

June 18 2017

Beauty and the Beast

1 Cor. 6:12-20

Beauty of Jesus' faithfulness and how we distort our True King with unfaithfulness. Sexual Immorality.

Intro: A. Happy father's day to the dad's in the room. As a dad my desire is to love my kids, to protect my girls, provide for them and try and not to fail them. As most of us know this is an impossible task and only possible if our perfect father intervenes and saves and transforms us with His faithful love. May we pray that God would open our eyes today to appreciate who He is and what He has done. Before we move forward today we will talk about His faithfulness and what Paul saw as a huge problem in the Church at Corinth and it is still today. Unfaithfulness in sexual immorality. This is one of the "big" sins that causes us to hide and get buried in shame and guilt. Know that before we start that whatever unfaithfulness you have been a part of or in right now...Jesus' sacrifice and His cross is bigger, better, and strong enough to save.

Intro B. Today we want to talk about * **We reflect the beauty of God when we remain faithful to each other and to our perfect pure King who took us as His own.**

I remember the first time I noticed Angie's beauty. I walked into Chevy's and she was standing next to the table where a bunch of us would be sitting. She had this awesome hair- curly and she had it pulled back and had a cool bleached strand that hung over her face. She was wearing a white t shirt with super cool overalls. I think the lord let me see her like He wanted me to. She was beautiful. A year and a half later I would marry her. I remember seeing her in her dress for the first time. Boom! After a long fun day we left our reception and headed to my apartment to pick up some clothes before heading to the hotel. We had purposefully waited to "know" each other until we had gotten married. I remember being in a hurry to get the Hotel but we needed to change clothes first. In the most God glorifying way the Lord let me see Angie in a way that He only intends for married couples to see each other. I have never wanted anyone or anything like I did in that moment...but her parents knocked on the door and we were derailed. In that moment I didn't know any other women even existed. I couldn't dream of being unfaithful. Do you have that moment? What causes us to abandon that kind of faithfulness to something so good?

Brandon in taking angie whom you hold by the right hand to be your lawful and wedded wife I ask you before our Heavenly Father, your families, and friends who are present here today to promise to love and cherish her, to honor and sustain her, in the days of health and wealth, and in the days of sickness and poverty, in the days you get your way and in the days you lose your way, and above all to be true to her in all things as long as you both shall live. Do you promise?

Marriage and divorce about 40 to 50 percent of married couples in the United States divorce. The divorce rate for subsequent marriages is even higher. Studies say that the rate in the church isn't much different.

What happens to get us from that one moment where we promise the rest of our lives to someone to not being able to be in the same room with each other. The power of sin.

Revelation 2:4

[4] But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. (ESV)

Definition Abandon- give up completely (a course of action, a practice, or a way of thinking). How can we get back to our first love and how we loved at first?

Another definition of Abandon is –with complete lack of inhibition or restraint.

We reflect the beauty of God's faithfulness when we remain faithfully abandoned.

Why is it that we don't remain faithful to things or people.

1. Friendships- drift apart lose touch, jealousy
2. Marriages- financial stress, sex, Cheating.
3. God- anger, faithlessness, disbelief.

Gospel coalition blog. You were made to be happy, but you were also born looking for happiness in all the wrong places. Your heart will always be restless and disappointed unless you live to know and enjoy God.

Jesus is....

1. More Satisfying
2. More sufficient
3. More able to give us Joy
4. Better than all others we run after
5. Greater than all our failures

If these things are true why do we still abandon Jesus and cheat on Him and run to so many other things?

Paul probably was beating his head against the wall at some of the things we were having to point out that shouldn't be. It should be common sense. The Corinthians are **wrong in thinking that sexual union with a prostitute, just because it is physical, does not affect their relationship with Christ.** And Paul gives us heart breaking reasons why it grieves the heart of our Father.

(1 Co 6:13–15)

The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. 14 And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. 15 Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never!

In my life I have experienced up close many times the devastation of infidelity. How sexual sin has dug its claws into marriages. Into children's lives. You don't have to look far to see the grip sexual sin has on so many people. **If you are in a season of sexual sin my prayer is that your eyes would be opened to the danger and damage that it is causing. If you are believing the lie of "it's not affecting anyone else" or "it's not a big deal". You are deceiving yourself!**

Illus. years ago a pastor friend of mine was called to come to a members house. Got there and the husband had a broken nose, still bleeding. What happened? Tell him! He had gone downstairs and gotten on his computer and was looking at something wildly inappropriate (understatement) and had not noticed his wife had come down. She stood taking in the filth that was on their computer. He turned and noticed and she punched him. Broke his nose!

Not because what he was doing was only affecting him, or because it was no big deal...because it WAS affecting their marriage. It WAS a big deal. Much bigger deal than we think.

Matthew 5:27-28[27] "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' [28] But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. (ESV)

Sexual sin like pornography isn't LIKE cheating on your spouse, to Jesus it IS cheating on your spouse.

Sexual immorality is a big deal. Pornography, infidelity sexual sin is killing our marriages. We are seeing it all the time. It's in the church. Have you abandoned your love for Jesus? Are you struggling to reflect His Beauty and faithfulness with your unfaithfulness?

What are we saying to the world if the church is as addicted to sexual sin as it is? How can we reflect the beauty of God's faithfulness when we are living in filth?

Remember for second before the enemy heaps crushing condemnation on you that Jesus is greater than your sin. Jesus death on the cross to cover that sin. That sin DID cause Him His life, but he rose again. He is mighty to save. Mighty to forgive.

Jesus became ugly and beastly as he took our most heinous sins and nailed them to the cross to free us and make us clean and beautiful as we surrender to Him and repent.

Verse 14 MOVES me this week. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. Where you want food, drink, comfort, The lord is better than all that. The Lord is meant for the body.

1 Corinthians 6:15-18

[15] Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! [16] Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two will become one flesh." [17] But he who is joined to the Lord

becomes one spirit with him. [18] Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. (ESV)

Sexual sin isn't necessarily worse than other sin, (we have all fallen short of the glory of God and have earned death through our sins) but sexual sin affects us differently.

Without the body (ἐκτὸς τοῦ σώματος). Lit., outside. The body is not the instrument, but the subject. But in sexual sin the body is the instrument of the sin, And as verse 14 Hear Paul say to us. Guys, girls, your body is not made for that. It is for the lord. Sexual sin does not reflect the beauty of God.

Reflect. Our body. Our whole being is made for the Lord. That doesn't make us a slave to Him it frees us from the filth and brokenness of the world to run with abandon to His open arms. Where we can find forgiveness, purity, joy, peace, purpose.

In this spiritual marriage between Jesus and the church He is the one that makes us beautiful not the other way.

When we become more aware of His goodness and how our unfaithfulness is more than breaking the rules it breaks the heart of God we will begin to abandon our sin and run with faithful abandon to Him.

Verse 18 Says Flee from sexual immorality. How far is too far? A question I heard dozens if not hundreds of times in youth ministry. How far can I go with my girlfriend? I was talking through this sermon this week with Dj and Darrell and laughed about "how about we place a large bomb in the middle of the room and play How close is too close! It will be fun. No one knows when the bomb will go off but if you want to play the person closest to the bomb when it goes off and you live WINS! Illus. What convinces you to FLEE something? Some of you know the story I am about to reference. But if you would allow me to catch the others up. I was a work one day. It was a stressful season. Our administrative assistant was working in the lobby of our old offices. Sees a man walking toward the door holding a gun! HE'S GOT A GUN! IN the word of Monty Python RUNAWAY! I fled because I believed in the depth of my soul that there was a grave danger near me. I didn't want to stay and see what kind of Gun was going to kill me. I wanted to get to freedom.

FLEE SEXUAL IMMORALITY.

Do we continue to tell ourselves that our sexual sins are no big deal? It doesn't affect anyone else? Married person-are you flirting with someone not worried about it being a potential bomb that could ruin your life. Make a mockery of God.

Verse 19 Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit within you? Imagine if you walked in to this room and instead of the words of worship songs there

was pornography playing on the screens while we sang. Our bodies are meant for the Lord. How are we defiling the walls of what is the temple of the Holy Spirit within us?

Until we see the danger of sexual immorality (of all forms) is a grave danger waiting to ruin us. To destroy us. We will want to run to it because of our brokenness. But when we are swept off our feet in love with Jesus we will flee what takes our affections away from Him.

More important than what we are fleeing from is what we are fleeing to.

What does it look like to flee from sin and to Jesus?

Of the student and adults men and women who we have walked with through pornography issues and addiction to those who were caught in an affair. Just saying STOP THAT! Doesn't do much good. What is that thing in your life that you wish you could just STOP THAT! And it would be all better. Your life would be much better. How is Stop that! Working for you?

Verse 19 Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit within you?

U2 wrote *Still haven't found what I am looking for*- from a hymn

On Jimmy Kimmel Bono intros the song as "A Gospel song for the restless spirit" in the middle of the song they reveal a gospel choir in the audience that sings this portion of the song.

"He will lift you higher and higher, He will lift you up when you fall, He will bring you shelter from the storm"

You broke the bonds

You loosed the chains

carried the cross

Of my shame

Oh he took the blame

You know I believe it

But I still haven't found

What I'm looking for

But I still haven't found

What I'm looking for

Maybe that is you today. You aren't reflecting the beauty of Jesus' faithfulness because you still haven't found what you are looking for.

Our confession: Lord I am sorry for abandoning you and running to other things or people instead of running with abandon to you and with you.

2 tim 2:13

When we are faithless He remains faithful because he cannot disown Himself

Verse 17 reminds us if we are joined with Jesus we are one spirit with Him.

He is faithful to forgive. He is faithful to lift you up. He is committed to being perfectly faithful to you.

When Angie and I got married I was working at The Melting pot. I was close to a lot of the people I worked with. The closer it got to my wedding the nosier they got. They knew I was a pastor. One manager got the guts to ask me one night when we were cleaning She asked "Stone, have you slept with Angie?" I've taken a nap with her (winky face) you know that is not what I meant. I said No. "have you ever?" Not yet. About a dozen of the servers there quizzed me about it. They couldn't believe that anyone did that anymore. Every one of them said "wow I wish I would have done that". I wanted to be faithful to the Lord and to Angie as she had prayed for me years before she met me. Faithfulness reflects the Beauty of Christ.

Faithful Monogamy is becoming more rare. As we remain faithful to our spouses or as singles remain abstinent looking forward and praying for the spouse God may soon bring into your life we Reflect the faithfulness of Jesus who never will forsake us.

Where we abandon him it reflects that

1. He isn't worth it, ,
2. He doesn't satisfy
3. It shows the filthiness of our sin
4. It shows the insatiable nature of our flesh
5. We find ourselves running to sexual immorality not flee it.

But where we reflect when we are running WITH abandon to Jesus that He is

1. Satisfying
2. He is sufficient- I don't need anything else
3. He brings Joy to a restless soul
4. He is better than ALL I am fleeing
5. He is greater than even the most heinous of my sin
6. That He has covered my sin took my shame and the blame

We are in danger of becoming unfaithful when we

1. Stop pursuing- are you pursuing your spouse? Are you pursuing Jesus in your walk? He is you!
2. Stop getting to know them. Learn about those you are committed to. Get into the word and get to know Jesus. John texted me this week from Guatemala where they are right now with these words. **"Praying for you as you prep to preach. May the word come alive in your soul!"**
3. **Complacent and bored- boredom and complacency can lead to unfaithfulness. Pray that we would see just how immeasurably Good our faithful King is. Run with abandon to Him.**

You can experience freedom! - Death was arrested

**Our Savior displayed on a criminal's cross
Darkness rejoiced as though Heaven had lost
But then Jesus arose with our freedom in hand
That's when death was arrested and my life began
That's when death was arrested and my life began**

(1 Co 6:19–20)

19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, 20 for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

The price you were bought with was GREAT. Jesus is the only answer for the restless soul. Do you and I really want perfect peace for our body? Jesus is the Only way.

You were made to be happy, but you were also born looking for happiness in all the wrong places. Your heart will always be restless and disappointed unless you live to know and enjoy God.

Let us Repent of all the others we run to and run with abandon to Jesus..