

Mountaineering with the Master: If Looks Could Kill, Part I

November 7, 2021



When Jesus saw His ministry drawing huge crowds, He climbed a hillside. Those who were apprenticed to Him, the committed, climbed with Him. Arriving at a quiet place, He sat down and taught His climbing companions... (Matthew 5:1, 2; TM)

WHERE WE'VE BEEN...

- What we _____ + how we _____; it's all about information and behavior, _____ and _____, knowledge and obedience.
- Knowledge and behavior are crucial, but _____.
- Religion – humanity's attempt to get _____ to God.
- Jesus said _____ X You have heard that our ancestors were told...

SEX...

What is my attitude toward sexuality? Is it _____? Does it need renewing?

You have heard the commandment that says, 'You must not commit adultery.' But I say, anyone who even looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. So if your eye—even your good eye—causes you to lust, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your hand—even your stronger hand—causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell....

(Matthew 5:27-30; NLT)

You know the next commandment pretty well, too: 'Don't go to bed with another's spouse.' But don't think you've preserved your virtue simply by staying out of bed. Your heart can be corrupted by lust even quicker than your body. Those ogling looks you think nobody notices—they also corrupt. Let's not pretend this is easier than it really is. If you want to live a morally pure life, here's what you have to do: You have to blind your right eye the moment you catch it in a lustful leer. You have to choose to live one-eyed or else be dumped on a moral trash pile. And you have to chop off your right hand the moment you notice it raised threateningly. Better a bloody stump than your entire being discarded for good in the dump... (Matthew 5:27-30; MSG)

A QUICK SPIN THROUGH SCRIPTURE...

1. Sex is a gift given by God _____ sin entered the world

Then God said, 'Let us make human beings in our image.' So God created human beings in His own image. In the image of God He created them; male and female He created them....
(Genesis 1:26, 27; NLT)

- The _____ and distinctive separateness of male and female come together through _____ in marriage when two are joined as one flesh*

(*see Genesis 2:23-24; Matthew 19:3-6; Mark 10:6-9; Ephesians 5:28-32)

The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him." So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep. While the man slept, the Lord God took out one of the man's ribs and closed up the opening. Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib and He brought her to the man. "At last!" the man exclaimed. "This one is bone from my bone and flesh from my flesh! She will be called 'woman,' because she was taken from 'man.'" This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife and the two are united into one. Now the man and his wife were both naked, but they felt no shame... (Genesis 2:18, 21-25; NLT)

2. Sex is _____ for marriage

Therefore a man leaves his father and mother and embraces his wife. They become one flesh.
The two of them, the Man and his Wife, were naked, but they felt no shame....
(Genesis 2:24, 25; MSG)

3. Sex can have _____ consequences when not done God's way

For sound advice is a beacon, good teaching is a light, moral discipline is a life path. They'll protect you from promiscuous women, from the seductive talk of some temptress. Don't lustfully fantasize on her beauty, nor be taken in by her bedroom eyes. You can buy an hour with a prostitute for a loaf of bread, but a promiscuous woman may well eat you alive. Can you build a fire in your lap and not burn your pants? Can you walk barefoot on hot coals and not get blisters? It's the same when you have sex with your neighbor's wife: Touch her and you'll pay for it. No excuses... (Proverbs 6:23-26; MSG)

- A nearly _____% increase in reportable STDs between 2015 and 2019
- The sharpest increase was in cases of syphilis among _____

Run from sexual sin! No other sin so clearly affects the body as this one does. For sexual immorality is a sin against your own body. Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body...
(I Corinthians 6:18-20; NLT)

- Sexual immorality = πορνεία = _____

4. Sex is a _____ when done God's way!

May your kisses be as exciting as the best wine—Yes, wine that goes down smoothly for my lover, flowing gently over lips and teeth. I am my lover's and he claims me as his own. Come, my love, let us go out to the fields and spend the night among the wildflowers. Let us get up early and go to the vineyards to see if the grapevines have budded, if the blossoms have opened and if the pomegranates have bloomed. There I will give you my love... (Song of Solomon 7:6-12; NLT)

You're so beautiful, my darling, so beautiful and your dove eyes are veiled by your hair as it flows and shimmers, like a flock of goats in the distance streaming down a hillside in the sunshine.

Your smile is generous and full—expressive and clean. Your lips are jewel red, your mouth elegant and inviting, your veiled cheeks soft and radiant. The smooth, lithe lines of your neck command notice—all heads turn in awe and admiration! Your breasts are like fawns, twins of a gazelle, grazing among the first spring flowers. The sweet, fragrant curves of your body, the soft, spiced contours of your flesh invite me and I come. I stay until dawn breathes its light and night slips away. You're beautiful from head to toe, my dear love, beautiful beyond compare, absolutely flawless... (Song of Solomon 4:1-7; MSG)

- Is sex for pleasure or procreation?

The marriage bed must be a place of mutuality—the husband seeking to satisfy his wife, the wife seeking to satisfy her husband. Marriage is not a place to "stand up for your rights." Marriage is a decision to serve the other, whether in bed or not. Abstaining from sex is permissible for a period of time if you both agree to it and if it's for the purpose of prayer and fasting—but only for such times. Then come back together again. Satan has an ingenious way of tempting us when we least expect it... (I Corinthians 7:3-5; MSG)

Marriage should be honored by all and the marriage bed kept pure for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral... (Hebrews 13:4; NLT)

- "Marriage bed" = sexual intercourse (coitus)

You have heard the commandment that says, 'You must not commit adultery.' But I say, anyone who even looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart...
(Matthew 5:27-30; NLT)

GRACE IS GONNA WIN!