

REAL HUSBANDS OF K'LA



Ps. Njoro – 16 March 2014 – Finders Keepers Series
SERMON NOTES

Theme: Recovering biblical masculinity – push back on societal views of what society says a man should be

We're going through a series called 'Finders Keepers Reloaded' learning from God's word about how to find and keep the love that lasts a lifetime. We began with '**The Morning After**', understanding why relationships today are in such a mess. Because of the consequences of human rebellion, **women tend to manipulate while men tend to dominate**. But we learnt that God is able to save us not only spiritually but sexually as well. Last week was '**Tutegeragane**', where we saw that in a society that often blurs the lines, God has created clear differences between men and women and learnt that '**before you can enjoy your sexuality, you need to know your identity.**'

Today we want to focus on the men and the title of my message is '**Real Husbands Of Kampala**': Or simply just **Real Men**. This sermon is not just for men, but also for the women who love them, work with them or simply just want to understand them! I don't know how many remember, but the whole region was thrown in shock in July 2013 when two men from Kisauni agreed to sign a contract to marry the same woman when they realized they were both having an affair with her. The agreement stated when each would take their shift in her house, how they would respect one another, and how they would share the work of raising her child as their own. However when one of the men went public about the contract, he not only lost his job but had to go into hiding to escape the public backlash!

So here's my question today... **what's your opinion about these 2 husbands of Kisauni? DISCUSS**

Well, we all have different opinions on it but I'm sure one thing we all agree is that the only reason this story made such big headlines is because the person with two spouses was a woman! You see, society expects certain moral looseness from men that it frowns upon when practiced by women. The narrative in our culture is that men are supposed to be irresponsible, unfaithful, selfish and immature womanizers. That's just how men are!

Maybe that's why most boys are brought up without much structure. Parents often invest a lot in teaching girls how to be ladies. How to dress decently, how to sit properly, how to work hard, how to be careful when with boys and so on! But when it comes to boys, the thinking seems to be 'since you can't get pregnant, go on and figure it all out for yourself'! As a result, most men today learnt manhood through the school of hard knocks.

But this is not just a recent phenomenon. The bible has some amazingly real stories of real men, some of whom accomplished great things, and yet who made a mess of their sexuality. From **Lot** who slept with his two daughters to **Abraham** who had no problem allowing a king to sleep with his wife in order to save his life. From **Jacob**, who had two honeymoons back to back with sisters, to **Onan** who masturbated to ensure he did not get sons for his dead brother. From **Samson**, who had a fetish for Philistine prostitutes to **David** who killed

his buddy to hide the fact that he'd impregnated his wife. From **Amnon** who raped his own sister to his baby brother **Solomon** who had a serious woman addiction – he kept 700 wives and 300 concubines!

What is it about men and sex? Is it even possible or realistic for men to conquer their sex drive? For some men, the question would be, 'why would I even want to conquer my sex drive?' The ladies just can't keep away, so hey – YOLO! Which of course means, 'you only live once!' Yet another bunch of men seem to think, 'hey, I've got this covered. That's not my issue. It's not like I'm a pervert or anything.' Pastor, preach to those guys who really need it!

But this message is relevant for every man – young, old, married or single. As a man you were created to rule. You were created for greatness! You were not made for mediocrity. But there is nothing that undoes God's purpose for your life like an undisciplined sex drive. For many men, their untamed sexuality is like a grenade that they have tossed into their own lives. And they've ended up blowing up their families, their friendships, their careers, and ultimately the huge impact they were created to have on this world. So if there's a man next to you tell him *'this message is for you!'*

So my friend Joe is accountant and he has a really interesting story from when he was younger. It was his first job, and he was working really hard, because he was naturally ambitious and wanted a promotion. Several months into the job, he noticed that his boss really seemed to like him and once in a while she would say something that was on the verge of being flirtatious. Let's call her Mrs P, for the sake of our story. Well, Joe was flattered by the attention because why lie, she was quite hot! But he did his best to deflect it because she was a married woman. So one evening, she asks Joe to bring up a file to her office. He comes in and innocently puts it on her desk. As he was doing so, she went round him and kicked the door shut. Then she came up and put her palms on his chest, saying she had been looking forward to being alone with him for a long time. As he was still trying to think through what he was feeling (remember, men don't think and feel at the same time), she held his neck, closed her eyes and opened her mouth to kiss him!

Okay, so hit let's hit pause for a minute! So how do you think this story ended? If you're a guy especially, you know the answer right? Well let's read the story... Please turn with me to **Genesis 39:1-12 NIV**

Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. Potiphar, an Egyptian who was one of Pharaoh's officials, the captain of the guard, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him there.

² The Lord was with Joseph so that he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master.³ When his master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord gave him success in everything he did, ⁴ Joseph found favor in his eyes and became his attendant. Potiphar put him in charge of his household, and he entrusted to his care everything he owned. ⁵ From the time he put him in charge of his household and of all that he owned, the Lord blessed the household of the Egyptian because of Joseph. The blessing of the Lord was on everything Potiphar had, both in the house and in the field.⁶ So Potiphar left everything he had in Joseph's care; with Joseph in charge, he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate.

Now Joseph was well-built and handsome,⁷ and after a while his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said, "Come to bed with me!"

⁸ But he refused. "With me in charge," he told her, "my master does not concern himself with anything in the house; everything he owns he has entrusted to my care. ⁹ No one is greater in this house than I am. My master

has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?"¹⁰ And though she spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her or even be with her.

¹¹ One day he went into the house to attend to his duties, and none of the household servants was inside. ¹² She caught him by his cloak and said, "Come to bed with me!" But he left his cloak in her hand and ran out of the house.

The bible tells us that Joseph was 'well built and handsome'. He was what some women would call 'eye candy'. Especially his boss's wife, one of the original real housewives of Cairo City! This woman '*took notice of him*' – NKJV says she '*cast longing eyes on him*' – (IOW - he looked like strawberry swirl ice-cream). She proceed to make all kinds of signals that she wanted to sample some of his goods! Maybe she sweetly smiled at him, suggestively removed her jacket or even touched his behind! Not used to taking no for an answer, she assumed he was playing hard to get and that his "No" meant "Yes"! So the more he resisted, the more she flirted. Finally one day the cougar decided it was time to make a move on the pretty boy. She probably figured that once she had him alone, he would find her irresistible. Why? Three reasons. First of all, she was a powerful woman who could make his life very comfortable – its what we call today P.E.P or, 'poverty eradication program'! Secondly, they were alone so no one would ever know. But thirdly and most importantly, he was a young man full of hormones! After all, which young man do you know who would be able to say 'no!' to a beautiful half-naked lady who desires to sleep with him?

But despite all these things, the bible tells us '*he left his cloak in her hands and RAN out of the house*'. In a tempting situation that most men would have found almost impossible to resist, he did not even hesitate! And even though he lost his job, Joseph's action of running away saved him from destroying his destiny.

Look at it this way: Like every man here, Joseph was created for greatness. Even as he worked in that entry-level job, God was preparing him to be the prime minister of Egypt. Even though he didn't know it, his destiny was to one day save the whole world from starvation. And his decisions were building the type of character that he would need. Many of us want to be great, we want to prosper: But the fact is that we are so undisciplined that prosperity would destroy us! We were created to lead men but we're busy running after women! And so God keeps you poor and insignificant – at least then you'll continue to pray!

So the million-dollar question is - in our highly sexualized culture, how can men harness their sex drive so it doesn't sabotage their destiny?

Joseph teaches us an important biblical truth about sexual temptation. When it comes to the devil, **James 4:7** says '*resist the devil and he will flee from you*'. But when it comes to sexual temptation, it's a different strategy: **1Cor 6:18** says '*Flee from sexual immorality!*' Here's the big lesson - **Against the devil, play offense, but against sexual temptation, play defence!** I want to share with you three defensive barriers that will help men (and even women) win the war against sexual temptation. Barrier #1 is...

A. YOUR EYES – Men receive sexual gratification through the eyes. Different men are turned on by different parts of the female anatomy. We aren't even picky! It can be a photo of a nude stranger or a romantic moment with the wife. Research shows that a man's brain has a physiological response to seeing a woman's anatomy that is comparable to his response to delicious food. Apparently when a man sees a beautiful

woman's body parts, there is a chemical reaction in the 'pleasure circuits' of his brain! What women don't understand is that men can engage in foreplay through nothing else but their eyes!

So the first defensive barrier must be around our eyes. How? The words of a wise man called Job teach us how in **Job 31:1**. *'I made a covenant with my eyes not to look lustfully at a girl'*. In other words, he and his eyes made a deal. How do you make a deal with your eyes? You do so by committing never to give a second look to something that gives you sexual gratification, unless it is your spouse. Notice I said a second look. You see, you can hardly avoid noticing the women around you, that music video on TV, that receptionist with a low cut blouse. You'd have to be made out of stone not to notice! But once you notice that you've noticed, that's when you act - you must train your eyes to intentionally turn away and NOT LOOK AGAIN!

Admittedly, this is not very easy to do if you've never done it before. But the good news is that lust is not a disease that requires medical treatment! It's a bad habit that was created by bad choices. And we defeat it the same way we defeat other bad habits. By consistently making good choices in order to create good habits. You need to know that, your body will fight back. It wants that chemical high that you've been feeding it with. You'll need to understand when you're most vulnerable so that you don't get caught by surprise. Determine in advance that you will immediately bounce your eyes away. If it's a magazine, turn the page. If it's a TV ad, change the channel! Have you noticed the most popular movies and TV series today have a lot of soft porn today slipped into them? e.g. *Scandal, Homeland, Game of Thrones*. You need to learn to fast-forward that scene or better still, stop watching it! Nowadays learnt to read through Internet Christian reviews before we watch a movie or series. For some people here, a proper defence means you replace your smartphone with a dumb phone and disconnect your home Internet subscription!

Remember, **against the devil, play offense, but against sexual temptation, play defence!** Your eyes are the first external barrier; like the fence to your house. It doesn't make sense to build a nice house without any protection around it. The 2nd barrier you must set up is around...

B. YOUR MIND – If your eyes are the perimeter fence, then your mind is the external wall of your house. Your mind is even craftier than your eyes! If you starve it of sensual images, it digs deep into the hard drive and creates its own. You see a workmate and your mind imagines what it would be like to take her to bed. And old girlfriend pops into mind and your mind recreates old memories or fabricates new ones! How do you put a barrier around such a powerful supercomputer!

Putting a barrier around your eyes is a helpful first step because it keeps new images from rushing in. But the 2nd thing you must do is to take your thoughts captive. **2Cor.10:5** says, *'we demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ'*. How do you take your thoughts captive? This is another trick I learnt. You do it by inserting God's word to replace lustful thoughts. You see, you can never think about 2 things at the same time! So for example, when I have a sinful thought, I've learnt to speak this prayer aloud, 'I take captive that thought right now and make it obedient to Jesus Christ'. It's interesting that it actually works!

The reality is that you will never just outgrow a dirty mind! Indulging it is like pouring kerosene on a fire! You must take it captive by consciously replace the wrong thoughts with the right thoughts. Memorize some scriptures to strengthen your barrier. Be prepared for your mind to fight back. So your mind will say things to you like...

§ 'You're the only one dealing with this issue. What will people think of you if you confess!' But you quote scripture right back to it and say, **1Cor 10:13** *'No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful* (There are many others dealing with the same problem!)

§ Other times your mind says, 'You've failed so many times before – don't even try!' And you say, **Prov. 24:16** *'Though a righteous man falls seven times, he rises again!'*

§ Or your mind might say, 'you're a disgrace! God will never accept you'. You quote **Rom 5:8** *'But God demonstrates his own love for us in this – while we were still sinners, Christ died for us!'*

§ And then it might throw this one: 'What's wrong with looking? Just because you can't order doesn't mean you can't look at the menu!' **Job31:1** *'I made a covenant with my eyes not to look lustfully at a girl'*

What happens when you're too turned on to stop? This woman is driving you crazy! You just have to have one more look! But a friend of mine gave an illustration that helped. Say you're just about to get in bed with a woman. You know it's wrong but you're too turned on and it's past the point of no return. All your clothes are off and all your systems are raring to go. Then she stops and said, 'oops, I forgot my gonorrhoea pills – please pass them!' What happens? The system that was past the point of no return returns! That's how powerful your mind is! It can truly deceive you. So you must set up the barrier of God's word to take it captive. **Against the devil, play offense, but against sexual temptation, play defence!** The 3rd and inmost barrier is...

C. YOUR HEART - Your heart is your most inner defence. It's your resistance of last resort. If your eyes are your perimeter fence and your mind is the external walls of your house, then your heart is like the *machete* that you put under your bed. When your external defences are breached, when you're in that room and in the line of fire, it's the condition of your heart that will save you. Notice that this is what helped Joseph overcome. The reason he fled from Mrs P was not because she wasn't beautiful. It was not because he wasn't tempted. It was not because Mr P might find out. The reason Joe fled was what? **V.9** *'How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?'*

Clearly, young Joe had realized that even though no one else might ever find out, God would certainly know. And he valued his relationship with his heavenly Daddy too much to allow it to be destroyed by a one-night fling – no matter how attractive it was! You see, if you have a real friendship with your heavenly Father, and you know just how much He believes in you - then when you're faced with a difficult choice, your first thought is, 'I want my daddy to be proud of me!' Yes she may be beautiful, yes that Internet video may be irresistible, but my Father who loves me is in this room, and I respect him too much to go down that road! Developing an affection for God displaces your affection for things that dishonour God.

Against the devil, play offense, but against sexual temptation, play defence! Some of you learnt these truths a while back and they've saved you from many dangers. But never make the mistake of becoming complacent! One counsellor shared how a Christian man came to see him because he felt bored in his marriage and was wondering what was wrong. After some time, the counsellor noticed that the man really enjoyed watching R rated movies, which have a lot of sex scenes. Even if it wasn't quite porn, he asked him to stop it and to take captive his eyes and mind. After a few weeks of doing this, the man's affection for his wife returned! You may be indulging in 'small' practices right now that are weakening your defences.

I heard about an army general who was diagnosed with cancer. Given only 2 years to live, he decided to fight the disease with everything he could. In addition to treatments, he visited his relatives, took holidays with his wife and spent lots of time with his kids. 9 years later, he was still alive though undergoing treatment. When asked why he had decided to keep fighting, he replied 'what choice do I have?' You see the man realized that it was either choose to fight OR quit and die! As a man, you too have no choice. It's either you choose to fight or you quit and die! Die to your dreams, die to your destiny, and die to any hope of intimacy with your wife (present or future). Yes, we may try and fall down. But we must get up again and keep fighting! It may be a hard battle but we were created to win battles, starting with the ones within. God has a great destiny for you. He created you to make a difference in your generation. He loves you greatly and is proud of you. And He has given you everything you need to win this battle of sexual purity! **Against the devil, play offense, but against sexual temptation, play defence!**

Imagine a group of mighty men who make a difference in their generation. Imagine men who do not run after women but who lead men and women. Imagine men who are confident in their identity because they know who they are, and whose they are. Imagine men who are faithful to their women and their families. Imagine that these men are so different that when people spend just a few minutes with them they ask them, 'are you from Mavuno Church?' Imagine that there's a generation of men like these, and you (or the men you love) are among them.

Song: Lord I give you my heart

LETS PRAY!

1. I have struggled in my battle for purity and not done well in the past. Determining to make a fresh start, and with your help to guard my eyes, my mind and my heart... (both men and women)