

George Brophy & Leslie Starks

When George and Leslie first met each other, they were both attached to other people, so the relationship didn't get much traction. When they next met, they were unattached. George asked Leslie out, and they've been reattached ever since. What started between two individuals led to our attachment to them as a couple. Their story demonstrates the importance of patience, discernment and reward.

The first scripture reading they chose for us to hear at their wedding provides an early explanation of the mystery of attachment. The Book of Genesis gives two different accounts of the creation of human beings. In this one, God created the man first, then the animals, and then the woman. The Lord God loved the man he had created, but realized that the man needed a partner closer to his own nature than to the Lord God's nature. The reason God created animals, then, was to test out a variety of partners for his human. Human beings love animals, but we love other human beings more. Even though we feel attachment to the wonders that surround us, there is no attachment like that to another person. The Lord God and the first man were patient. Together they went through a time of discernment, and eventually each received their reward: the man received a wife, and the Lord God received the satisfaction of bringing pleasure to the creatures that delighted him.

George and Leslie, you have experienced patience, discernment and reward in your own relationship, and you've experienced this process in other ways. In completing your education, with patience you discerned a field of study that would bring you the reward of a good job. In receiving loving care from your parents, with patience you discerned from them the values that would reward your love for each other and prepare you for the future formation of your children. Due to your experience in the Church, with patience you have discerned your desire to begin married life in a church and to harvest the rewards that faith can bring.

Each of us has learned that patience partners with discernment to bring ever greater rewards. Whether in church, work, family, or love, even as we reach one plateau of satisfaction, we discover new ways to apply ourselves more deeply to a commitment that produces rewards unimagined before.

As God worked patiently to bring together Adam and Eve, so we believe God worked patiently to bring together George and Leslie. What was unclear at their first meeting came into sharper focus later on. What is unclear now about the future can also come into sharper focus as they seek out the rewards of life together as a couple.

In the Book of Genesis, at the creation, the Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone." He could have said later, "It is not good for a couple to be alone." One strong attachment helps human beings develop more. Leslie and George, through the blessing of children, the circle of your friends, and the love of your extended family, you will interact with the rest of the world, humans and animals alike. You have patiently discerned the gift of your love. Now God asks you to bring its rewards to your family, your church and the world.

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