

February 24, 2019



Exodus 20:14

SERMON SUMMARY

¹³ "You shall not commit adultery."

Exodus 20:14

DISCUSSION

Reminders for small group leaders:

- We want everyone to interact with God's Word. Please have Bibles available for students who don't have one. We have a limited amount of Bibles available at church, so remind your people to bring theirs if they have one. **Be sure to open up your Bibles together during small group!**
- Set aside a time to **pray** for each other during every POD. Try not to rush through this time as it's good to have people pray for each other.
- Regularly **recap** how your POD is doing with your co-leaders. Are you meeting your goals? How can you help your people grow in relationship with God and with each other? Is there anyone in your POD who needs encouragement, prayer, or a meeting with one of you this week?
- The teaching happened on Sunday at church. **The purpose of small groups is to ask two questions:** 1) *What is God saying to me in His Word?*, 2) *What is He asking me to do in response?*
- Your role is to help everyone answer these two questions so that God can do His work of transforming hearts and lives.

RECAP with your co-leader/REFLECT by yourself

- *What stood out to you/encouraged you/challenged you, etc from the message?*
- *What is the learning point and/or action point you want the people in your small group to leave with?*
- *How would you summarize the sermon in one or two sentences?*

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1. Why is **adultery** such a big issue with God?
 - a. Breaks the **one-flesh** bond (Genesis 2:24-25)
 - b. Breaks our marriage **covenant** (Hebrews 13:4)
 - c. Breaks the **family** (Deuteronomy 6:6-7)
 - d. It's a sin against **God** (Genesis 39:9)
 - e. Marriage resembles our **relationship** with God (Ephesians 5:22-23)
2. Is **lust** adultery? (Matthew 5:27-30)
 - a. Lust dishonors the **person**—we use them as an object. Dwelling on someone allows the sin of adultery to take root.
 - b. Lust dishonors your **spouse**
 - c. Lust dishonors **marriage**—lust takes away God's intent for marriage to be between one man and one woman for life
 - d. Lust and adultery
3. Is **divorce** adultery? (Matthew 5:31-32)
4. What about **premarital sex**? Yes, because this violates God's design for marriage.
5. What about **pornography**? Yes, because it stirs up lust, and dishonors the person you're viewing.

QUESTIONS

Choose (if any) questions that would be good for your group to discuss, or make up your own!

Note for leaders: We recommend splitting up into girls and guys groups for either the whole discussion, or at the very least, for the Application and Prayer sections below. You will probably spend most of your time on these last two sections.

After POD, if you have any questions, or someone wants to talk to someone about getting help, contact Elena or Bryan. We can also connect you with others.

Getting to know you

- What are examples of adultery or sexual sin that are accepted in our society today?

Into the Bible

- **Possible intro:** Adultery's applications are more than just cheating and having sex with someone who isn't a spouse. It encompasses anything sexual outside marriage: pornography, sex before marriage, homosexuality, and lust. For today's small group, we're going to focus on lust and temptation. If you have any questions about something that we don't get a chance to talk about tonight, feel free to contact a POD leader, Elena, or Bryan.

"In my fifteen years of pastoral ministry, about 90 percent of the really difficult sin issues that come before the elders have had to do with sex and marriage. That's the way it has always been, and probably the way it will always be. This makes sense, since sex and marriage are two of God's greatest gifts. No relationship can be as intimate, sweet, life giving, and joy filled as the

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marital relationship, and no experience can be as intimate and powerful within that marriage relationship as sex. So, of course, the Devil is going to go after sex and marriage."

-Kevin DeYoung, The 10 Commandments

- **Read Matthew 5:27-30.** Last week we learned that murder is a sin that begins in the heart. In the same way, adultery also begins in the heart (verse 28). What do you think it means to look at a woman (or a man) "with lustful intent"?
 - *The Greek word for "with lustful intent" is epithumeo, which means to "desire, covet, or long for." When just looking becomes lingering lust, Jesus considers it sexual sin.*
- Where are places that people fall into sexual sin?
 - *What they read (graphic novels, fantasies), what they see (phone, computer, tv), what music they listen to, what their mind lingers on, etc*
- **Look at verses 29-30. Read 1 Corinthians 6:12-18 and James 1:14-15.** Jesus says that if anything causes you to sin, cut it off. Why does Jesus take adultery so seriously?

Application (*break up into guys & girls groups if you haven't already)

- If you were the Enemy, when would you attack you? What are the times, activities, places, state of mind/heart, etc that you're the most vulnerable?
 - For example:
 - *Times:* late at night when you're on your phone, when you're alone at home, etc
 - *Places:* staying at a guy's or girl's (or boyfriend's or girlfriend's) house late at night, sitting next to the cheerleaders' section at sports games, etc
 - *Activities:* movies that you watch, books you read, Youtube, music you listen to, etc
 - *State of mind/heart:* when you're stressed, when you're tired, focusing on an imagined "Mr. Right", imagining sexual scenes, imagining being with someone else other than your spouse, etc
- The Enemy can attack ruthlessly in this area of our lives. Accountability is a great method for fighting this battle; you cannot fight it alone. What would accountability that helps us "flee from sexual immorality" (**1 Corinthians 6:18**) look like for us? Find a friend or two that has the desire to honor God in this area of their life and make a plan to hold each other accountable. These accountability partners can be in your small group or not.
- **Pass out the sheet with Bible passages** (I recommend printing off the last two pages of this guide to give to the people in your small group). The Bible is God's direct word to us that helps us as we fight temptation, make our way back to him when we've failed and struggle with guilt/shame, or even show us truth if we think that adultery isn't a big deal.
 - From the passages on the first page, how can we deal with temptation?
- We cannot fight this battle without our brothers or sisters in Christ, and we surely can't fight this battle without Jesus. He is ready to pour His grace on us in our times of need. He is always ready to forgive when we confess. Jesus has already paid the price for your guilt, shame, and past and future sin.
 - **Read Psalm 130:1-4, Romans 8:1-2, and 1 John 1:8-9**
 - From the passages on the second page, even when we've failed, how can we be spiritually pure?

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PRAY (*in guys & girls groups)

Thank God that marriage, the relationship between husband and wife, is a symbol of Christ's perfect love for us, His church. Ask God to help you see that any distortion of that symbol is against His will.

Ask God to reveal the areas that you may be committing adultery in your heart. Ask Him for wisdom to see the times, places, etc that you're most vulnerable.

Pray for the courage to make a plan to battle against sexual sin.

Plead and ask God for help to keep your heart and mind pure. Thank Jesus for His forgiveness when you fail.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

College students

See you at **Epic on Thursday night** at 7:30pm at MU13!

Want to take a bigger role in Epic next year? Next week, you'll be able to sign up to be an **Epic leader!** Be on the lookout for the link on social media. We're looking for POD leaders and people to be on Outreach Team, Freshmen Team, Creative Team, and Homeless Ministry. Have any questions about the roles? Ask your POD leader.

Baptism videos are being filmed very soon! **If you want to get baptized**, talk to Elena Chin or Bryan Bernard ASAP.

Senior adults

The next **day trip** is this Thursday, February 28 to the **Historic Carousel and Museum** in downtown Albany. Please meet at church at 11am to ride to eat lunch at Izzy's then go to Albany together. Cost is \$2 for the carousel.

All church

Sign up for the Peru Mountains mission trip, happening April 20-28. If you are interested or have questions, contact Doug Boddy at 541-223-3484 or visit grantavebc.org/missions.

Baptism Sunday is on March 10. If you are interested in being baptized or have questions, contact Pastor Bryan or Pastor Don or write it on your communication card on Sunday.

Vacation Bible School is happening July 8-12! If you want to volunteer to help with teaching, crafts, snacks, music, or anything else, contact Carrie Bernard at carrie@grantavebc.org.

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Strength and Wisdom from God's Word When You're Tempted

12 So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! **13** No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

[**1 Corinthians 10:12-13**]

17 For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. **18** Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

[**Hebrews 2:17-18**]

13 When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; **14** but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. **15** Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

[**James 1:13-15**]

1 My son, pay attention to my wisdom,
turn your ear to my words of insight,

2 that you may maintain discretion
and your lips may preserve knowledge.

3 For the lips of the adulterous woman drip
honey,
and her speech is smoother than oil;

4 but in the end she is bitter as gall,
sharp as a double-edged sword.

5 Her feet go down to death;
her steps lead straight to the grave.

6 She gives no thought to the way of life;
her paths wander aimlessly, but she does
not know it.

7 Now then, my sons, listen to me;
do not turn aside from what I say.

8 Keep to a path far from her,
do not go near the door of her house,

...

15 Drink water from your own cistern,
running water from your own well.

16 Should your springs overflow in the streets,
your streams of water in the public
squares?

17 Let them be yours alone,
never to be shared with strangers.

18 May your fountain be blessed,
and may you rejoice in the wife of your
youth.

19 A loving doe, a graceful deer—
may her breasts satisfy you always,
may you ever be intoxicated with her love.

20 Why, my son, be intoxicated with another
man's wife?

Why embrace the bosom of a wayward
woman?

[**Proverbs 5:1-8, 15-20**]

4 You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. **5** Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he jealously longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us? **6** But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says:

"God opposes the proud
but shows favor to the humble."

7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. **8** Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. **9** Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. **10** Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

[**James 4:4-10**]

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Hope Because of God's Grace

22 Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed,
for his compassions never fail.

23 They are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.

24 I say to myself, "The Lord is my portion;
therefore I will wait for him."

25 The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him,
to the one who seeks him;

26 it is good to wait quietly
for the salvation of the Lord.

[Lamentations 3:22-26]

8 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. **9** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

[1 John 1:8-9]

1 Out of the depths I cry to you, Lord;

2 Lord, hear my voice.

Let your ears be attentive
to my cry for mercy.

3 If you, Lord, kept a record of sins,
Lord, who could stand?

4 But with you there is forgiveness,
so that we can, with reverence, serve you.

[Psalm 130:1-4]

[Psalm 51]

For the director of music. A psalm of David. When the prophet Nathan came to him after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba.

1 Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your unfailing love;

according to your great compassion
blot out my transgressions.

2 Wash away all my iniquity
and cleanse me from my sin.

3 For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is always before me.

4 Against you, you only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight;

so you are right in your verdict
and justified when you judge.

5 Surely I was sinful at birth,
sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

6 Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb;
you taught me wisdom in that secret place.

7 Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean;
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

8 Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones you have crushed rejoice.

9 Hide your face from my sins
and blot out all my iniquity.

10 Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

11 Do not cast me from your presence
or take your Holy Spirit from me.

12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
so that sinners will turn back to you.

14 Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed,
O God, you who are God my Savior,
and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.

15 Open my lips, Lord, and my mouth will declare
your praise.

16 You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring
it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.

17 My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a
broken and contrite heart you, God, will not
despise.

18 May it please you to prosper Zion,
to build up the walls of Jerusalem.

19 Then you will delight in the sacrifices of the
righteous,
in burnt offerings offered whole;
then bulls will be offered on your altar.

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