

Be Faithful Until Death

Text : **Deut. 5: 3-21** esp **18**
(cf.- **Exodus 20: 1-17** esp **14**)

INTRODUCTION :

A. Our text takes place 41 years after God originally gave His Law to Israel.

1. Many in the audience were children when God spoke His Law from the mountain.
 - a. **Num. 14: 29** ... All over 20 yrs. old would perish in the desert.
 - b. They wandered in the desert for forty years after fearing to take the land.
2. Through Moses, God was reminding them of the Covenant He made with them.

B. When God brought them out of the land of slavery, He betrothed them to Himself.

1. **Read and exegete ... Vs. 22-29**
2. They believed; they feared; they committed themselves.
3. When they broke their vow to God, He referred to that unfaithfulness as “**adultery.**”
Ezek. 23: 37- For they have committed adultery, and blood is on their hands. Thus they have committed adultery with their idols and even caused their sons, whom they bore to Me, to pass through the fire to them as food.
4. Thus, adultery can rightly be defined as unfaithfulness to a marriage contract.

C. This Lesson “Thou shalt Not Commit Adultery” is an embarrassing topic to discuss.

1. How can one misunderstand what it means ?
2. To read the command is to state pretty much all that is required, don’t violate your oath.
3. Even so, people have been violating this command from the very day it was given.

D. Remember, the purpose of the covenant between God and Israel. **Exod. 19: 3-6**

1. Israel was to be separated out from the other nations of the world.
2. Israel was to be different from the rest of the world, distinct in their God-likeness.
3. Israel was to be a holy nation, an example for others to follow.
4. Israel was to be a nation of priests bringing God’s will to the world.

*** Israel’s acceptance of God and His law established a relationship between them and God which made them unique among nations. It was an intimate and very personal relationship that neither party should violate. God didn’t make such a covenant with any other nation and Israel was not to have relations with any other god. It was a marriage between God and man. Understanding the marriage-bond between a man and a woman enables one to understand the bond between the Christian and God.**

I. Marriage is the most intimate of all relationships.

A. God created people to be coupled together.

Read and exegete ... Gen. 2: 18-22 (vs by vs)

1. Vs. - **18** ... God knew it was not good for man not to have a mate.
 - a. Man (woman) needs companionship.
 - b. One of man's functions on the earth is to reproduce.
 - c. Both of these require a human mate. (**Dogs are nice, but they can't do it.**)
2. Vs. - **19-20** ... God graphically demonstrated this to Adam.
 - a. God allowed man to be the one to name all of His creatures.
 - b. After viewing every living creature, Adam saw that he was alone.
 - c. Adam ruled over every creature, but could be fulfilled by none.
3. Woman was created different from all other of God's creation
 - a. Vs. - **21** ... "**So**" ... she was created specifically to fulfill man's need.
 - 1) All things were created "BY" God and "FOR" God.
 - 2) God took woman from man and created her to fulfill a man's need.
 - b. Vs. - **22** ... She was the only one of God's creatures, **NOT** created from dust.
4. Vs.- **22b** ... Like all other creatures, God presented the woman to Adam to be named.

B. Adam recognized his relationship to woman to be different from all others.

Read and Exegete ... Gen. 2: 23-25 (vs by vs)

1. The name that Adam chose for his mate reflected the intimacy of the relationship.
 - a. Vs.- **23** ... "**Bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh**"
 - 1) "**This is part of me.**" (**Nothing can possibly be more intimate.**)
 - 2) Man is incomplete without a woman.
2. When a man and a woman are joined together, they make one new unit.
 - a. Neither is complete without the other.
 - b. They remain part of their parent's unit.
3. Together, they comprise a separate and independent unit. ... **a family.**
 - a. Vs.- **24** ... "**Leave his father and his mother**"
 - b. The leaving is for the purpose of cleaving to a different unit.
 - c. Marriage joins the rib back to Adam forming a complete man.

C. A person's mate is as his own body.

Eph. 5: 28- So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; (The ultimate oneness.)

II. Sex is commanded in marriage.

A. Some have suggested that the “*forbidden fruit*” in the garden was sex. **ERROR**

1. This cannot possibly be the case.
 2. **Read and Exegete ... Gen. 1: 27-28**
 - a. They were created male and female for a reason.
 - b. They were commanded to produce an abundance of offspring.
 - c. Man cannot obey this command without having sexual relations.
 3. **THUS**, sex is a command of God.
 - a. Sex is pleasurable, but its purpose is not for pleasure.
 - b. Family units exist for the production of offspring.
- * **This should tell us something about same sex unions.**
- 1) They are for the pleasure of the participants.
 - 2) They cannot produce offspring.

B. Sex is commanded in marriage in the New Testament as well.

1. **Read and Exegete ... I Cor. 7: 1-5**
 2. Sexual desire is essential to procreation .. **i.e.**, .. to the survival of the species.
 3. Both parties are commanded to satisfy the needs of their mate to prevent sin.
- * **Those who shut their mate out of marriage bed commit sin.**

C. **THUS**, sex within the confines of marriage is never sinful.

1. **Heb. 13: 4- Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.**
 - a. Those who have sex outside the marriage bed “defile” that marriage bed.
 - b. God will judge all those who commit sexual sins.
 - 1) “**fornication**” = all sexual sins in or out of the marriage bed
 - 2) “**adultery**” = a violation of the marriage bond
2. Those who set limitations on the marriage bed are usurping the authority of God.
 - a. Some teach, “Any sex which is not specifically for procreation is sin.”
 - b. This would violate the principle taught in **I Cor. 7.**

III. ALL sex outside of marriage is sin.

A. “Thou shalt not commit adultery.”

1. When God gives a command, we know it is in man’s best interest.
 - a. We don’t have to understand the WHY because we know the character of God, LOVE.
 - b. God has never and will never give any command that is not designed to benefit man.
 2. Short of actually taking an innocent person’s life, there is no more heinous crime.
 3. Adultery is an attack upon the very foundation of the human race.
- * **Without the family the human race cannot exist. (also a nation or a church)**
When the family is weakened, the nation, the church, yeah, all mankind is weakened.

B. Sexual sins are an attack against all that are involved in the marriage covenant.

1. We already seen it is a attack against God and against humanity. **Exod. 20: 14**
2. Sexual sins are an attack on the perpetrator. **I Cor. 6: 18-20**
3. Infidelity defiles the marriage. **Heb. 13: 4 (and it destroys the children)**

C. Infidelity destroys trust and limits intimacy. (The ultimate betrayal)

1. Both marriage partners are more vulnerable to their mate than to anyone else on earth.
 2. Each marriage partner empties self into the other so the both form one unit.
 - a. If one unit is defiled, it defiles the other.
 - b. The two units cannot be separated to restore their former essence.
 - c. They have been changed forever by the becoming one.
- (**Each changes so two different things become one same thing.) blue+yellow=green**

ILL.- When the oven gets hot, the egg can’t decide it doesn’t want to be in a cake.

3. Once trust is destroyed, it can never be completely restored.
 - a. The violated person is affected to the very depths of their being.
 - b. Infidelity is far more than a physical crime, it destroys the inner man.

D. God has set the standard and society does not have the right to change it.

1. “Things are different now days.” Being modern does not make them right.
2. Even if every man on earth disagrees with God, they still cannot change His standard.
 - a. Before the flood, all men (except Noah) agreed on a lifestyle that brought judgment.
 - b. In the cities of the plains, “free love” was practiced by all (except Lot), but Sodom, Gomorrah and all the cities of the plains were destroyed.
 - c. Today’s sexual revolution will suffer the same fate.

IV. What can a person do to avoid sexual sins ?

A. Read and Exegete ... Prov. 5: 1-21

B. Vs. 1-6 ... Watch your ears.

1. There are times when a person is vulnerable to flattery.
 - a. When you are down, the devil will always provide someone to reinforce your negative feelings.
 - b. Things that you would normally ignore become so sweet to hear.

“Oh, you deserve better than that. He / she should treat you better.”
2. Vs. 3-5 ... The result of listening will be terrible.
 - a. Where do you think the “*innocent flirtation*” is going? (**an oxymoron**)(deniability)
 - b. The devil’s snare drips from her lips like honey direct from the comb.
3. Vs. 6 ... Flirtations seldom start off with overtly evil motives, but bring evil results. (cliff’s edge)

C. Vs. 7-14 ... Watch where you let your feet go.

1. Vs. 7-8 ... Do not expose yourself to temptation.
 - a. “No footnote saying, ‘*You won’t enjoy it anyway.*’”
 - b. Only a child would be so foolish as to try to see how close he could come to a cliff without falling off.
2. Jesus prayed, **“Do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil ...” Matt. 6:13**

ILL.– Can you imagine a woman on a diet going to a donut shop just to hang out. Standing there staring through the glass where do you think her mind would go ?

3. The Apostle taught us to **“Flee from youthful lusts.” II Tim. 2: 22**

D. Vs. 7-14 ... Commit yourselves to an exclusive relationship.

1. He’s NOT talking about water. (**When you’re thirsty, go home and drink.**)
2. Don’t share your water.
3. Discipline yourself to be contented with what it yours.
 - a. Christians learn to **“set”** their mind on godly things.
 - b. Jesus taught that looking longingly is sin. **Matt. 5: 27-28**

* **Establish an emotional bond.** “*We’re just friends.*”
 - c. Next He says ... **“If your eye offends you, pluck it out.”**

The teaching is not mutilation, but self-discipline.

CONCLUSION :

A. Marriage is the second most important covenant a person can make.

1. One is born into the covenant of his parents.
 - a. The family is one's first intimate relationship.
 - b. It trains us for all other relationships thereafter.
2. The marriage is the second intimate relationship of a person's life.
 - a. It is a lifelong commitment.
 - b. It is a relationship in which one surrenders himself totally to another.
3. The most important relationship of a person's life is with his creator.
 - a. All other relationships in his life prepare him for his commitment to God.
 - b. One's relationship with God is the only relationship that transcends this life.

B. God compares man's relationship with his mate to his relationship with God.

1. **Read and briefly Exegete ... Eph. 5:22-33**
2. Those who have difficulty surrendering to another in marriage have difficulty surrendering to Jesus as Lord of their life.
3. Those who have difficulty maintaining faithfulness to God, are seldom faithful to God.

C. The beauty of the relationship with Christ is that He will always welcome you back.

1. The commandments demonstrate our weaknesses.
2. Jesus demonstrates God's love, His mercy, and His GRACE.

D. God seeks to be one with you through Jesus.

INVITATION :