

## 2. The Biggest Problem

*“My deepest, longest, most significant problem exists inside of me, not outside of me.”*

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### OPENING DISCUSSION:

Consider and discuss the following *BEFORE* watching Session 2:

1. What are the biggest and/or most common problems in marriage? How do you fix them?

### SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

*Luke 6:43-45*

<sup>43</sup> For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit, <sup>44</sup> for each tree is known by its own fruit. For figs are not gathered from thornbushes, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush.

<sup>45</sup> The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

### KEY IDEAS:

1. Threat, manipulation, and guilt will not change the heart of your spouse.
2. All marriage problems are heart problems.
3. Lasting change in your marriage will always travel through the pathway of the heart.
4. You are your biggest marriage problem.

### ILLUSTRATION:

The Apple Tree

### ILLUSTRATION:

Stuck In Traffic

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**IMPLICATION 1:**

All marriage problems are heart problems

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**IMPLICATION 2:**

Lasting change in your marriage will always travel through the pathway of the heart

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**IMPLICATION 3:**

I am my biggest marriage problem - it's me!

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**LISTEN FOR YOU**

Don't listen for your spouse

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## **REVIEW:**

1. What is the illustration of the apple tree and how does it relate to marriage?
2. Why do threat, manipulation, and guilt fail to solve marriage problems? How might they actually increase the problems?
3. Why are all marriage problems heart problems?

## **DISCUSSION:**

1. How have threat, manipulation, and guilt revealed themselves in your marriage?
2. Why will it be tempting, in following sessions, to listen for your spouse instead of for yourself?

## APPLYING WHAT YOU LEARNED:

### ASSIGNMENT #2 - Breaking Down Conflict (Part 1)

At some stage during your day, you will face conflict with your spouse. Using the three implications from Session 2, review your own heart and why you started or entered into conflict.

**1. All marriage problems are heart problems:** Conflict happens not primarily because of situation, location, or communication, but because of idolatry and worship. What did this conflict reveal about your idols? How could your response have been different if your heart was ruled by worship of Christ?

**2. Lasting change in your marriage will always travel through the pathway of the heart:** It's typical to try to find a solution after a conflict arises or make steps to avoid the same conflict in the future. What "apple-nailing" solutions looked enticing? Why would those solutions eventually fail? What needs to be the ultimate solution for change?

**3. I am my biggest marriage problem - it's me:** Without a doubt, you will be sinned against in your marriage, but you still bring your own sin into conflict. How did you sin in this conflict, and how could you have responded differently, in a Christ-like manner, regardless of the sin of your spouse?

### Supplemental Reading:

WDYE Chapter 5

Luke 18:9-14

Luke 19:1-10



### PERSONAL REFLECTION:

Do I tend to blame my spouse and examine their heart more than I own my sin and examine my idolatry and motives?

What makes me angry in everyday life? What does this anger reveal about my idolatry and worship?

Do I need to call a Christian brother or sister for marriage help? Why might I be afraid to reach out for help?