GOSPEL

**THIS IS A COVENANT you are about to enter into**: God takes this very seriously.

* **This is a covenant that you are making with each other before God.** God is a covenant making God – a promise making and promise keeping God. He is calling you to also make a promise and stay true to it until your dying day.
* **Christ spoke to the permanence of the marriage bond when he said, “What therefore God has joined together, let no man tear apart.” Mark 10:9**
  + **There will be times when you are tempted by others, the enemy or even your own disappointment to let the bond you share be neglected** – DON’T! Fight for it! Not even the two of you should tear apart what God is joining together today. Resolve conflict NOW! & be patience as Christ is w/ u
* **Remember that God sees this covenant that is made here today. The prophet in the Bible, Malachi, gives the picture that God stands “As witness to the covenant between you and the wife of your youth… your companion by covenant.” (Ma 2:14) listen to that passage again… he is watching you today!**

So, now, let’s make that promise to one another with all of us standing witness, with God as you make this vow. Please repeat after me:

**PHIL’S VOW:**

**I, Phil, take you Brittany, to be my wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better or for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish; from this day forward until death do us part.**

**BRITTANY’S VOW:**

**I, Brittany, take you Phil, to be my wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better or for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish; from this day forward until death do us part.**

REMINDER: Just as you have made a promise to stay committed to each other today, so **God also promises you His ever-present help in times of trouble** and His Joy and comfort throughout your life. You are going to exchange rings as a reminder of this vow and the help of God to sustain it!

**May I have the rings, please?** (Get from best man and Maid of Honor)

***Hold the rings and explain why these are the symbols they have chosen:***

* **Precious metal for a precious relationship:** Precious to each other in companionship. No one should come before your spouse because he or she is a Gift of God.
* **Circular in nature symbolizing the eternal love you share.** This is pledge between each other and God that is meant for eternity and to be separated by no person or circumstance.

PHIL, place this on Brittany’s left ring finger, repeat after me:

- **Brittany, with this ring, I thee wed.**

BRITTANY, place this on Phil’s left ring finger, repeat after me:

- **Phil, with this ring, I thee wed.**

**Communion Explanation**

**As their first acts of marriage, Ben and Hannah are going to take communion together.** This is their opportunity to reflect on the gift of Jesus Christ by remembering his body that was crushed and His blood that was given so they could experience the love of God through forgiveness and eternal life. **Then they will pray together asking God to bless the marriage He has established here today.**

**Tying the Knot**

**Phil and Brittany have just sealed their relationship with the giving and receiving of vows rings**. Today their relationship is further symbolized by the tying of a fisherman's knot; a true lovers knot, for it is the strongest there is; its bond will not break, becoming ever stronger under pressure.

**These two cords represent each of you as individuals - as the unique and special gifts you bring to your marriage.** As you fasten your pieces together, **these actions represent the the joining of your two lives into one common purpose**. The completed **knot represents your future, secure in the knowledge your relationship will continue to be strong, despite the inevitable changes life brings**.

Although the fisherman's knot is one of the simplest to tie, it is also one of the sturdiest. **As stress is applied, the knot becomes ever stronger**. It is the goal of marriage to achieve a blending of hearts and lives, but like the spaces between these cords formed by the knot, let there also be spaces in your new life together, so each may encourage and nurture the individual growth of the other.

I ask that you **now pull on this rope to see it strengthen under pressure while still allowing us to see the individual cords** - just as your support of one another as beautiful and blessed individuals strengthens your union. As you hold one another in mutual concern and shared respect, **may you continue holding each other tightly in your hearts and form a strong bond, now and foreve**r. Let this knot indicate the strength of your love and be a symbol of your unity from this day forward.

**First Kiss**

Phil and Brittany, the two of you have agreed to live together in Matrimony, now by the power invested in me by God and the state of Colorado, **I declare you to be husband and wife.**

Phil... the moment you’ve been waiting for …**You may kiss your bride!**

**EXPLAIN THE QUILT**

**PRONOUNCEMENT of the couple (Both)**

Ladies and gentlemen, **for the first time in public, it is our privilege to introduce to you. Mr. and Mrs. PHILLIP JAMES PETERSON**

**THE QUILT PLACEMENT by moms AND RECESSIONAL**

**CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENT**: We ask that you make your way to the back of the room where you will be shown a staircase. Please join us downstairs for a cocktail hour.