

GATE LATCH SERMON FOR WEDDINGS

In our culture when a couple marries we give them gifts as part of the celebration. Kate & Philip I want to share with you an exciting gift on this special day in which you are publicly declaring your love for one another and beginning your married life.

We are told in the bible that if we allow God to be part of our life then he will be our keeper. Ps 121 says; *"The LORD is your keeper; The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore."* Ps121:4-8

The Lord wants to be your keeper, Philip & Kate. Not a keeper as in the zoo who would encage you and restrict your freedom. Rather a keeper, who will look after you, guarding and guiding you through the life that is before you. He will keep your coming and going - all the way through the new life that you are starting in marriage today. This is Gods gift and promise to those that will accept it.

I have a very simple wedding present for you in the form of an illustration

(Produce a gate post catch and staple)

Marriage in some ways resembles a gate latch. There are always two parts to a gate latch, a hook of some sort & a staple in which the hook attaches to the post. You only have to open a number of gates to know that they come in all sorts of different shapes and sizes. Just like married couples. Of course it does not matter what they look like, what is important is how well they work together. Can they stand up to the trails that they will face?

This gate latch and staple is an extremely practical one because it has an added feature. A ring that prevents the gate from being accidentally opened by the stock. Not just the ewes but also the great big bulls that give gates such a tough time.

In Christian marriage, Christ is like that added ring. If you choose to build your marriage with him as the third party then when the rough and stormy times come as they always are bound to, then you will find that your latch, your marriage together, will not be broken apart.

In a Christian marriage Christ is the Keeper. Give Christ a place in your future life together and He will look after you. He will guard you and guide you. He will keep you and nothing will be able to separate you. May you have a blessed life together Philip & Kate.