Words of Life Bible Study

Week 7 – Faithfulness in an Age of Porn

Commandment 7, “Do Not Commit Adultery” Exodus 20:14

**Video and Discussion**

1. As you learn about the life of Hatshepsut, who was one of the few female pharaohs of Egypt, what do you learn about the value of women in the ancient world?
2. How does Rabbi Nemitoff say that this commandment connects with the second commandment?
3. Jesus points out that this commandment is not just about what we do but what we think. What are some ways that we can train our minds to be holy?

**Study and Discussion**

The first four commands are about how we live in relation to God, and the last six are related to how we live with one another.

* Adultery was a prevalent issue in the ancient world, as most cultures had rules against it. How does Adam describe adultery in these highly patriarchal societies? Who did the rule against adultery typically protect?
* Read aloud Genesis 1: 27-28. What was God’s design for the relationship between husband and wife?
* When Adam and Eve were cast out of Eden, what did sin do to their relationship?

Read the second paragraph on page 138, beginning with, “I believe that patriarchy and the subordination of women in human society were never God’s will.

* Have you considered this interpretation before? What are your thoughts on this?

Hamilton describes King David and Bathsheba’s story as the “anatomy of an affair”. David sees Bathsheba bathing and doesn’t turn away. Instead, he allows a “maybe” to enter his mind and grow into dangerous desire.

* Read James 1:13-15. What does this passage say about the dangers of our desires? How does this relate directly to David’s actions?
* How can allowing a “maybe” – the possibility of a sin open the door to further sin?
* Read Matthew 5:27-28. How does Jesus say we should handle even the slightest bit of temptation?

Near the end of the chapter, Adam writes,

 “Jesus set impossible standards in his teachings and ministry. He forbade us from even looking at another with lust in our hearts. Yet when a woman was caught in the very act of adultery, Jesus refused to condemn her…Jesus forgave her and forced her accusers to set her free.

* Read John 8:1-11. How do you imagine Jesus’s words sounded to this woman? What do you imagine about her reaction?
* Even here, on one of the “top-ten” sins, Jesus shows mercy. What does that tell us about his mercy toward us when we sin?

**Wrapping Up**

What was true for this woman is also true for us. Though the Lord offers us infinite forgiveness through Jesus, our sin can also lead to serious and devastating consequences. Thankfully, we have our Lord’s words to serve as guardrails and guideposts as we live our lives.

* In this chapter, Hamilton gives us Five R’s of Resisting Temptation. Do any of these resonate with you? Take a few minutes to read through these five points, and ask the Lord to open your eyes to any “maybes” that might be leading you down a dangerous path.