

Sermon Notes for October 24, 1999

The Sermon on the Mount “Godly Sexuality” Matthew 5:27-30

Three Generations

A little boy asked his mother where he came from, and also where she had come from as a baby. His mother gave him a tall tale about a **beautiful white-feathered bird**. The boy asked his grandmother the same question and received a variation on the bird story. Outside to his playmate he said, **“You know, there hasn’t been a normal birth in our family for three generations.”**

How It Works

A little boy asked his mother, **“Marriage makes you have babies, doesn’t it, Mom?”** The mother reluctantly answered her son, “Well, not exactly. **Just because you are married does not mean that you get pregnant.**” The boy continued his inquiry: **“Then how do you get pregnant?”** His mother, not at all enthusiastic about continuing this discussion, answered, **“It’s kind of hard to explain.”** The boy paused and thought for a moment. He then walked closer to his mother, looked directly into her face, and carefully said, **“You don’t really know how it works, do you, Mom?”**

Seventeen Magazine

In a question and answer column of the July 1997 issue of Seventeen magazine, the following question was asked: **“I’ve been with this guy for a long time and I think I’m ready to have sex. How do I know for sure that I am?”** The response pointed out that there is no formula to determine sexual readiness. It advised avoiding peer pressure to have sex and counseled, **“Make sure the decision to have sex is your decision, and yours only.”**

TV

“Ninety-four percent of sex on TV is among people who aren’t married to each other,”

Modesty

About 900 years ago, Earl Leofric, Lord of Coventry, England, imposed heavy taxes on his people. His wife, Lady Godiva, asked her husband to reduce the revenues. He agreed to do so only if she would ride on horseback naked through the town. Though his offer was made sarcastically, she took him up on the deal. The lady asked all the townspeople to stay indoors and, clothed only in her hair, she mounted a horse and rode through the streets. **And out of respect for her great sacrifice of modesty, all the citizens looked away.** A few years ago, a similar incident did not draw a similar reaction. **In May 1990, the Board of Aldermen in Winston-Salem, North Carolina considered a 41 percent hike in property assessments.** And to protest, one citizen repeated Lady Godiva’s act. An unidentified woman passed through the town in nothing but long hair and a fleshcolored body stocking. But as she rode through the streets on horseback, no one

respectfully turned away. **Newsweek reported that men and women “poured into the streets, peered out of windows and climbed to the roofs of buildings to get a good look.”** That characterizes our age. We live in a time of preoccupation with immodesty, not a respect for modesty.

Introduction

A. The Need For SUCH A MESSAGE

1. Despite the fact that such a message on sexuality is uncomfortable for EVERYONE, **Jesus deals with it** because it **MUST BE DEALT WITH**.
 - a. **The Victorian View**
 1. It’s bad and evil
 2. Sex must never be mentioned
 3. In some ways it is a “necessary evil”
 - b. **The Playboy View**
 1. There is nothing wrong with sex.
 2. We must leave the Victorian Age and experience our sexuality.
 - c. **The Church View**
 1. My belief is that we are in a real struggle, trying to understand the Biblical view.
 2. Jesus does not back off of the subject at all.
 3. Nor should Christians. In his book, The Puritans As They Really Were, Leland Ryken tells of a Puritan wife in the early days of our country who asked her church to discipline her husband because he would not provide her conjugal rights. The leaders excommunicated the husband from the church.
2. **The world is surely aware** of sexuality.
 - a. Some 20 billion dollars were spent on pornography this year.
 - b. 80% of all Internet sites are pornographic.
 - c. More than ½ of all marriages dealt with by private investigators reveal an affair.
 - d. In women who have their first sexual relationship at age 21 or later, cheating occurs up to 16%. But for those who have their first sexual relationship at a younger age, up to 50% cheat on a future mate.

B. The Need For BIBLICAL UNDERSTANDING

1. There is **DEFINITELY** something here regarding sexuality.
2. And we must understand it if we are to live successfully in this world.
3. It is an enormous struggle.
 - a. Simply ask your husband
 1. In his book, His Needs, Her Needs, Building An Affair-Proof Marriage, Willard Harley lists a husband’s greatest need (of his 5 greatest needs) as **sexual fulfillment**.
READ THIS BOOK!

2. In my discipleship ministry with men - it is a **MATTER OF TIME** before we cross this **MAJOR ISSUE** - to which he will **EVENTUALLY** say, "Jim, I've got this problem."
 - a. You show me a man who says that he doesn't have a struggle with sex
 - b. and I will show you a man who will lie about other things.
3. Augustine, the early church father -
 - a. Before he became a Christian, he had a mistress and a daughter by that mistress.
 - b. He even managed to hide his mistress and child from his mother for 15 years!
 - c. After becoming a Christian, he said - **"I am utterly depraved and the mind alone is no match for the seduction of evil pleasure."**

I. **The WORLDY View Of Adultery**

Vs. 27 - "You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.'"

A. **A PHYSICAL Understanding**

1. The Pharisees, believed that **ONLY** the physical act of sex was the **TOTAL** meaning of the Commandment.
 - a. Adultery defined
 1. Sexual relations between married people not married to each other.
 2. As a married person having sexual relations with an unmarried person.
 - b. Fornication defined
 1. Sexual relations between two people who are unmarried.
 2. Columbia
 - c. So, the Pharisee saw that if he did **NOT** physically commit the act with another woman, then he was **INNOCENT**.
2. The world, likewise, seems to have such a view.
 - a. When you consider the pornography industry, one can be **THOROUGHLY** involved with another person in thought and yet never see them, touch them, or talk to them personally.
 1. Magazine
 2. Internet - Chat rooms
 - b. Most people would say that they had remained faithful to their spouse because nothing "physical" ever happened.

Church lady - "How convenient!"

B. **An EMOTIONAL Understanding.**

1. Sex **MUST** be more than just the physical.
 - a. Otherwise we are simply like the animal kingdom that responds to programmed impulses.
 - b. How "base" it is to think of sex as **NOTHING** but physical.
2. Well, let me tell you. Jesus does not see it that way.

II. **The GODLY View Of Adultery**

A. UNDERSTANDING Adultery

1. What Adultery IS

a. **Looking**

Vs. 28a - "But I tell you that anyone who **looks** at a woman . . ."

1. Definition

a. Physically

1. To look
2. To turn the eyes; to gaze
3. The continuous process of looking
4. NOT a passing glance
5. This is a deliberate effort to use one's eyes to stare at another sexually.

b. Mentally

1. To see with the mind's eye
2. To fantasize; day dream

2. Tense

- a. A present participle
- b. You are thinking and CONTINUE to think.

b. **Lusting**

1. Definition

- a. To look at another with a goal or purpose in mind.
- b. To covet or steal from another.
- c. Looking at another to feed your sexual desire.

2. Tense

- a. Aorist infinitive
- b. Not only do you look, you continue to look and look some more; there is no effort to stop.

c. **Learning**

1. So you see, there are actually three types of adultery:

- a. **Eye** adultery
- b. **Heart** adultery
- c. **Body** adultery

2. Obviously more than physical.

2. What Adultery is **NOT**

a. **The accidental glance**

1. When you are minding your own business, and unknown to you, a beautiful woman crosses your path, and you look - THAT is not lusting.
2. However, when you continue to walk, then stop and begin to look again, continually - with sexuality in mind, then you are entering into the world of lust.
3. Women have got to understand that there is a basic, inherent difference between men and women regarding sexuality.
 - a. Men are affected visually -
 1. God made men that way

2. Look at Adam in the Garden of Eden
AFTER He made Eve - the original Hebrew
reads: WOW! WOW! WOW!

- b. Men can't help that initial look - it's the second look that they get in trouble with -
- c. **While my wife and I were shopping at a mall, a shapely young woman in a short, form-fitting dress strolled by. My eyes followed her. Without looking up from the item she was examining, my wife asked, "Was it worth the trouble you're in?"**
- d. Deer hunting
- e. Old divine - "If Satan comes to my door, I cannot help it. If he lifts the latch and walks in, I cannot help it. But it is altogether different if I offer him a chair."

b. **The appreciative glance**

- 1. Is it wrong for men to find women attractive?
 - a. Notice what was said of Jacob:
Genesis 29:16-17: "Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the older was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah had weak eyes, **but Rachel was lovely in form, and beautiful.**"
 - b. Men appreciate beautiful women while women appreciate beautiful flowers.
 - c. Warren Wiersbe - "It is possible for a man to glance at a beautiful woman and know that she is beautiful but not lust after her."
- 2. It is also wrong when women make themselves seductive.
 - a. That makes it that much more difficult for men to resist gazing.
 - b. We will talk about steps to take later in this message.

B. **DEALING With Adultery**

Vs. 29-30: "If your **right eye** causes you to sin, **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 **right 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 go into hell."

1. **Radical Surgery**

- a. Jesus says some RADICAL things here - DOES HE ACTUALLY mean that you should gouge out an eye or cut off a hand?
 - 1. Definition
 - a. The **right eye** was seen as the predominant eye.

1. But more importantly, the eyes were the gates to the mind and the soul.
 2. The sense would be to get rid of a block, that “portal” upon which we received these images.
 3. Some believe that Jesus is talking to the man here because his basic problem stems from his eyes.
- b. The **right hand** was seen as the predominant hand.
1. Referring to the touch of another and how that can lead to problems between the sexes.
 2. Perhaps referring to the weakness of women and their sensitivity to touch.
2. Application
- a. Does Jesus REALLY mean that we should take a knife and cut out the offending member of our body?
 1. This could be in direct conflict with what Jesus has been teaching in The Sermon on the Mount.
 - a. That the whole problem is about the **HEART**.
 - b. Even if you cut out the right eye, you **STILL** have the left eye.
 - c. And even if you cut out both eyes, you have a **MEMORY!**
 2. And what about the other senses?
 - a. Nose - smell
 - b. Ear - hear
 3. An early church father actually took Matthew 5:29 to heart.
 - a. Origin of Alexander - lived during the 3rd Century.
 - b. He renounced food, possessions and sleep.
 - c. And after a continual struggle with his flesh, he took Matthew 5:29 and Matthew 19:12 and made himself a eunuch! (Kids, ask your parents at home.)
 - d. In 325 A.D. the Council of Nicea declared this a barbarous practice and it was officially forbidden.
 - b. Jesus IS trying to tell us that sin is serious enough to deal with to prevent us from going to hell!

1. In some sense, if you consider that adultery would prevent us from going to heaven,
2. the SMART thing to do would be to get rid of the offending part!
3. Don't be like the Franks: "You remember that among the Franks, whole armies were sometimes given baptism at one stroke, and many warriors went into the water with their right hands held high, so that they did not get wet. Then they could say, 'This hand has never been baptized,' and they could swing their battle axes just as freely as ever. The modern counterpart of that partial baptism is seen in many people who have been baptized, all except their pocketbooks. They held these high out of the water."

2. Radical living

- a. Whatever we do, we must take some radical steps if we want to live Godly lives.
- b. Notice what Jesus really means in verse 29a - "If your right eye causes you to sin."
 1. Definition
 - a. The Greek word skandalos
 - b. The **stick** that is used to bait a trap to catch or snare an animal.
 - c. A **stone** that might be in one's path that would cause him to fall.
 - d. A **pit** dug in the ground and deceptively covered over with sticks and leaves.
 2. Application
 - a. Jesus is saying that we are to "pluck out" or "cut off" anything that would CAUSE US to be caught or snared by sexual temptation.
 - b. Illustrations
 1. It's one thing for King David to walk up on his roof and accidentally see Bathsheba bathing:
 - a. From then on he needed to refrain from going up on the roof
 - b. or find out when she would be bathing and stay away.
 2. Cable TV
 3. Man going to motel
 4. Internet - put on safeguards! FOR YOU! not so much your children.
 - c. REMOVE THE OBVIOUS STUMBLING BLOCKS!
 1. Joseph/Potiphar's wife

2. I Corinthians 6:18 - Flee from sexual immorality.
3. Rocket Ship/The Fall
4. Plato talked of two horses and a charioteer
 - a. One gentle - reason
 - b. One wild - passion
5. Even Scripture reveals the inherent danger of sexual sins: I. Cor. 6; 9; Gal. 5; I Jn. 2:15; Sexual sin ALWAYS mentioned first.

III. A BIBLICAL View Of SEXUALITY

A. Sexuality Is A DIVINE Creation

1. We must realize that GOD MADE SEX!
 - a. **Genesis 1:27**: “God made man in His image; **male and female** He created them.”
 - b. THIS IDEA OF SEX WAS GOD’S IDEA!
2. God commanded man to relate sexually.
 - a. **Genesis 1:28** - “God blessed them and said to them, **‘Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it.’**”
 - b. How will man fill the earth unless he reproduces himself?

B. Sexuality Is A PERFECT Creation

1. **Genesis 2:18**: “The Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. **I will make a helper suitable for him.**”
2. Woman FITS man PERFECTLY;
 - a. Spiritually
 - b. Emotionally
 - c. Physically

C. Sexuality Is The INDICATION Of A Good Marriage

1. Genesis 2:24: “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and **they will become one flesh.**”
2. The order:
 - a. Leave - spiritual
 - b. Cleave - emotional
 - c. Put together
 - d. Oneness - physical
3. **Sinclair Ferguson** - “**The sexual is intended to be the very physical demonstration of spiritual love.**”

CLOSING COMMENTS

1. Be Godly, Be Wise

- a. Praise God for His blessing and wisdom in the area of sexuality.
 1. The book of Song of Solomon was written **FOR THIS PURPOSE.**
 2. The marriage bed is undefiled

3. I Cor. 7
- b. But **BE CAREFUL**.
 1. **Be on the offense**, not the defense, by **PREVENTING** stumbling blocks to be placed in your way.
 2. **Live a deeply Godly, spiritual life**; Swindoll - “Frankly, I find it impossible to simultaneously lust and repeat verses on moral purity.”
 3. Find a **ministry** to pour your life into.
 4. **Confess your sin when you fall into it.**
 5. **Don’t feed the tiger** you will face in the arena tomorrow.
 - a. The Coliseum
 - b. Romans 13:14: “Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.”
 6. **Build a loving, prayerful, encouraging relationship with your spouse.**
- c. Be aware that adultery kills:
 1. Adultery kills your relationship with God.
 2. Adultery kills your relationship with your spouse.

Joseph Parker - English Pastor; late 1800’s

“The body says I will have my way, I will enjoy myself, I will throw off restraint, I will do what I please, every appetite will be gratified. And the soul sits as far back as it can, in the foul house, and mourns like an exile. I see it. I see its drooping countenance, its eyelids heavy and red. I hear its great sob. I see its infinite dejection.”

2. GUARD YOUR HEART

- a. **One man is visibly sick:**
 1. Shaking
 2. Trembling
 3. Breathing is difficult
 4. He has pneumonia.
- b. **The other man is quiet and calm:**
 1. Breathing normally
 2. Good color
 3. Resting peacefully
 4. But he is dying of cancer.
- c. Put all together:

“It is not the symptoms that kill, but the disease.”

It all starts with your heart.

Thomas Costain’s history, THE THREE EDWARDS, described the life of **Raynald III**, a fourteenth-century duke in what is now Belgium. Grossly overweight, Raynald was commonly called by his Latin nickname, Crassus, which means “fat.”

After a violent quarrel, Raynald's younger brother, Edward, led a successful revolt against him. Edward captured Raynald but did not kill him. Instead, he built a room around Raynald in the Nieuwkerk castle and promised him he could regain his title and property as soon as he was able to leave the room.

This would not have been difficult for most people since the room had several windows and a door of near-normal size, **and none was locked or barred.** The problem was Raynald's size. **To regain his freedom, he needed to lose weight.** But Edward knew his older brother, and each day he sent a variety of delicious foods. Instead of dieting his way out of prison, Raynald grew fatter.

When Duke Edward was accused of cruelty, he had a ready answer: **"My brother is not a prisoner. He may leave when he so wills."**

Raynald stayed in that room for ten years and wasn't released until after Edward died in battle. By then his health was so ruined he died within a year . . . a prisoner of his own appetite.