

TODAY I WANT TO INTRODUCE A NEW SERIES... LIFE TO THE FULLEST John 10:10

- **John 10:10** The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.
- We are going to talk about how to have LIFE TO THE FULLEST. Joy, purpose, fulfillment.
- **MAKE NO MISTAKE: JESUS IS LIFE TO THE FULLEST.** Let's say that together.
 - **TWO MAIN CATEGORIES:**
 - **relationships** (dating, marriage, sex).
 - **work** (career, studying, money).

ME: 19 Kids + Counting. TWO FAMILIES with 19 kids! First kiss at Marriage.

- But I could almost hear some people say, "That is so **old-fashioned**. Yeah right... that's impossible"
- **THE PROBLEM + DIFFICULTY:** Few people live in such environments. We have allowed the standards of world to define what is acceptable and normal, to the point that we hear these testimonies and are SHOCKED.
 - **Or how about... Matthew 5:28** But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.
 - But did you know that sexual promiscuity is a culturally new phenomena? 50 years or so.
 - **IN FACT, EVERY MAJOR RELIGION** (Islam, Christianity and Judaism, Bhuddism) unanimously agree that sex is something that is to remain exclusive to husbands and wife?
 - **Sigmund Freud:** Spiritual longings are just frustrated sexual desires.
 - **Scripture:** Sexual desires are just frustrated spiritual longings.

WE: THE CORE STRUGGLE "What do you do when your body (or someone else's body-culture) wants something that your conscience/ mind/ soul knows is wrong?"

GOD: THE OT GIVES US AN ACCOUNT OF SOMEONE WHO FACED INCREDIBLE SEXUAL PRESSURE, YET REMAINED DEVOTED TO GOD. THROUGH HIM, WE CAN LEARN SO MUCH ON HOW TO COUNTER SEXUAL PRESSURE AND LIVE LIFE TO THE FULLEST. HIS NAME IS JOSEPH...

- **CONTEXT:** Joseph the 11th of the 12 sons of Jacob. Jacob, his father, loved him more than the others and made him the famous robe of many colors. Joseph was a dreamer. In one dream, he was binding sheaves in the field and his sheaf rose above his brothers', who bowed down to his. In another dream, he dreamt that the sun, the moon and 11 stars were bowing down to him. Meaning that his parents +siblings would bow down to him. This did not sit well with the brothers, and he was sold into slavery and ends up in Egypt, as a slave to Potiphar, a captain of the guard. The Lord was with Joseph and as he prospered, Potiphar prospered. The situation now goes bad because Potiphar's wife comes on to him. How does he handle it? Let's read....
- **Genesis 39:6-21**, "6 ...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. 13 When she saw that he had left his cloak in her hand and had run out of the house, 14 she called her household servants. "Look," she said to them, "this Hebrew has been brought to us to make sport of us! He came in here to sleep with me, but I screamed. 15 When he heard me scream for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house." 16 She kept his cloak beside her until his master came home. 17 Then she told him this story: "That Hebrew slave you brought us came to me to make sport of me. 18 But as soon as I screamed for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house."

SIDE BY SIDE COMPARISONS: POTIPHAR vs. JOSEPH

- Two key characters who respond differently to lust: Potiphar's wife and Joseph.

POTIPHAR'S WIFE

But perhaps I made a big assumption that you want to be Joseph, what if you feel closer to Potiphar's Wife?

1. **UNNAMED:** Notice that Potiphar's wife is not named specifically. No specifics, because she is universal.
2. **VISUALLY LED:** She notices him. She wants him.
 - **Gen. 39:6-7**, "Now Joseph was well-built and handsome, 7 and after a while his master's wife took notice of Joseph..."
 - **EXPLAINS JOB: Job 31:1** "I made a covenant with my eyes, not to look lustfully at a girl."
3. **MASTERED BY LUST** (language of addiction)
 - **Vs.10** And though she spoke to Joseph day after day.
 - **Patrick Carnes, Out of the Shadows: Understanding Sexual Addiction**, "These pleasure-seeking behaviors, once indulged, leave the addict with a residue of despair. Predictably, what traps him, what converts into an addict, is that he tries to relieve the despair by indulging his obsession all over again, thereby initiating a new round of addiction.
 - **Why it this? Sexuality works like an appetite.**
4. **DEHUMANIZES JOSEPH:**
 - **C.S. Lewis The Four Loves** "We use a most unfortunate idiom when we say, of a lustful man prowling the streets, that he "wants a woman". Strictly speaking, a woman is just what he does not want. He wants a pleasure for which a woman happens to be the necessary piece of apparatus. How much he cares about the woman as such may be gauged by his attitude to her five minutes after fruition (one does not keep the carton after one has smoked the cigarettes)."
 - Stripping the ID from a person, lust says, "I want the pleasure and the person is just a *tool* to get it."
 - **Proof 1: She is NOT SEDUCING, she is COMMANDING... He's a cigarette.**
 - **VSS.11-12**, "11One 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!"
 - **Proof 2: Vs.17-18 Since she can't have him, she wants him DEAD.**
 - **17** Then she told him this story: "That Hebrew slave you brought us came to me to make sport of me. **18** But as soon as I screamed for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house."
 - Eating delicious steak and spitting it out... over time it will kill you physically.

VSS.8-9 JOSEPH'S ONE RESPONSE...

- Maybe Potiphar's wife was beautiful. Maybe not.

8 But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Behold, because of me my master has no concern about anything in the house, and he has put everything that he has in my charge. **9** He is not greater in this house than I am, nor has he kept back anything from me except yourself, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?"

ONE Reason: SIN AGAINST GOD!

- **Joseph GLANCES** at his circumstances, but **FOCUSES ON GOD.**
 - **Acknowledge:** you can hurt someone's feelings, pregnancy, resp'ties, etc.
 - **Don't focus on circumstances:** we are engaged, we love each other, no one will know....
- **UNSATISFIED CONFESSION: The REASON you still feel shame or guilt...** You may have confessed sins + circumstances. But do you see God as the **PRIMARY PERSON YOU SINNED AGAINST, WHOSE HEART YOU BROKE?**
- **1 Cor.6:19-20 Our Bodies, God's Temple:**"**19** Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; **20** you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body."
 - **JOSEPH IS NOT SUPPRESSING** the desires of the heart by the will
 - **JOSEPH IS REORDERING** The desires of His heart by God.
 - **Aron Ralston...**

YOU:

The Goal is not the creation of the VOID of sexual temptation and sin, rather, the FILLING of the void through a relationship with Christ, resulting in joyful obedience and purity.

1. Word and Prayer

- Feed the good sumo. Garbage in, garbage in.
- 2Cor. 10:5 "Take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ".
 - It takes 6 weeks to make something into a habit.
 - It takes 2 weeks to break something that is a habit.

2. Accountability. Seek support and advice about from an older, godly and same gender friend.

- 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?"
- Cornelius Plantinga, "What now? An addict stands a chance of recovery only if he is finally willing to tell the truth. The only way out of the addict's plight is through it. He has to face it, deal with it, confess it. With the firm and caring support of people important to him, he has to rip his way through all the tissues of denial and self-deception that have "protected his supply". The addict has to take a hard step... paradoxically he must help himself by admitting that he is helpless."

3. Location: Vs.10 Joseph "refused to go to bed with her or even be with her."

4. Isolation: Vs.11 "One day he went into the house to attend to his duties, and none of the household servants was inside."

5. Evacuation: Sexual Lust is so destructive, powerful and quick to master you that God says,

- 11 But one day, when he went into the house to do his work and none of the men of the house was there in the house, 12 she caught him by his garment, saying, "Lie with me." But he left his garment in her hand and fled and got out of the house.
 - 1Cor. 6:18 "Flee from sexual immorality!"
 - PUNCH HER IN THE FACE.

6. THE GOSPEL: BUT I'M NOT JOSEPH! I DON'T DESIRE PURITY ALL THE TIME!!! GOD KNOWS... JOSEPH IS A SHADOW OF A GREATER JOSEPH... one was rejected, sold as a slave, never sinned... The fact that he is not immediately killed is VERY surprising. Both in Israel and Egypt, this accusation deserved death as a violation of the servant's place AND adultery.

- Charles Spurgeon, preached August 24, 1856. New Park Street Chapel, Southwark, England. "But remember, sinner, it is not thy hold of Christ that saves thee-its is Christ; it is not thy joy in Christ that saves thee-it is Christ; it is not even faith in Christ, though that is the instrument-it is Christ's blood and merits; therefore, look not so much to thy hand with which thou art grasping Christ, as to Christ; look not to thy hope, but to Christ, the source of thy hope; look not to thy faith, but to Christ, the author and finisher of they faith; and if thou dost that, ten thousand devils cannot throw thee down, but as long as thou lookest at thyself, the meanest of those evil spirits may tread thee beneath his feet... it is not faith, it is not our doings, it is not our feelings upon which we must rest, but upon Christ and on Christ alone."

WE: IMAGINE WHAT OUR WORLD WOULD BE IF EVERYONE WAS SEXUALLY PURE. marriages, no guilt, clear conscience in worship, effect on children.... LIFE TO THE FULLEST.