

## CRAIG REES • 16 APRIL 2023 FOR BETTER OR WORSE

**Big Idea:** You do not stumble into healthy relationships. You must be intentional.

Key Scriptures: Proverbs 29:18; Mark 10:1-9

- 1. What is the worst marriage advice you have ever been given?
- 2. "People are more intentional about their vacations than their eternity and relationships." How true is this for you? Why is it so difficult to be intentional about improving our relationships?
- 3. What would happen to your most important relationship if you could see the best in one another? How destructive is negativity to a relationship?
- 4. Look at Mark 10:1-9. Note how Jesus shifts from the language of law (vv1-4) to the language of love (vv5-9), avoiding a trap set for him. What tools do you use on difficult issues or in difficult settings to avoid falling into negativity?
- 5. How well do you know the backstory of your spouse, best friends, and colleagues? What difference does knowing someone's backstory make to understanding their reactions?
- 6. "As a believer in Jesus, my main goal is not to live a happy life but to become more like Jesus. The bigger picture is not that we make each other happy but partner to help each other become all God wants us to be." What if we saw our lives as an opportunity to grow in our walk with Christ and become more like Jesus?
- 7. How has engaging with someone's struggle and supporting them changed you? How has God been in that aspect of your story?
- 8. How can you train for the hard times in a relationship before it arrives?