

“The Parable of the Faithful Wife”

by
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- What** This Readers Theater tells the story of a marriage that ended because of adultery but was eventually reconciled because of love and forgiveness.
- Themes: Marriage, Love, Faithfulness, Adultery, Divorce, Reconciliation, Forgiveness, Recovery
- Who** Woman
Man
- When** Present
- Wear (Props)** Black binders to hold script for each reader.
- Why** Proverbs 18:22, Ephesians 5:25-33
- How** Give yourself time to rehearse the dialogue so that it is seamless in the back-and-forth exchanges. The Readers are narrating their marriage, so the emotions and conflict should be in their voices as if they are reliving the experience.
- Time** Approximately 4 minutes

Man and Woman stand about four feet apart with notebooks with the script. They present directly to the audience until they are directed to shift.

Man: I've found someone else. I am leaving you and I'm going off with her. And he did. He left her at home with the kids and the housework and the need for money for food, clothing and the rest.

Woman: And, try as she did, she could not figure out why he had left her. What was wrong with her? Had she been unfulfilling somehow? What did this other person do better than her? This conversation within herself went around and around in her head and made her feel worthless.

Man: Her husband, on the other hand, felt great! He was moving out of his old life as fast as he could. He had tried, at first, to keep it all from his wife. He didn't want this other relationship to hurt his home. He liked returning to the security, and the pretense wasn't so bad to live with... for a while. But then, it just wouldn't work. He couldn't keep up the lying and so he left.

Woman: But he didn't leave completely. He kept stopping by to talk. And he talked with his wife as if she were his good friend.

Man: He told her how happy he was, and was going to be, how excited his new love was with his gifts, how "new" life felt now, and how changed he was. He shared his dreams for his future...

Woman: And he never considered he might be ripping her heart apart and crushing her spirit with every word.

Man: And there was something else he didn't consider... the plans of the other woman. She did share his...she didn't share his interest and enthusiasm and when she realized how different their expectations were...

Woman: She dropped him. Cut off the relationships with the same sensitivity he gave his wife.

Man: He found himself... alone...as if standing in a foreign land, not knowing the people around, not understanding the language they spoke, empty and hungry. He felt one strong, simple desire...he wanted "home."

Woman: The night he arrived, she was sitting at the kitchen table sipping a mug of tea.

Man: *(turns to the Woman)* He came in and stood, waiting, waiting to be screamed back out the door. He stood and said nothing.

Woman: And she said nothing. She just looked at him, and finally he said...

Man: I want to come home.

Woman: *(turns to the man)* She stood, staring at him.

Man: And then, slowly, she came over to him and did the last thing she expected.

Woman: She hugged him, drawing him into herself.

Man: This woman he had treated as trash...whose life, feelings, body, he had betrayed,

Woman: She hugged him...

Man: And he cried. He sobbed and complained against himself, "I'm not worthy of you. I shouldn't have come. I treated you horribly. This isn't good."

Woman: You're right, she said. And I hate you for doing it, but you're a bigger idiot than I ever imagined if you don't realize that I love you...and I will always love you.

Man: *(both turning back to audience)* Now, the story could have ended there...

Woman: ... and we could say they lived happily ever after.

Man: But this wasn't the case. He wanted things back the way they were... immediately, and he couldn't understand...

Woman: ...when she questioned his schedule, asked him about phone calls or late meetings or wanted him to call her more often. She wanted more of him.

Man: He wanted normal, and normal meant he just lived his life without thinking about it all. He didn't want to think about things, like he didn't think about things before...before all the "stuff" happened.

Woman: There were arguments and frustrations... but finally they talked...

Man: ...and they came up with a plan.

They both reach out and take hands still facing the audience.

Woman: They decided together to go out for a cup of coffee together once a week.

Man: There...in this time, for which nothing could stand in the way... they talked. They talked about life, about what each thought was important, about each other...

Woman: ...and reminded each other of the things they had lived through together, and the love they shared...

Man: ...celebrating their relationship,

Woman: ...and before long they both realized that things would never be "normal" again.

Man: They would be better! He knew he was forgiven.

Woman: And in each weekly time together he realized more and more...

Man: ...how beautiful she was, how caring and how much he belonged to her... he belonged to her...and he was glad. Deeply...deeply glad...

Woman: ...that she loved him and that he loved her.

Lights fade.

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