

The Rabbi Daniel Lapin Podcast

Episode: *An Intimate Glimpse Into Our Marriage and How It Can Help Yours*

Date: 07/05/2021 **Length:** 1:26:14

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SPEAKERS

Susan Lapin, Daniel Lapin

TRANSCRIPT

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Daniel Lapin 00:00

Welcome to the rabbi Daniel Lapin show where our your Rabbi reveal how the world really works. But don't for a moment think that that is the only benefit that you derive from the rabbi Daniel Lapin show no. Unlike other shows that deliver merely information, entertainment, distraction. This show provides its followers, its fans and its audience with a limitless supply of in exhaustible stamina. That's right. Think about it, that is the real benefit. How does that accrue to you? Well, it's very simple. If you have great clarity of vision, if you have your five F's constantly polished, and, and refined and up to date, if you have a clear picture of what you are supposed to be doing, and how are you supposed to do it, all of those things provide you with a limitless supply of inexhaustible stamina. That's right, because the lethargy that infects so many of us these days comes from a state of confusion. It comes from a sense of not understanding exactly how the world really works, and not understanding your place in it and not understanding what it is that you're supposed to do and how you're supposed to do it. And so by providing you with those things, and that afterall is the entire purpose of the rabbi Daniel Lapin show? Well, not surprisingly, you suddenly discover yourself bouncing out of bed you discover yourself operating with more enthusiasm and more excitement, no listlessness, no slowness, no lethargy, yes, a limitless supply of inexhaustible stamina. That's our trademark. And nobody exemplifies this more than Mrs. Lapin Welcome, Susan. Wow.

Susan Lapin 02:21

I don't know that I can live up to that billing. But okay.

Daniel Lapin 02:25

So I thought that we should interview each other. Basically not, you know, not lengthy, early, but just. But we should we should, after all, we're talking. What I wanted to talk about today was, essentially, how do you know? I'm talking mainly to single men and single women? Okay, how do you know, he is the one? Or she's the one? How many times in our career in the rabbinate? Has a young man said to us in response to a question of why are you not married? His answer is

Susan Lapin 03:07

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I haven't found the right one.

Daniel Lapin 03:09

I just haven't found the right one. Which raises the obvious question of Well, how do you know when you have found the right one?

Susan Lapin 03:17

Well, this is going to be a very short show. Because the answer really is you don't the same way. And I might reference I don't remember which of your books it's in. But otherwise, I would give a plug for the book. But you you know, you say that, oh, faith that many things are built on faith, and among them are businesses and marriage. You cannot know when you invest time and effort and money into a business that it's going to succeed. You cannot know when you would jump into a marriage that is going to succeed succeed. We're not prophets. And so the answer really is that was a really short show today, because the answer is you cannot know.

Daniel Lapin 03:56

So that really is, you know, right there. One of the most important things today. And and somebody would then say to you, Susan, well, I don't understand what what are you saying? Surely I can't be expected to propose marriage to somebody I don't really feel confident is the right person we're going to propose marriage to so our accepted marriage proposal or accept a marriage proposal from if I'm not really sure. unpack that a little bit.

Susan Lapin 04:27

You know, I think it's a we like certainty, which is one of the reasons we're a very legal society because we want to be able to point when something goes wrong. We want to be able to sue and be told somebody is going to pay for things going wrong, but that isn't how the world really works.

Daniel Lapin 04:44

Good try

Susan Lapin 04:46

things you know, things go wrong. You cannot know. You know, none of us know the future and know how things are going to impact for another person, as well as for ourselves. We don't know what our personalities and our

Susan Lapin 05:00

characters will be in five years, will they be better? Will they be damaged? Will we do something that really is a huge problem and makes us less of a person than we are today? Are we a greater person than we are today? We can't know that about ourselves, we certainly cannot know about it about someone we're going to marry. So all you can do, but the other choice is, do you go and you lock yourself in a room and you don't go out? Because life is too scary? Or do you go ahead with life, and then you work your very best to make things work correctly?

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Daniel Lapin 05:34

You know, I think that people believe that somehow the the calamities and disasters and the pains and tribulations of life can be eliminated if you just pick the right person, which is not true. It's a lot. It's, it's Yeah, that part of it is, is whatever God has planned for you is plan for you. And the only question is whether you tackle that together with somebody else, or whether you're attacking it alone. And so really, I think what we'd like to do for you, Dear Happy warrior is persuade you that yes, it is not a matter of choosing the right person. This is not Cinderella, this is not Hollywood, this is not finding the one person destined to be your mate from the beginning of time. It's not like that at all. And what we're hoping to do is not only tell you that, but actually enlist your agreement, your participation, your grasping of that idea, because it is a huge change. From what the popular culture tells us about marriage.

Susan Lapin 06:54

If I can just come from a litter, you used a phrase about the one person destined for you from all time, ancient Jewish wisdom actually teaches that 40 days, it's gonna sound like I'm contradicting. But I'm not 40 days before the formation of the fetus, the embryo, a heavenly voice goes out and says, the daughter of so and so is for so and so in other words, your absolute best marriage partner is decreed 40 days before your you're even formed before conception. So how does I don't think it does contradict? Because what it means is, yeah, there is one person destined to be the best person with whom you could do the best possible marriage. But lots of things can happen, you may not be the person that that person needs, by the time you're ready for marriage, that person that may be an accident, that person may not even be alive anymore, that person can marry somebody else. In other words, you can marry somebody else. The fact that there is the best is sort of an interesting philosophical discussion. But when it comes down to practicalities, ie, you can make a great marriage with a number of people and you can make a terrible marriage with the person that could have been your best partner.

Daniel Lapin 08:18

That that I think is right. And I you may be interested in what the classical explanation of that thing you mentioned, which says that 40 days before somebody is conceived, that person's Ultimate Life mate has been decreed. And what that is, and you're right, of course, there's no contradiction with what we're discussing today. But the idea there is that from a godly perspective, which is essentially above time without the constraints of time in any way at all. It's it's a sort of retrospective, the the person whom you are going to marry is the person that was retro actively selected for you in the first place. So in other words, you validate the plan of the universe, if you like, by getting married. You're actually confusing me, but also I, as I said, this belongs in philosophy, class, fine art, practicality. I'll tell you what I want to do I want to go back and I want to tell the story of a young woman who was an active and involved member of our synagogue. You and I met in synagogue in synagogue for the first time, right? All kinds of wonderful things happen in synagogue,

Susan Lapin 09:41

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we were one of many couples who met in our synagogue.

Daniel Lapin 09:43

It was a congregation that attracted young Jewish singles from around the country. And not surprisingly, marriages began to happen and our own was in fact, the second marriage

Susan Lapin 09:56

when you say not surprisingly, I would say actually, very soon. Surprisingly, because most of the people who walked in the door had been raised in, or were the products of 1960s 1970s culture, and I think they were as shocked as everybody to find that they started thinking that marriage was a worthwhile endeavor and something they were eager.

Daniel Lapin 10:18

And why do they think that because for the first time in their lives, most of them had no religious or biblical background or upbringing. And it was my great pleasure and enormous privilege. And later on Susan joining me hers to, to bring a window into the world of biblical truth into the lives of these many people. And Susan and I were among the very few people, a tiny handful of people in a large congregation that had actually been raised in homes that took the Bible seriously and had relationships with God. So let's do just a quick retrospective of our whirlwind romance. You are going to use somebody else? I'll come to that in a moment. Yes. But first, I know you don't like talking about us, and you and me. But now, now is the time for Canada. Because when you think about it, it's really just you and me talking with one another. You and I. Oh, gosh, I thought I'd get you on the ground. I hear you and me talking with one another. And it's I you and I just thought it's an intimate or an intimate little conversation. just between you and me and a few 100,000 of our closest friends happy worries. Me, I think is correct. Fine. Okay, I'll fix it. The grabber while you talk about our robot, yeah, you can, you can edit it so. So I am Rabbi of a newly planted congregation in Venice, California. It's basically Los Angeles and went to Los Angeles has beach friends cities, you had Santa Monica, Venice, Marina Del Rey. And there they were, my boat lived in Marina Del Rey, I lived in Venice. And many of our people who became involved in the congregation lived in Venice or Santa Monica. And there was an old synagogue on the boardwalk that we revitalized, and people started coming. I'm at this point, a single young rabbi who had very little intention of starting a synagogue. But you know, sometimes the good Lord has plans. And what was most striking to me was that there was this large cohort of young singles, who, actually I've never met people like this before people without a Jewish religious background, but who deeply and passionately hungry for more information. And for more authentic spiritual connection, I'd really never met people like that before. So I, I'm the rabbi, and I'm very, very conscious of the fact that rabbis need to be married, it's like you're not a complete person and, and to be able to credibly counsel somebody on their marriage and family problems, issues and concerns. If you yourself, haven't had to deal with them, you know what, there's a real credibility problem there that and for, for many other reasons, having having to do with single female members of the congregation married women in the congregation, an unmarried Rabbi is at best, awkward, and at worst, problematic. So I knew that I was going to have to leave soon, because I just didn't. I saw no Avenue forward to marriage. Now. Look, in hindsight, I am embarrassed, I'm embarrassed about some of the things I'm even telling you that, that I

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didn't even fully have. I knew the stuff intellectually, but I hadn't absorbed it sufficiently myself. To know that, you know, what, you've just you just got to pick a woman who has feminine attributes into whom you're attracted, and who ideally comes from a nice family and and go for it, you know, just I should have understood that and done that. And somehow, I'd been single probably for for longer than was ideal. So, you know, what, what are we gonna do? And I thought, well, the only thing to do was was find a replacement, married Rabbi and quit the the synagogue and the rabbinate because too many new people were coming. And then what happens, Susan?

Susan Lapin 14:49

Well, just, from my perspective, when you say you could I think you could have I think you could have been married years earlier.

Daniel Lapin 14:57

Mm hmm. Could have and I could have I say should have in, in a sort of not I mean, I love the way things are working out. That's all you're getting yourself with a little bit of a quarter here today together.

Susan Lapin 15:10

So I would say that you could have been married and from the way I look at it that were you and maybe more so your parents cuz I don't think it bothered us as much as it bothered your parents. Yeah. God was waiting. I know we haven't we have a bit of an age difference between us and say the least. Yeah, you could have been married when I was in junior high or in high school.

Daniel Lapin 15:33

Yeah. Now, and that would have caused a bit of a scandal if it would have been you and me.

Susan Lapin 15:37

So that in my mind, God was basically saying, you know, what, don't we're not going to you're not going to get married yet. He was there was a protection there was that there was a hands of protection over you to keep you from getting married so that we could get married. But

Daniel Lapin 15:52

But yes, he would you would you know, if a child of yours said, I'm waiting, you know, for the right person. And I know God's just delaying No,

Susan Lapin 16:03

I think I but I think because I think how to say this tactfully.

Daniel Lapin 16:09

You just go for it.

Susan Lapin 16:12

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Well, you were you were, you were doing a lot of very, very exciting things, including you were an accidental rabbi, which means you are also you had a business you were working you were you were working full time in the synagogue sort of came into being so you were running a very, very busy life. And you were an immigrant, which meant you were just so you had a lot of things going on. I had you not had all those things going on. And you were, let's say a child of mine, I think I would have, I think that there are things you could have done to build your social, what is the social IQ, whatever they use EQ, your emotional quotient, yeah, to improve certain things that would have had you ready to get married? I know without question. I don't think you were ready to get married,

Daniel Lapin 17:01

ready to get married. Susan, I wasn't ready to rent a motorcar. They shouldn't have allowed me to sign a rental certificate, right? Um, yes, actually, as more than one rental agency found to they're just an excellent driver. But yeah. But on the other hand, if if a couple gets engaged in a state of utter calm rationality, with no passion, no emotional excitement, no intensity, but everything just all the blocks all the the squares checkoff and all the the items coordinate. That's also a problem, isn't it? Yes.

Susan Lapin 17:44

It is. You know, though, I again, I think this is the bottom line, there is no 100% perfect system, or 100%. follow these rules and everything. There is there's no such thing. Life is messy.

Daniel Lapin 17:59

Yes, yes. And you have to just so the best with what, in my case, my parents. I think my parents were very relieved. When they were very happy to meet me. Yes. They were very happy to meet you. Because I was in my late 20s, early 30s. Early 30s. Yes, early 30s. That's right. So and remember this in a in a community where it's not uncommon for a guy to be married when he's 23, 24, 25? For sure.

Susan Lapin 18:32

Your brother your younger brother was married your young other younger brother was engaged, I believe.

Daniel Lapin 18:38

Yes. And my sister was married my oldest and you are though Yes, they were not. They were not feeling calm at all about me. So So what happens? Just to me again, we're just sharing this with as I say, a few 100,000 happy warriors, but Okay, fine. I'll be honest, what happened is, I was concerned, I realized that this couldn't carry on. The synagogue was growing very rapidly. I was teaching. How many classes a week was it?

Susan Lapin 19:13

Oh, goodness. You were working. You were teaching in the morning before you went to work at 6am you started teaching

Daniel Lapin 19:19

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I was doing four. I was doing a 6am class four or five mornings I think I had one morning or four mornings a week

Susan Lapin 19:27

you were teaching about probably four times on on the Shabbat a

Daniel Lapin 19:32

and then for your evening so so it was it was pretty intense and and then also counseling right so I remember one instance where a gentle Okay, this is a longer story, but side point. There was a film star called Elliot Gould. Isn't it cool? We were married by this point already when this okay well Typically what happened, it's a story anyway, tell the he had a associate who was a talent manager who wanted to find out more about his Jewish roots. And he and his wife wanted to meet with me. And, and so the man called up and said that, you know, I'm so and so I'm a friend of Elliott. I said, Yeah, I was expecting your call. He said, I'd like to set an appointment with you. I said, Sure, we can do that. Five o'clock on Wednesday. And he said, Rabbi, I'm really sorry, I won't be off work by five. And I said, You misunderstand me 5am. And there was a long silence and a bit of an audible Gulp at the other end. And he just said, I'll be there. And he and his wife became dear friends and longtime members of the congregation for for many, many, many years. That's all I was doing was number one, I was trying to test for seriousness, I had very limited time and I had to make sure it was somebody who was serious. And number two, those were the sort of times I had available. So there I am, it's pretty busy. And I meanwhile look it again in in, in an Orthodox Jewish synagogue, men and women sit separately on either side of a of a barrier called them a mehitzta [sp.]. And I got up to give my Friday night talk one Friday night, and I look and I am struck by a beautiful looking young woman in a green coat on sitting on the I just remember the green coat. Sitting on the the women's side, I was very struck and I made a mental note to say I hope I'll be able to find out who she is after the service. But during the service, Michael Medved, my, my friend and partner in many ventures ad came up and said, you might be interested to know, but there's a girl from Brooklyn, in the synagogue, and you go we've not seen it before. And I said, Oh, yeah, girl in a green coat in the fourth row. He said, Yeah, that's right. So then we we met afterwards, and moved, moved on from there.

Susan Lapin 22:23

Not quite alright. So I was visiting a friend and came to the synagogue and I had never seen a synagogue like this either. Again, like you said, this was a group of people you had never met, it was a group of people. I had never met, I had never and quite frankly, your 10 minute talk on Friday night. And then on Saturday morning was also something. I have a very good education. And I was, quite frankly, used to going to synagogue and I could as the rabbi would start talking, I could do the next few sentences, I knew exactly what they were going to say. And I didn't know what you were going to say. And it was it was a bit of a glass of cold water of oh my goodness, whatever I learned in third grade, there's another adult level for this. And that you were revealing.

Daniel Lapin 23:12

It's not all Bible stories for kids, not

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Susan Lapin 23:15

just Well, you know, this, you know, it's well, there's another layer to it. go beneath So, I actually was, I fell in love with the synagogue.

Daniel Lapin 23:24

oh.. and I thought it was

Susan Lapin 23:26

you thought is was you. know, and I I had I was in a I was in a place in my life where it was very easy to move. I had just finished college, I was ready. I didn't know what I wanted to do.

Daniel Lapin 23:41

And you were 20 or 21 you were 21 Yeah.

Susan Lapin 23:45

And I didn't know what I wanted to do. And it was like, Okay, you know what I met a single girl in the community. We she was looking for an apartment, we looked for an apartment together, we got an apartment together. I moved out for the community though my mother tells me later years later, my mother told me that she knew that there was something special how I felt about you, but I didn't know that

Daniel Lapin 24:06

interesting. I didn't know that either.

Susan Lapin 24:08

So but so, you know, I was a member of the community and we would be sometimes a tables together we would you know, and I was in your classes.

Daniel Lapin 24:16

And how long was it before we had our first date,

Susan Lapin 24:18

and it was about two months, two and a half months later.

Daniel Lapin 24:23

So we would never been alone together for that point. But we we had sat at many dinner tables and I was in your class in class. And from that first date was

Susan Lapin 24:36

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well, it wasn't actually a date. It was Michael invited me to a dinner at his house, which is something he did very often there was a Monday, Monday night class that everyone pretty much everyone in the community went to Yeah. And he very often what I would say,

Daniel Lapin 24:50

without Michael Medved, I didn't think that congregation ever would have got off the ground. No, I mean. Yeah,

Susan Lapin 24:57

and he would very often have people over for meal after the the class ended or a snack or whatever. So he invited me and I assumed that it was

Daniel Lapin 25:07

nine o'clock because the class round seven, it was 90 minutes from 730 to nine. Yeah,

Susan Lapin 25:13

I assumed that there would be a whole bunch of people there. And it turned out there was only one other guest. And that was you. So I don't even know you call it a date and a setup

Susan Lapin 25:22

yet. Right. And then what happened? Well, after that you drove me home. And 12 days later, we got engaged. But you're leaving out our first actual date. So there was the next one? That was a Monday went out of me. Yeah, I was gonna be hard to I was speaking on the East Coast for five days during

Susan Lapin 25:41

that right. You flew away? Yeah. Without telling me you're going? Yes. No, we had clearly in the car. It was the next step would have been few to ask me out. And instead it was you were gone? Yeah. was not good. Not a guy who

Daniel Lapin 25:54

look, I was not in good eye. I mean, if your parents were more controlling of you, and we're on the spot on the spot, there's no way they would have let this happen.

Susan Lapin 26:08

So when you came back from out of town, No, you know what? I don't I don't think that counts isn't 12 days. I think the 12 days counts from when you came back from out of town after a very frosty phone conversation. Because you called someone else in the community just to say wish them a good Shabbat. You know, good job is a good Shabbat and I was there and that's when I found out you were in You hadn't told me that's when I was you. I

Daniel Lapin 26:32

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was David right. Yes, I call. So okay, folks, that you're out of town. This This may be getting just a little bit too embarrassed. When you

Susan Lapin 26:41

came back. You did ask me out. And we of course when voting because what else does one do?

Daniel Lapin 26:46

Well, naturally, I mean, I standard first Orthodox Jewish date, but not exactly. But in my case, it was I needed to know where you know whether you could handle about to at that stage. Well, maybe even that was a deal breaker. I mean, I did have to know that. I was very clear. You knew that.

Susan Lapin 27:05

You had a mistress in your life. Yes. You

Daniel Lapin 27:07

really you could tell that In what way?

Susan Lapin 27:11

You were in love with this boat.

Daniel Lapin 27:13

I love the boat. I really did. Yeah. So at any rate, 12 days later, we got engaged days after that, which is not something we'd have ever wanted to see our children do. No. We did that. Okay. But

Susan Lapin 27:29

having said that, by the time we got engaged, we we knew each other we knew we certainly knew each other's you

Daniel Lapin 27:36

know, non romantic environment.

Susan Lapin 27:37

Yes, which is a very healthy thing. I think we knew each other

Daniel Lapin 27:40

actually valuable.

Susan Lapin 27:42

I had actually already started teaching classes because I was one of the very, very few, I might have been the only woman in the community with a bet with any sort of a background. So I'd already started teaching women's classes. And

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Daniel Lapin 27:53

of course, naturally, I had to prepare

Susan Lapin 27:58

that we only had a few conversations discussing. So we really didn't know each other without but

Daniel Lapin 28:03

in my case, I have a brother sister arrangement then

Susan Lapin 28:07

it was a brother sister was a rabbi student. I mean, we didn't get to I don't think we got together in persons club. We just spoke over the phone about the class I was a teacher was right. You know, but but we didn't know each other's basic, religious, and certainly character. I'd heard you speak many times at that point, I'd seen you interact with lots of people. I probably knew you better than you knew me.

Daniel Lapin 28:31

Correct? Yes, that's true. I knew you. As a beautiful girl, an extremely the current nomenclature would be a hot,

Susan Lapin 28:45

you know if that's in your eyes. And that's a really big, I do get upset with you sometimes. It was one of the reasons I don't listen to your podcasts. Because every once in a while, I think you focus on beauty too much. Because there really is such a thing as beauty in the eye of the beholder. And you and I have both known cases, yes. where a young man went out with a woman that we suggested and he said, No, I don't want to go out with her. I don't find her attractive. And we said, you know, go out with her three times. And then and by the end, they ended up getting married because he did find her attractive after

Daniel Lapin 29:16

he had spent a little time No, no, disagree. Yeah. And I, I also, you were

Susan Lapin 29:26

and your parents had made some phone calls and checked into my family. That's right. I meant it was it was a lot of bad by the time we went on our first date and got engaged. There was a lot or there was a lot of background information that was that was known.

Daniel Lapin 29:41

Had your parents met me when we got we got engaged without them even. Again, that was just a circumstance

Susan Lapin 29:49

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it was circumstance and and, you know, there was like that. I think we both felt this was very right. They only were overwhelmed by that feeling. And the only thing I would add is that doesn't mean we kind of messed it up. And we probably a few times along our marriage had opportunities where if we had turned right, instead of left or left instead of right, we would have messed it up.

Daniel Lapin 30:13

Yeah. And as Yes, it wasn't,

Susan Lapin 30:15

do you think we found the right person, but I don't think that guaranteed a good marriage?

Daniel Lapin 30:20

I think that's that's probably probably the right way. But But again, you know, for me, somebody who I was very rational and logical,

Susan Lapin 30:32

and I was very risk averse. So the it was, I really do think there was little God's hand pushing us. Because it didn't make sense for either of us. The speed with which we got engaged. Yeah,

Daniel Lapin 30:42

no, that's right. I mean, but for me, it's in a certain sense. In a certain sense, it's countered to my advice to others, but in reality, it isn't, as I'll just clarify, in that sense, I was gonna say that, from the time we actually went boating, and any for the next couple of days, it quickly became apparent to me that, you know, that I just yearned for you. I just wanted to have you in my life at all times that it was a strange thing. It was not a sensation I was accustomed to having in my life at all. It's not as if I had a sort of sequence of intense relationships, I usually made absolutely sure that my relationships did not become that intense. The reason I say it's not a violation of, of Rabbi Daniel Lapin protocol, is because by that time, we really had spent quite a lot of time together in a non romantic context where we, we, you knew a lot about my family, I knew about your family. And we'd had several months of seeing each other in action with other people. Yes. And this is a big deal. This is the way dating used to work in small town America up till 19. I call it 1960 or 62, whatever. But families, new families, people and you

Susan Lapin 32:08

think it was the interstates I think it was more the 50s the interstate changed a lot of things that from so that one that one I attribute to the interstate

Daniel Lapin 32:17

to a large extent here. We've spoken about that. So there we are. You married, not just me, and not just me and my boat, you and your community, me and my congregation is my community which is by that point already yours as well. And you now become what in Jewish nomenclature is known as the Robertson, meaning the Rabbi's wife, who has an unofficial position in the congregation, but a very real one. And in a sense, she would be very much like pastors wives, we've met in many of our pastor

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friends. He is officially the lead pastor of the church. But she is very involved, she might well be involved in teaching and counseling, she might lead services, and she made all kinds of things very much as part of the team as it were. So that's what happened. So now, a quick, a quick story. I want to tell the story of this young woman, I don't know who you're talking about. At this point, it could be so many right because we we we shepherded over 100 marriages during the following few years. But during that time, one of them is a girl who lovely girl spent a lot of time in our home, very often stayed over at our home for Shabbat got to know our kids, they got to know her. And this is obviously a few years after now I know who we're talking about. Yeah. And what's more, when it came time for us to put together our crew for our sailing trip across the Pacific to Hawaii. She was top of the list and she quickly agreed to come. So at the same time

Susan Lapin 34:07

I just say talking about jumping in. Yes. She agreed to that was right after we met her she agreed to come that whole close relationship after the battle.

Daniel Lapin 34:18

I can't remember

Susan Lapin 34:19

she took a leap of faith. She put herself on a small boat with us three small children. Yes, that's right. And a couple from our synagogue and our friend Bob. She agreed to come on this boat with us when she had she barely knew us.

Daniel Lapin 34:34

Oh extraordinary I have to ask her, do you know what made her do it?

Susan Lapin 34:39

I think she fell in love with the boat.

Daniel Lapin 34:41

Yeah. And the idea of a sail to the idea of sailing from California. Yeah, yeah. Okay, fine. At the same time, one of the most impressive young men that I ever met and, and the whoever walked through the doors of our synagogue was becoming involved and starting to engage in Bible study, and, and we became friendly with him as well. So one, one summer, we're doing our regular boating trip on a small boat with a family in British Columbia off the coast of Western Canada. And we usually invited a couple of young singles from our congregation to come with partially as a as a sort of educational experience. We felt, let's give them a deeper and intimate insight into our marriage. And

Susan Lapin 35:33

let's be honest here, though we had. I don't remember how many children at that point. But we probably had four or five, maybe six children. We used to bring single girls so that I would have a vacation so that I could manage, I mean, make it a fun vacation for us.

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Daniel Lapin 35:50

And a single guy or two, which, yes, to help with to run the boat. Yeah, so running the boat yourself is hard. So, but we deliberately did select these two people.

Susan Lapin 36:03

When she was with us the whole summer. We invited him up just for a few days. He wasn't out there

Daniel Lapin 36:09

about a week. Okay. Yeah. And during that deliberately, you of course, very deliberately. Who else was with us on that trip? Do you remember? Yeah, I do.

Susan Lapin 36:19

Because they had met she had met about our table at our Shabbat. She was not taken and we were we were chatting said we were this is the right guy for this is

Daniel Lapin 36:28

exactly the right guy for her. This is a match made in the lap and household. I mean, this was it. And it hadn't sort of really clicked with either of them. But those long summer evenings on a boat in some quiet Bay in British Columbia. Yeah, that did the trick Not

Susan Lapin 36:50

only that, but when one of our daughters fell overboard in freezing water and he dove right in. I think that told a great deal about his character.

Daniel Lapin 36:58

Yeah, that settled that settled it. anyway, they they got married. reason I mentioned that is because a few years have gone by, and this couple remaining among our closest friends, although they don't live here. So can we tell the story about their son? Know What You don't think so? I don't? Well, nobody knows who we're talking about? No,

Susan Lapin 37:21

no, no, no, no. Too personal you can tell stories from 20 years ago, you can tell stories from 30 years ago, you don't tell current stories.

Daniel Lapin 37:29

Alright, so in 10 years time, and God will tell us. All right, anyway, suffice it to say that we have had the great pleasure of being involved in the marriages of some of their children, as well. So So there we are. It's it's very, very beautiful. So I wanted to talk about one of the key things in maintenance of a marriage,

Susan Lapin 37:59

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Boating.

Daniel Lapin 38:00

No, come on. That's, that's our mishegoss. That's our idiosyncrasy if you like, but it's obviously very few people do that. But what what what, what is important in terms of maintaining long term durability in a marriage? There is no one important thing, I think it's important for everyone to understand that marriage is so complex, and and there's so much to it, that on any complex thing, if somebody tells you, you know, here's the one secret you have to know, there's no such thing, there is no one secret, and certainly no one secret for everybody. But nevertheless, a very important thing is to accept the biblical idea that there is a moral obligation to be happy. Now, this is not a commonly known, it's less understood. You see, there are other biblical things that people take seriously. Oh, we've got to, we got to work for justice. Right. And you have social justice warriors, many of them will even quote the Bible. You know, justice, justice, shall thou pursue and they Yeah, listen, we're wearing to the Bible. You'll hear that and and then there'll be people's okay. The Bible says you you know you're not allowed to lie. You got to be honest. Okay, fine. Take the Sabbath. Seriously. People take charity seriously. Yeah, there are so many take seriously. The one that is a very serious one and doesn't and doesn't get spoken about so often is the moral obligation to be happy. So this has nothing to do with how you feel. You know, I think I've told you the story of how violently my mother reacted when she said, You need to be happy. And I said, well, then get me a motorcycle I said at the age of 14, and I'll be happy and she reacted in a way that I haven't forgotten to this present day. So being happy is not a function of whatever is outside. It's a function of an obligation you accept upon yourself. There was a story about Robertson. Yes, exactly right.

Susan Lapin 40:22

So this is a woman who was born, or she was a young girl in a concentration camp with her family. And it was a slightly lower level concentration camp, which is one of the reasons that she survived because most children did not survive the arrival, the day they arrived was the last day on earth. But she did and her family was actually together. And her father told her as a young little girl, she was told that she had to, she had a job to do. And she said a job I'm not you know, I'm whatever she was six or seven. And he said, yes, you must walk around with a smile on your face, because you will give something to people that they desperately need. If you walk around smiling, and she took that very seriously. And she passed away only a few years ago, I believe in her 80s. And I don't think she stopped smiling from that point on. Yeah,

Daniel Lapin 41:15

yeah. So the accepting this is a reality in your life is hugely important, that you have a moral obligation to be happy. That's regardless of anything else that's going on in your life. You know, every life has its problems. Every life has its trouble, every life has its pain, all of that, notwithstanding an obligation to be happy. And, and for those of you who are who Bible centric, I'll give you the references. And that is Deuteronomy 16:15, Chapter 16, verse 15, and you shall be but happy. Deuteronomy 26:11. And you shall be happy with all the good that the Lord your God has given to you and your household. And, and finally, Chapter 28, in Deuteronomy, verse 47, you want to know why all these horrible bad things have

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happened to as a people, because you have not served the Lord your God, with happiness and with full heartedness on account of all the the the goodness that God has done for you. So this is a hugely important thing, the idea of being happy. And it is very important in a courting situation. And even more important in a marriage situation,

Susan Lapin 42:39

I think one of the mistakes a lot of people make is that it's your spouse's obligation to make you happy.

Daniel Lapin 42:46

That's excellent. Thank you for mentioning that. That's exactly right. That's a very big thing, that it's a big mistake that people make, I've got to marry somebody who will make me happy that that in itself is a false statement of the highest order.

Daniel Lapin 43:01

And Susan, let us also for people who are beginning to be aware of the huge power that flows from biblical understanding, let's tell people about something we've worked on for the last couple of years and which is now a fruition and, and something that that is hugely effective.

Susan Lapin 43:25

What you are talking about is our scrolling through scripture video course. And it can be seen on our on our website at RabbiDanielLapin.com, or WeHappyWarriors.com. And it's now you know, we grew, you start we started and we thought it would be 15 half hour videos, covering the first the basically a little more than chapter one of Genesis because it's the Jewish chapter, rather than the chapter that's in the Bible we all use. And we thought it would be 15. And you couldn't do it in 15. You probably I mean, just to put it in perspective, the book of Genesis was taught in an hour and a half class once a week, and it took over 10 years in our synagogue, to go through that. So it's

Daniel Lapin 44:11

not moving at that rate. But it did take 20 online lessons now

Susan Lapin 44:17

20 online lessons and a 44 page workbook. Yeah, to be able to take those to help take those lessons and actually say, how, what does this mean for my life today? It's not just an act.

Daniel Lapin 44:29

And I think it also gives people an introduction to Bible study on a totally different level.

Susan Lapin 44:34

Well, partially because it introduces people who do not know any Hebrew to the importance of Hebrew letters and Hebrew words and how a translation misses the mark in so many ways. And so that is now actually just as of last week, it went up the entire complete thing, all 20 lessons. Everyone anyone ordered it previously is getting an email telling them how to fill in. They're going to get everything But

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the entire courses only available as of last week on the website, workbook. 20. lessons, the whole shebang.

Daniel Lapin 45:09

Susan, quiz Quiz time. Okay, before 1962? What percentage of Americans of the age of 30 had been married?

Susan Lapin 45:23

Oh, gosh. Before 1962? I'm going to say, Gosh, I think it's way up there. I'm going to say 75.

Daniel Lapin 45:33

Not quite over 60%. Okay, over 60%, up from 90 to 60 to over 60% of people aged 30 had been married. Now, in by 2015, which is six years ago. How many do you think how many Americans 24?

Susan Lapin 45:55

I'm gonna say under 50%.

Daniel Lapin 45:57

You keep going? In the 30s? Keep going? Oh, my goodness in the 20s. Then obviously going la Yes. Wow. About 17%. Wow. Only about 17% of America, America of the age of 30. I've ever been married? Yes. That includes divorced people. But

Susan Lapin 46:18

right. But it also includes, in other words, someone if let's say someone was widowed and in their 70s, they are counted there in this group? Yes. So it's Wow. Isn't that something? It is? It's amazing.

Daniel Lapin 46:32

So really, a very, very high proportion. Right now in the United States of America. What percentage of people report having no romantic involvement in their lives? We're afraid to get well for after COVID First of all, COVID? No, this actually this is prior to pre COVID? Yeah.

Susan Lapin 46:54

If only What did you say the percentage was better 17% of marriage? So I'm going to say under 30

Daniel Lapin 47:04

60% of people do not have a nice taste in their lives. 40% do? Isn't that crazy? That? Is it some? So there are all kinds of I mean, individual happiness is an issue. And national fertility is an issue. There are all kinds of consequences to figures like this. But what what do you have the top of your head? What do you see? As the reason for this? Why is it that the very natural God given attraction of men, for women and women for men? Why has that been so diminished and overwhelmed, to the point that it's now a minority of America? Thank God, those figures, by the way, are they're worse in America than in many, many other countries around the world. So you know, don't don't don't necessarily assume this is

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true for wherever you live. But in the United States of America, only 40% of people have a romantic interest. That means not only are married, but are thinking of being married or have a very special serious connection with somebody. That's a minority of people. Well, how does this come about?

Susan Lapin 48:21

Oh, I think we've made a lot of really, really bad mistakes over the past few decades. And one of them is the divorcing of romantic relationship from a physical relationship. So we basically said there are two different things, you know, you can have a lot of physical relationships. But that doesn't mean you have to have a connection with somebody. And that's one B, I think you have an awful lot of people who've grown up with fear, fear of watching parents as parents, either without either they there was no positive on what both there was no positive example where you said, Wow, I would like that in my life. And many people sadly have a lot of negative examples where they said, Well, I certainly don't want that in my life. And we've also elevated career. You know, you talk we talk about the five F's and they have to be unbalanced, which with each other family, fitness, faith, friendship and faith.

Daniel Lapin 49:22

And did you say faith, family, friendships, finance and fitness

Susan Lapin 49:27

5 F's and we've elevated finance in our society as that is what you need to go to college for that you you spend your years Don't even start thinking about relationship until you're in your late 30s because it's going to interfere with your you're making something of yourself. So but we've got two brackets, you've got brackets that don't have a concept of romance. It's just physical relationship. And then you have a bracket that well, you know, the career is the golden idol of our lives. Golden Calf of our day for many people.

Daniel Lapin 50:03

And Susan, yeah, we'll come back to this one as well. But when you were 19, or 20, did you see a marriage? in your, in your future? episode? You know that Susan as as a 19 year old college student in Brooklyn, New York. I wonder, did you see marriage? And in your mind, had you sort of thought, Well, I'd like a big family. I'd like to have seven children.

Susan Lapin 50:33

No, not quite. Okay. So I, I certainly marriage Yes. And I think I grew up in a because I did grow up in a an orthodox community. And so marriage was sort of taken for granted. And I think that's where one of the mistakes was, because it was taken for granted. Because that's what everybody had done. All our parents had been married, or our grandparents had been married everybody, you know, you just got married. And at the same time, feminism had made inroads. And so I went to a very academic school. And the expectation was both met the boys and the girls, were going to become professionals and have careers. And now at that point, I don't think people realize that there possibly could be a contradiction. And how many ways can you focus your mind when you're in your 20s? So I, if you asked me at 19, I certainly saw marriage. But I also saw a big Career Career, and I didn't realize that there might have to

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be trade offs. Because it was the world, you're supposed to be able to have everything. Now the world has really moved on to this new level where we're entitled to everything.

Daniel Lapin 51:42

Had you thought about whether when you do get married, you'd want to keep your maiden name? No. And that was the I never even thought in that detail. That was not.

Susan Lapin 51:52

And it wasn't we weren't, it wasn't a feminist move. It was more just a it was it was more of a matter of fact, assumption. And where I fell down is I really didn't know a lot of career options. I mean, if I looked, I knew you could be a doctor, and you could be a lawyer and you could be a CPA. I didn't want to be a doctor, I didn't want to be a CPA. So I kind of assumed I was gonna go to law school. And I came out to Venice, and that changed my life. And I got a job. And I was, you know, one of the hardest things I will tell you. And this was a huge, huge, huge challenge for me, when we got engaged, I had, I had gotten a job, you know, I needed I was paying my rent, and I was supporting myself. And it wasn't a job. It was a job I lucked into, it wasn't a job that I necessarily said, Oh, this is the field, I want to pursue it. You know, but I was getting my feet. And I was I was finding and it was a job in a financial company. And I actually again, fortuitously ended up being an assistant to a woman who was leaving on maternity leave. And who was a vice president in the company. And I understood very clearly that the last she the last time she had gone on maternity leave her assistant had then been wooed away by a rival company with a huge increase in prestige and pay because of what she learned when she covered for this her boss over the months of the maternity leave. So I had basically lucked into something that was turning into a potentially very good career path. Yes. And then we got engaged, and you said, well, you need to quit your job. That was Yes, I did. So against everything. First of all, every woman's magazine I've ever read said do not become dependent on your husband financially write warnings, you know, this is your you know, this is a bad idea. You do not want to make your financial future dependent on somebody else. Your fulfillment. I it was it that was a and I will say, you know, obviously there are there's a lot of variety in the Jewish community and there but specifically the the stream in which I had traveled and grown up what the assumption was not that the mothers had career, so it was new, but my generation was going to and it was gonna go with somehow was going to match marriage and children that everything was gonna work was just gonna work out. Yeah. I mean, literally, I probably had this idea that I would do dishes Monday night, my husband would do dishes Tuesday night, I would do Wednesday, he would do Thursday, it was it was just this assumption that this was all, you know, it was all gonna work. And so when you said and it made sense, you were working at a job. So you were working from whatever, let's say nine to five, which probably more than that, and you were teaching before that, and you were teaching after that, if I had my own work schedule, we never would have seen each other. What I and you knew you understood that you also understood that being the Robertson of this community was going to be we had from literally the week after we got married. We had guests in our Friday night and Shabbat lunch tables every single week,

Daniel Lapin 55:08

without exception without exception, that meant you were cooking.

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Susan Lapin 55:12

And that was a big part of growing the community because that's where the relationships were formed and where the, where Judaism and God and Torah were really introduced to people along with the classes. And that was a shocker for me. That was it that was talk about a leap of faith. That was a very big leap of faith for me to do to quit my job.

Daniel Lapin 55:35

I remember I mean, you were you were very, very miserable and unhappy during that time.

Susan Lapin 55:39

was a shock. I was in shock. It was I wasn't miserable and unhappy. But I was shocked. I was in shock. And it was, it was taking a step that I had never ever contemplated. You know, maybe if someone had said to me, look, by the time you have, you know, maybe you'll have children, then you'll want to stay home. But that wasn't I was I was there were no, there were no children on the horizon that that. That's right. We weren't even married yet. And and you were right. But it was, that was a big shocker to me.

Daniel Lapin 56:07

Yeah, I remember it was very, very hard thing very hard.

Susan Lapin 56:10

And that may be if I say that I truly think we were meant for each other. That was one of those places where I could have called it off at that point and said, This is ridiculous. You're a patriarchal ogre. I, you know, I'm gonna call it off.

Daniel Lapin 56:24

Did you know at that time that that was a deal breaker for me?

Susan Lapin 56:28

Yeah, I wasn't that you were it was just it was -

Daniel Lapin 56:32

I wasn't threatening or anything?

Susan Lapin 56:33

No, but it was just clear.

Daniel Lapin 56:34

That's not what I wanted.

Susan Lapin 56:36

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You're that the vision you had of of marriage and what a relationship would be meant that and yeah, and again, it wouldn't be that every woman has to quit when she gets engaged. But because of our circumstances that

Daniel Lapin 56:48

for us, that was an important year, I'm just sort of pulling together a number of questions people have sent in over the last few months and asked me about,

Susan Lapin 56:58

I'll throw one at you.

Daniel Lapin 56:59

I was gonna ask you if you had any questions for me,

Susan Lapin 57:02

because you were single for a long time. Yes. And so I imagine there was a point that you must have said, Oh, my goodness, what did I do? You know, and panic and, and we You say, Well, wait, is this really? I mean, am I really going through with this? This was a huge change. And you are a very you were adventurous you you were not a there was a reason you weren't you were working a nine to five job but they were really the reason you weren't only working a nine to five job, you needed a variety in your life, you needed a lot of excitement and adventure and you were full of ideas and, and all of a sudden, you know, did the phrase that's a disgusting phrase, but quote, unquote, the wall and chain I mean, did you panic and say, Well, wait, I'm not really ready for this change. I like my life. You had a pretty good life.

Daniel Lapin 57:56

After I met you. Yeah. honest to goodness, I can't explain it because I was. I was always it's not as if, as you said, I wasn't walking around moping and being single. I mean, I was, I was, I was having a great time in my mind. You know, I was, I was 19 and having a wonderful time. But now To be honest, from from that Sunday, we spent voting in the rain when you bought homemade chocolate chip cookies, which was a very calculated and shrewd move, Susan. That was no accident. I know that. No, it wasn't. But no, I I honestly had absolutely no doubt. Now. Look, I I mean, part of it was I was wildly attracted and and I felt a deep emotional connection. So and, and part of that was because we'd known each other for three months already before there was anything. So no, I actually didn't nothing at all.

Susan Lapin 59:05

I'm going to Dr. Freud here. Because I do believe you lost your voice the night before our wedding.

Daniel Lapin 59:14

Oh that's true. That was a stress. Yes, that that is true now. So how do you explain Yeah, look, this is true. I was stressed the the few days before the wedding. I was stressed. And I'm not sure.

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Susan Lapin 59:28

I just had this was we were the second wedding of our community, which as my husband said, ended up being over 100 young, a fifth over 100 couples met and married in the community. But we were number two because the night before our wedding, you actually performed the wedding of the first couple.

Daniel Lapin 59:46

Yes, that's right night before I did their wedding. And the next day was our wedding and we brought my father and mother to come along. My father was wanting to be at the wedding anyway, probably most of all, because they like you. In connection with which I am now going to tell the worst story in the whole world having to do with our marriage, which you're going to wave violently to try and just stick your legs, you're going to draw your finger across your throat saying, no, this you can't tell the story, but I am going to tell it quickly, because we don't have a lot of time left. And that is that we got engaged. I had not met your parents, they had not met mine. Right. And you had not met my parents, and they had not met you. And

Susan Lapin 1:00:37

your mother got on a plane the next day. So the next day, she was close, and my parents were 1000s of miles away.

Daniel Lapin 1:00:43

My parents raised 100 miles way in San Jose, California. Yes. So my mother gets on a plane. And she phones and says, Daniel, I'm going to come down to meet Susan and to spend some time with the two of you. And I will be there later today. So, okay. And can I just give her mother mockable remarkable. Well,

Susan Lapin 1:01:10

I was very close to and I, I really loved a great deal. But the image on people in the community had met my in laws, I had not because I had only been there a short while but other people had and I got a lot of, quote unquote, helpful advice, which is they're very formal. They are very British. And my mother in law can present on first acquaintance could present if you're the Queen Mother, sort of as somebody who with a look could make an entire room with with her. Yes, she was actually a very warm person, but she definitely had that British quality self with British dignity reserve and magetta majestic pneus Yeah, yeah. Now she could be intimidating. She was. Yeah. And to me, too, and that's what I was told by everybody. I was basically told, oh, you know, what, mind your P's and Q's?

Daniel Lapin 1:02:09

Well, we're driving to the airport to meet my mother. And in those days, of course, you know, you went to the gate and they stepped out of the gate. And there you were. But on the way to the airport, Susan is saying to me, so I you know, any tips anything, I should know anything I should do? And I said well, there is. And here, ladies and gentlemen, I was at my most cunning

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Susan Lapin 1:02:36

now. Excuse me, I won't say cunning as I said, there were things that you could have worked on with social maturity that you did not with me years prior.

Daniel Lapin 1:02:43

I prefer I prefer cunning. I was at my most diabolical I, Susan says, well, let's act this out, Susan.

Susan Lapin 1:02:55

No, you just tell it.

Daniel Lapin 1:02:56

No, just act it out.

Susan Lapin 1:02:58

This is not a video

Daniel Lapin 1:02:59

doesn't matter. The it'll be more helpful for our happy warriors.

Susan Lapin 1:03:05

So is there anything I should know in a special way? How should I address your mother? How should I? How should I greet her What?

Daniel Lapin 1:03:12

Well, Susan, if there is one thing, you know what, I can't ask you to do that.

Susan Lapin 1:03:17

Now tell me I want to

Daniel Lapin 1:03:20

see exactly what happened. So I said, Are you sure? Yes. Yes. What is it? I said, Well, there's a very traditional way that African brides meet their future mothers in law for the first time.

Susan Lapin 1:03:35

What is it?

Daniel Lapin 1:03:36

And Susan? Yeah, it was what it is now. Now, just as an aside, I'm filling in on some of the background. Back when I was growing up in South Africa, and I haven't been back for decades, I have no idea if this is still true or not. But there was a naughty word. It was an uncouth and vulgar word you used. Let's say you're riding a bike and a dog starts barking and chasing and snapping at your feet. You would yell at the dog the word foot sec. Which -

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Daniel Lapin 1:04:07

anyone from South Africa who's listening right now is going [gasping]

Daniel Lapin 1:04:11

yeah, that definitely if you're if you are from and we have many South African listeners, you are all gasping you don't even want to hear me say the word foot sack on the air because it's Yeah, it's it's it's a horrible I get out of here go away at its very best. But it's even worse than that. And it's really a word you'd use to try and get rid of rabid dogs. And so I'd meet some saying Yeah, we got this thing back in Africa. brides greet them mothers in law in a certain way. But I don't want to have to make you don't have to do it if you don't want to. No, no, no, no, tell me. I'll do it. I'll do it. So I said, Well, what you have to do is you have to go straight up to your future mother in law by mom and put one of your arms on each of her shoulders and look into her eyes. And then you have to very spiritually and meaningfully and Sincerely utter this word of blessing and tradition, and sin, what's the word I said foot sack. And she and our New South Africans listening are gasping in horror that I could be such a terrible human being.

Susan Lapin 1:05:19

And I'm sorry to say, because when we talk about marriages, in the challenges of marriages, you stayed a 10 year old with your parents, when your parents were involved. I'd say 50% of the time you were 10 years old.

Daniel Lapin 1:05:36

So so we practice the word kill, she can say foot sack with just the right expression, and the right tone of sincerity and meaning. And my mother steps out of the doorway in the arrivals in the concourse, and she's wearing I think she's wearing her white gloves. I'm sure she was. And she with little hats and everything.

Susan Lapin 1:06:01

Do not picture of not I grew up in an Italian neighborhood with a lot where there was a lot of hugging and stuff, British people that is not so huge. If

Daniel Lapin 1:06:09

you don't touch,

Susan Lapin 1:06:10

you're not allowed to even extend your hand for a handshake to the queen. If the Queen does not extend her hand to you, you do not touch her. So -

Daniel Lapin 1:06:19

and by the way, in polite English society to this present day. The prerogative of whether to shake hands is the woman's

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Susan Lapin 1:06:25

Well, I wish that would be in our society as well.

Daniel Lapin 1:06:28

Men never extend the hand to a woman unless she does so.

Susan Lapin 1:06:31

In other words, not only the word but putting a hand on your mother's shoulder. Oh, yes, a violation of protocols.

Daniel Lapin 1:06:38

Absolutely. And so she then she comes and this young Brooklyn girl trying her best to make a good impression on this rather formidable Dowager. She walks up to her violates her space by going right up close, touches her person by putting hands on shoulders, looks into her eyes, and sincerely mutters The word, not mytter, utters the word foot sack. Well, my mother, her eyes widen to wider than I've ever seen them. And she lost her breath. She goes like this [gasp]. And you can pick up from there.

Susan Lapin 1:07:19

And in a millisecond, she turned and looked at you and said, Daniel,

Daniel Lapin 1:07:26

she immediately twigged on to what had happened

Susan Lapin 1:07:29

And she and I became very close from that moment on.

Daniel Lapin 1:07:32

It was a dumb move, because they allied themselves against me. From then onwards. But But anyway, you had a wonderful relationship with them. And, and when I eventually met your parents, I had a very good relationship with your mom was amazing. I love

Susan Lapin 1:07:48

my, we flew back together. I think my parents had met you before this, but we flew back together. My cousin got married about two months before we got married.

Daniel Lapin 1:07:59

So we were engaged,

Susan Lapin 1:08:00

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we were engaged, and we flew into her wedding, it was a promise, my grandmother had asked each of us, before she died to make that we would be in each other's weddings. And so she came to my wedding and I went to hers,

Daniel Lapin 1:08:11

who was this, Ruthie?

Susan Lapin 1:08:13

And so she, we, when I stayed on, you left, right after the wedding. And I stayed on for a little longer to go shopping with my mother and do things with my mother. And you were - when my mother, when my parents took me to the airport. I didn't know it then. But you called my mother a few hours later and said, You must be feeling very lonely. And she felt that she was very touched by that. And so you had a wonderful relationship with her as well.

Daniel Lapin 1:08:39

She was incredible.

Susan Lapin 1:08:40

She went Boating with us. Yeah. sailing in the Caribbean with us. You had sailing, she went boating in the Pacific Northwest with us.

Daniel Lapin 1:08:49

And, you know, people often say nevermind the parents, you marrying the person. true or not true.

Susan Lapin 1:08:56

Not true, completely. Not true. And even it's not to say you can never marry someone whose parents you don't like. But it's something to take into account because first of all family matters. That's just matters. And what even if it's just baggage, even if it's a bit of a negative thing. A lot of the person you're marrying was formed by the family. And if they're deliberately and making a decision, and we know many people who have made a decision to not copy their parents and to not do, that's a decision, the family is still the formation of those you still need to know. It helps a great deal. Family, people come from

Daniel Lapin 1:09:35

our politics don't match a couple to us. We don't - we vote differently.

Susan Lapin 1:09:39

You know, what if someone had said that in 1950, I would probably have said I mean, I wasn't really alive yet. But I would have said you know, not such a big deal. today. That's that's your values. Yeah, that's the values your belief system. It's everything.

Daniel Lapin 1:09:53

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I we would say that if you are in the United States of America, I'd even say in England. By the way, because the Brexit vote was so reflective of underlying values, we would say that if a couple is contemplating marriage, and he voted one way about Britain leaving the European Union and she voted the other, they should definitely not get married yet. There's a lot that needs to be worked out. So, as Susan said, you know, a few decades ago before 1965, because the the, the, the, the Gulf wasn't so unbridgeable between the two opposing sides. But, but today it is. Any last questions you'd like to ask me in your interview? Now, you know, I so I meant to I really would have wanted to take a picture of this when we were you remember, I had a speech in Lancaster, Pennsylvania recently, and we had a lovely drive we drove there was a lovely part of Pennsylvania. And I caught a glimpse of something that I had, I kind of was thinking to myself, I we can't stop now. But maybe a museum? No, no, no, I want to see that. No, we just in a flash, we drove by two trees, edges, the imagery stuck with me, I thought myself, I'd love a picture of it. Like for a cover of a future Booker's two trees had been planted very or grew close to one another. And what had happened was they started off growing separately, and they got closer and closer. So by the time we're at about the six foot level, and then they started almost intertwining, and then by about 12 foot up, it's like one tree. And I just I like that imagery very much indeed. Because one of the things that stops some people from getting married is, you know, we don't agree on on many of these things, you know, she wants this, I want that. Again, not on fundamental values, but, and I, I thought of that image of those two trees and and it's something that that sticks with me because the, the thing that many people do not get many people don't understand is that who you are now, and who you will be five years after marriage are not not only are not the same, they shouldn't be the same, because marriage makes you grow. And one of the things that are the ways in which you grow as you do grow towards one another. And so, things that you may have thought almost a revulsion for you would never consider you are more open to after five years of marriage to somebody for whom those things are important. which is which is really something that brings us to one of these basic points, which is finding somebody and living with somebody whose happiness is more important to you than your own.

Susan Lapin 1:12:42

I think also it is the mythology and this you know, this was based on whether it's Walt Disney, but the happily ever, you know, happily ever after the marriage is the final step and a lot of chicklit check literature goes like that. Also, the final step is you get his getting married.

Daniel Lapin 1:12:58

That's a good point, every Harlequin romance the marriages the last few pages don't know, I recently read more Harlequin romances and Susan because they are so indicative of the deepest secret desires of the women who buy them and rematch.

Susan Lapin 1:13:16

That's a very damaging thing. Because

Daniel Lapin 1:13:19

what the idea that marriage is the last page

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Susan Lapin 1:13:21

marriage is the last page, because the same way you know, you don't if you're starting a business, let's say you decide to open a bakery, the day you put the open for business sign is not the end of the story. That's the beginning of the hardest work and marriage. You know, there are a lot of distractions after your marriage and a lot of times in getting ready for the marriage you actually didn't you know, you neglected other parts of your life possibly because it takes a lot of time. But it's marriage can never be on the neglected burner. And you know, as children come with this challenges, and I think that is something that we certainly we always always always not you can't do this every day. Sometimes, you know, the days go by we don't we never let too much time go by without spending fun time together. And that might have been a three hour drive. It might have been a half hour outing and it might be an overnight.

Daniel Lapin 1:14:20

That's how I managed to persuade you to go out for coffee with me yesterday.

Susan Lapin 1:14:24

Right yesterday, right? So we never let too much time go without spending marriage time.

Daniel Lapin 1:14:31

Okay, time for just two more topics.

Susan Lapin 1:14:33

Oh I thought were finished.

Daniel Lapin 1:14:35

No, no, no. Marriage isn't the end of last pay the rules of engagement, right? Obviously they're going to be disagreements and fights. I would go as far as to say would you agree with me if I say that? If there are not fights during the first year that's probably not a good thing. that things are getting swept under the rug means too much being swept under the rug.

Susan Lapin 1:14:55

Change the word fight to conflict.

Daniel Lapin 1:14:58

Yes. Okay. Good, fair. Enough rules of engagement what what is permissible what's non permissible in, in marriage conflict?

Susan Lapin 1:15:07

Well, what's what's non permissible is, "I think we may have to have a divorce", the divorce word is non permissible, unless you've reached a point that you actually are 99% on your way to divorce.

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Daniel Lapin 1:15:18

is a little bit like it's a little bit like owning nothing. What are the responsibilities of owning a firearm is never ever pointed at anybody unless it's loaded, and you're willing to shoot.

Susan Lapin 1:15:30

Right? So the D word does not get used as a bargaining chip or as a threat. And in general, I think learning how to and I don't think we were very good at this, I think, learning that you have different styles of dealing with conflicts, and I think we were we did fit the stereotype that your style was to withdraw and go silent,

Daniel Lapin 1:15:51

totally forbidden, you're absolutely if you're in the middle of an argument, you cannot walk out, you cannot disengage.

Susan Lapin 1:15:57

But I could have understood that, that another as a woman's tendency is to talk and a man's tendency is to get more quiet. Yeah. So it would have been helpful maybe if we both understood at the beginning that we need to structure things so that

Daniel Lapin 1:16:12

it's astonishing to me how much I knew when we got married, that divide, theoretically did not apply practically no, that should have ended, but I was not able to, because it needed a certain maturity,

Susan Lapin 1:16:25

I think I do think there's a lot more material out. And I think there's some of it's bad, there's, you know, there's a lot of negative and harmful material out. There's also a lot of good material out there that you can learn from. Yeah, and I think that is a good idea. So that's rules of engagement. I'd say that,

Daniel Lapin 1:16:41

yeah, definitely. And, and, and here's the final thing that I wanted to touch on, which is that it's become common in the culture now to speak of, well, we live much longer than people used to years ago. And so the whole idea of being married for life no longer applies, after all, forever is a very long time. And we should get used to the idea. So essentially, this is a strategy being used by serial marriages that you should have serial marriages and largely brought about by divorced people who are a little bit like, these are like people who thought the ocean liner was sinking. So they jumped overboard into a life vest, and they floating in the water, and they're yelling up to everyone on the boat. Come on in the water's fine. Join us here. And there's a tendency to do that. So the honest Yeah, Listen, don't don't think. And by the way, I can readily understand how dangerously seductive this can be to couples in a marriage, everyone goes through times of concern. And if if the culture if something you trust your friends that everyone's beaming through the message, Hey, you know what your marriage has run its course every marriage has a natural lifespan, and it's time for you to move on for both of you.

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Susan Lapin 1:18:05

Well, that's the phrase now is that he or she is a wonderful person, we just, we just are growing in different ways growing apart. That was the gates marriage that was that, you know, whatever it was. And on one hand, I feel like I don't need to know all your dirty laundry. But that kind of a sentence is dangerous and a bad thing in itself as if, you know, we're she's basically a great person, he's great. Basically a great guy, we could stay married, but we're each looking for more happiness, that's a very damaging idea. It was a marriage, then it wasn't a covenant that you entered with the seriousness that it needs.

Daniel Lapin 1:18:39

So what I what I'd like to convey to people and, and again, I'm hoping

Susan Lapin 1:18:44

I just mentioned, if you look like Abraham and Sarah, the years they lived, they had longer marriages than we do.

Daniel Lapin 1:18:50

Yeah, that's true. But a few years have elapsed since then we've had our ups and downs but but I think the the the popular culture message is, look, you know, this person really well already. There's nothing left to discover about them. It's time for freshness and newness and adventure. And so you're doing yourselves both a favor, by in a friendly and amicable way, kiss each other Goodbye, you each go your separate ways, and you move on to new relationships, because nobody ever intended marriage to last for 20 or 30 or 40 years. So this way, you get two marriages in 40 years instead of just one and this and that way. Each one has the freshness and newness of getting to know a new person. And so the the answer to that is false. And the answer is not that the magic comes from discovering new things necessarily in that person, although that yes, willed and does happen constantly. What it is, is discovering new things in the world outside of yourselves together. That is what it is and that is something that never stops at any point to told you? Am I making that clear that it's wrong? Yeah, it's not in the closed circle of you and me that we have to be constantly finding new drama and new adventure and new discoveries, although that always happened. Yeah. But more importantly, when the two of us encounter a new idea, a new experience, a new event, a new confrontation. And, and that doing that with somebody with whom you've intertwined over the years, is a is a very exciting and very wonderful thing. So that is, I have many, many more questions that people have. And you probably could come up with a couple as well. But for now, I just I'm hoping people that you think people like this,

Susan Lapin 1:20:49

I don't know, they will tell you I haven't noticed any shyness about people telling you and I

Daniel Lapin 1:20:54

and I love that by the way. So if you're listening to this on, on YouTube on the rabbi Daniel Lapin YouTube channel, hey, just put it right there. If anywhere else, why don't you write to us at go to the website, youneedarabbi.com, youneedarabbi.com. And then in the drop down menu under About Us,

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you'll find a tab that says contact us and we will see your letter. So I hope you enjoyed us doing this is a little bit different from the the normal format of, of the Rabbi Daniel Lapin show, but it's just wanted to have this conversation together with you feeling that you might like this slightly personal glimpse into our lives and into our marriage. Alternatively, you may have thought this to be a horrendous waste of time. And hey, either way is right, we want to hear from you. And you know, that my mission is to serve you as as much as possible to bring you real value, not just entertainment, not just information. But yes, a limitless reservoir of inexhaustible stamina, that comes from really understanding your five F's getting your five F's, your faith, your family, your friendships, your finances, and your fitness, up to speed. And also in terms of getting to know how the world really works. All of that is so exciting, and so energizing that those are the things that we really do want to bring to you, while you're at the website, sending us a Hello note and a greeting. Also take a look at Scrolling through Scripture, the online course, which is a verse by verse analysis of the first 34 verses of Genesis, which will literally open your eyes and expose you to a Bible you never knew.

Daniel Lapin 1:23:02

And I say this to people who are atheists, people who are Bible believers and everybody in between, you cannot afford to ignore a book that has shaped civilization more than any other book in the last well in the 1000s of years of human history. No other book so you can't afford to remain ignorant of this book. And something I'll talk about more in a future show. But I'm discovering many people now who are not known as Bible believers who are not known as religious people, but who are saying that if you can't manage without having a some awareness of a religious structure, I'm thinking of the wonderful current historian Neil Ferguson. I don't remember visit Stanford now or Harvard, he tends to move around. You know who his wife is Susan. Now, Ali Hirsi is the remarkable and brave. I think she's originally from Somalia, but she was in Holland for many years. And the two of them may quite a couple. I've not thought of them in any way as religious, but just left as it is right. And she rejected it. Anyway, my point is that people who are not religious or surprising me, Neil Ferguson wrote a wonderful book called The West and the rest, you know, looking at the fact that Western civilization has succeeded more than any other on the face of the planet. And this isn't his opinion or my opinion. It's the opinion of 1000s and 1000s, and millions of people who risked everything in order to come and live under the socio moral and legal underpinnings of Western civilization, whether it's in North America or whether it is Western Europe. So scrolling through Scripture is the course you can see it on the website, youneedarabbi.com. Read about it. And you may well find that you want to join the group of us who are studying verse by verse through the first 34 verses of the Bible, which really lay the foundation for an understanding of the entire book. Susan, I think that that's probably as far as we're going for today as far as so thanks for being part of the show. And as always, I so appreciate the work you do in helping to promote the show. And when as new listeners I think I've told you before, I'm a little obsessive about watching the download numbers and, and get very uplifted when they climb and get down cost. Well not much but but I'm aware,

Susan Lapin 1:25:47

because you know, you are responsible for your happiness, not your download numbers

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Daniel Lapin 1:25:51

That's exactly right, which takes us full circle. Thanks for being part of the show. And I want to wish you a fabulous week ahead as you develop your relationship with God with your finances, with your family and friends, and with your own health and fitness. I'm Rabbi Daniel Lapin. God bless