

How Lust Lost The Kingdom

A fairytale beginning:

2 Samuel 13:1

A tragic ending:

2 Samuel 13:2-39, 1 Corinthians 6:18-19, Ephesians 5:3, 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5, Genesis 3

Our **BRAIN** is our greatest **SEXUAL ORGAN**,
so the battle for faithfulness is fought in the **MIND**.

We can control what we **WATCH**;
we can't control what it does **TO OUR MIND**.

Every time God gives a **NEGATIVE** command,
He is also giving us two **POSITIVES**:
to **PROTECT** and to **PROVIDE** for us.

WARNING:

There will always be a **SHREWD** Jonadab,
disguised as a **FRIEND** or **WISE** advice,
to help us follow our **WILL** and not **GOD'S**.

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Our _____ is our greatest _____,
so the battle for faithfulness is fought in the _____.

We can control what we _____;
we can't control what it does _____.

Every time God gives a _____ command,
He is also giving us two _____:
to _____ and to _____ for us.

WARNING:

There will always be a _____ Jonadab,
disguised as a _____ or _____ advice,
to help us follow our _____ and not _____.

Food for Thought for the week of August 7, 2022

1. Chris pointed out that “the battle for faithfulness is fought in the mind”. This is a struggle for many of us in relationships and other areas of life. Our thoughts can seem to get away from us and we struggle to get control of them. Read these verses: Romans 8:5-6, Romans 12:2, Ephesians 4:22-24 and Colossians 3:2.

Romans 8:5-6 New International Version (NIV)

⁵ Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. ⁶ The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace.

Romans 12:2 New International Version (NIV)

² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Ephesians 4:22-24 New International Version (NIV)

²² You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³ to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

Colossians 3:2 New International Version (NIV)

² Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

- a. What might it mean/look like to “set” our minds?
- b. What are some ways we can “make new” or “renew” our minds?
- c. What is one daily habit you can implement to train your mind to stay focused on things that are true and in line with what God desires for your life?

2. Reread through the comparisons between lust and love that Chris shared this weekend.

LUST

LOVE

Is based on selfishness	Puts the needs of the other first
Gives into hormones	Operates with self-control
Cares about physical satisfaction	Cares about the social, mental, emotional & spiritual as well
Gets frustrated when not satisfied	Is patient
Goes for instant satisfaction	Takes time to grow
Is an instinct	Is a commitment
Walks away after it gets what it wants	Hangs in for the long haul
Is always sexual	Is sometimes sexual
Physically driven	Emotionally driven
Doesn’t require open communication	Communicates freely & deeply
Is jealous of competition	Is kind to everyone
Says “I loved it”	Says “I love you”

Where do you see the principles from 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 on this list?

1 Corinthians 13:1-13 New International Version (NIV)

If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ² If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. ⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. ⁸ Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰ but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. ¹¹ When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. ¹² For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. ¹³ And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Thinking about your relationships, star anything in the “love” column that you may need to give extra attention to this week. Spend some time in prayer, asking the Lord to help you love others with patience, kindness, and genuine care.