

MORE THAN SEX!

Ps. Mike Onen – 21 Feb 2016
“Money, Sex & Power” Series
Sermon Notes



RECAP

For our visitors, we've just begun a series called 'Money, Sex & Power'. And we've been dealing with some critical areas in our lives that could actually affect the Refreshing we are looking to experience this year 2016. In week 1 we talked about the area of “**MONEY!**”

- **Life Is More Than Making Money! / Resource Follows Assignment!**

And then last week we talked about “**POWER!**”

- **“The Sole Purpose of Power Is Service” / Qualities of Kingdom Power! (Stewardship/ Empowerment/ Justice/ Succession OR Legacy) (Brief Voting Highlights)**
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And today, ladies and gentlemen we want to talk about SEX! (Disclaimer - PG:Kids & Teenz)

(Story Of Sex Education) As far as I can recall, I have never received Sex Education as a young man from my family. Only about AIDS maybe...

How many of you were taught & instructed about sex by your parents or older relatives? And I mean real instruction, not just 'stay away from boys... they're bad!' You are the fortunate few! From an early age, many of us here were either told or we somehow understood without words, that this was an embarrassing topic that decent Africans were not supposed to talk about. And so most of us learnt all that we knew about sex from external sources like; Novels, TV, magazines, friends, music, school etc. One of the strongest messages we received from these sources was that when it comes to sex, you have to look like you know what's going on. Even if you don't know, fake it! People never admit ignorance when it comes to sex. Everybody else knows what's going on so you'd better look like you know! But if you're honest, all of us know stories of regret, confusion and pain that have resulted in our lives or in the lives of those close to us, because of ignorance about or misuse of this thing called sex.

Now let me stop at this point and say what this sermon is not.

- Sex is bad Sermon. Sex is actually a good thing and it adds much spice to life.
- Singleness is hard and bad Sermon: Our sexuality is a wonderful gift of God that was created to allow us to complement and enjoy each other. (*Enjoy the gift of friendship*)
- Try and say all that can be said about sex Sermon.

Now if you're interested in this topic ...Fortunately for you (and contrary to what many think), the bible has a lot to teach us about sex. Turn with me to **2 Sam.11:1-5** and let's learn together about life's pursuits, especially the area of sex.

2 Sam 11: 1-5 ESV In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel. And they ravaged the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem. ² It happened, late one afternoon, when David arose from his couch and was walking on the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful. ³ And David sent and inquired about the woman. And one said, “Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?” ⁴ So David sent messengers and took her, and she came to him, and he lay with her. (Now she had been purifying herself from her uncleanness.) Then she returned to her house. ⁵ And the woman conceived, and she sent and told David, “I am pregnant.”

1 David was at the top of his game. He was extremely successful in his career as an army general. He had never lost a battle. He had been crowned king at thirty. In the short time since then had beaten all of Israel's traditional enemies; the Philistines, Moabites, Arameans, Edomites and Ammonites. He was a very popular king; everybody liked him. Maybe he felt he had earned himself a sabbatical and so rather than join his soldiers in battle, he sent them off and stayed home. Then Bathsheba happened!

5 It doesn't say how long she stayed with him; whether it was overnight or for a few hours. It doesn't say what the experience was like; whether it was all that David had expected or not. But it's plain to see that after he had seduced her and had sex with her, he sent her away. As far as he was concerned, they were done; his desire was satisfied, he had moved on. It was not until maybe six weeks later when she sent word that she was pregnant that he remembered her. And by that time, she was no longer unusually beautiful Bathsheba, but 'the woman'. **[Ladies give sex to gain affection – But men give affection to gain sex – and then they move on]**

To cover up the affair, David summoned Uriah home and tried to trick him into having sex with his wife [if this was a TV show it would be called 'desperate husbands'!]. When his plan failed, David did an even more unthinkable thing; he sent this loyal, faithful friend back to the battle-field carrying his own death warrant.

2-4 This guy was actually a member of David's top command, one of David's 30 'Mighty Men' and yet David had just slept with his wife! Ouch!

But that was just the beginning. As a result of what he had done

- His sons lost respect for him. One of them raped his own sister;
- Two years later, he in turn was killed by his oldest brother to avenge for this dishonor. This same first-born later attempted a coup against David himself, raped his wives on the palace top.

David could never have imagined that he would live the rest of his life regretting what he had done. And that's just in his lifetime; the consequences would continue affecting his family for generations to come. That one act had begun a chain of events that would damage his legacy, destroy his family and spoil everything he had spent his life building.

- David's is certainly a sobering story but I don't think he didn't understand that there would be consequences to his action? Maybe not just how much it would cost him.

There are many lessons we can learn from it. But one that surely stands out is this... **NEVER TRADE IN YOUR ULTIMATE FOR THE IMMEDIATE.**

What I do want to say today is simply this...

- Though sex is a wonderful tool that God gave us to help us achieve our God given destiny, it can also become the weapon that our enemy uses, to subvert and destroy that destiny.
- It's just that at times, the ultimate seems so faint, and the immediate seems so real!
- Somehow words like destiny, legacy, future generations and God's purpose seem like vague concepts compared to satisfying your craving. And of course at that time I'm thinking 'life is short; I could even get hit by a bus tomorrow!'
- When faced with the immediate, it's hard to think of the ultimate. And today, many of us are trading in our God-given purpose and destiny for momentary sexual enjoyment. Its time to come to our senses!

NEVER TRADE IN YOUR ULTIMATE FOR THE IMMEDIATE!

A. Why Wait Till Marriage:

Of course part of the problem is that most of our sources never taught us the consequences of sex outside of marriage. Did you ever realize that sex on TV:

1) Is Never Between A Married Couple 2) Has No Consequences?

It's marketed as clothes strewn on the floor from the front-door till the bedroom. Bed creaking and passionate moaning all night long... with hair & make-up fully intact and no bad breath the morning after... Sex just makes everything alright! And it's a picture that has fooled us all, both married and single.

Let me address those who are single. You may be justifying sleeping together by saying ‘but we’re going to get married anyway’. But here’s the thing; God never gives us His commands to frustrate us or deny us. There are good reasons why He asks us to wait till marriage. Not all friendship and intimacy should lead to sex or marriage. Accept sexual attraction as normal, but learn to be self-controlled. **Why?**

- ❖ **Firstly, sex is only one component of a great marriage.** A great marriage consists of spiritual oneness, intellectual oneness, emotional oneness and physical oneness. Sex is like the icing on the cake; it adds flavor. But you know what happens when you eat the icing before you taste the cake? You lose your taste for the cake! Sex before marriage has a way of taking over your relationship, and stunting your opportunity to develop in all the other areas. I believe that’s why different studies have showed that those who live together before marriage have a higher separation & divorce rate.
- ❖ **Secondly, sexual purity gives you an opportunity to build trust.** When we’ve counseled couples where there’s suspicion of infidelity, it many times boils down to ‘if he was unfaithful with others (or – ironically - even with me) before we got married, how do I know he will be faithful to me just because he said “I do”?’ *(Parent’s don’t trust your children because they weren’t sexually pure either)*
- ❖ **Thirdly, imagine you marry someone who has had sex with other partners.** Every time something doesn’t work as well, you’re thinking ‘Am I matching up to her/his former lover’? Nobody likes to be compared! Or if one of your former boyfriend/girlfriend gets a job at your place of work and you didn’t disclose this past affair to your spouse... *(Fifty shades of Grey)*

NEVER TRADE IN YOUR ULTIMATE FOR THE IMMEDIATE.

Let me speak also to the married for a minute. At some point you may have thought ‘once I have met my soul-mate, and we get married, temptation will go out of the window!’ Those who are married here know that’s the furthest thing from the truth! The reality is that we give our best hours, when we’re freshest, smelling good to our work-mates and by the time we get home, all we have left for our spouses are the leftovers. Most of your employers don’t care at all for your marriages; when some of your departments do well (because you worked over-time and neglected your families), the reward is an all-expenses paid trip to the a dream destination... without your spouse!

- Many marriages are hurting today because of the pain of infidelity.
- Many others are as one author called it, ‘an affair waiting to happen!’
- Couples investing in everything else; education, children, career and not in their most important asset ...their marriage.

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At the end of the day however, even knowing the consequences may not be enough to keep many of us from getting sexually involved with the wrong person at the wrong time. Only a healthy picture of our ultimate purpose will help us say no to the lure of the immediate.

Let me ask you a question? What would the consequences be for you if you traded your ultimate for the immediate? (married - if your spouse found out you were having an affair? /singles – your girl friend /boyfriend you’ve been saving yourself for is sleeping with someone else?)

Implication of falling into sexual sin.....**It’s not worth it!**

How To Manage Our Sexuality.

So what needs to happen? You need to DISCIPLINE YOUR SEXUALITY

Rather than fear or repress our sexuality, we need realize that God has now given us power over it and is calling us to exercise that power, love and self discipline. How do we practically do this?

2Tim.1:7 says ‘for God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline’.

a. Men – it begins with disciplining our eyes. As men, our eyes are where sexual sin begins. Men can have mental sex with a woman who they haven't even talked to through their eyes. That's why Jesus says in **Mat.5:28** '*anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart*'. **Job.31:1** '*I made a covenant with my eyes not to look with lust upon a woman*'
2nd lustful look at women,
Prov.4:25 says it well, '*Let your eyes look straight ahead, fix your eyes directly before you*'

Pst. M once said 'there are two types of men, those who lead other men, and those who run after women'.

b. Women – it begins with disciplining our emotions. A woman's strongest point of vulnerability is her emotions. Women who commit sexual sin often begin not with a wandering eye but with wandering emotions. Women can easily have emotional affairs / it can be just as devastating as if you were having a sexual affair.

And that's why the Shulammite woman in Songs of Solomon says it not once but three times... in Chapters **2:7, 3:5, 8:3**

SOS '*Promise me, O women of Jerusalem, by the swift gazelles and the deer of the wild, not to awaken love until the time is right*'.

- ***Please, guard your hearts!*** It doesn't matter how nice, harmless, friendly or brotherly he is, he is not your girlfriend! Don't treat him like one of your girlfriends because he's a man!
- Spend enough unguarded time with someone and something will happen!
- or '***Define the Relationship!*** **DTR** If you're feeling he's beginning to cross the line and sending mixed messages, two things: First of all ***share it with others who know you*** and secondly, **DTR!**
- If you cannot discipline your emotions, you will never rule over God's creation as you were meant to!

c. Be responsible for each other

As for the men - stop messing with women's emotions... Men can be flirtatious because they often don't realize how emotionally vulnerable women can be.

As for the women I don't know how to put this across without being blunt so here goes: Ladies - stop messing with men's eyes! Now that you understand that all men are turned on by revealing dresses, short skirts & close proximity, please do something about it. There's more to be concealed than discovered. You know yourself; God has made you wonderfully with all your curves and all your edges, with all your perfect imperfection... Those full-bodied hugs that we give each other are not helpful at all either! And if you don't like a guy please don't string him along. Be firm and honorably snub any advances. Let's become our brothers' keepers! Help us to be pure!

NEVER TRADE IN YOUR ULTIMATE FOR THE IMMEDIATE.

There is good news in this story. The amazing thing is that God not only forgave David. He may have suffered from the consequences, but God's grace was big enough to give him a second chance and restore the house of David. And history remembers David, not as the man who sinned, but as 'the man after God's own heart'. I believe that God is here. And He is saying to someone today... I created you for more than this; I made you for greatness. And today I am here to give you a second chance. I love you! You're forgiven!

As we conclude, I want to pray for...

1. I have already made some bad sexual decisions. (Compromised sexually)... may be single or married... traded the ultimate for the immediate. Want to cry out for forgiveness and ask God to restore me. To do whatever it takes to come back to Him and His purpose for me
2. Am in a situation where I am under great temptation and know I'm in danger of succumbing.

3. Know I have not put any protection around myself and am vulnerable to sexual sin.
4. People who have been sexually taken advantage of, either have been manipulated /raped by people in authority or people they look up? **Forgive those who have abused, hurt, or disappointed.** Don't tie your healing to theirs. Find your own healing.