



The Peor Affair

October 8, 2023 Message Notes

TEXT: NUMBERS 25:3

Our culture has been like the proverbial ‘frog in the kettle’, unaware of its danger as the water keeps getting hotter. While more and more sexual immorality is accepted as the norm in society, we have an opportunity to make agreements with it or not. There are situations in life where, if you don't make up your mind before you get in them, your unmade mind will unmake you. Where do you stand?



NOTES

Nitroglycerin – “An explosive yellow liquid made by nitrating glycerol and used in explosives like dynamite. It is also used in medicine as a vasodilator in the treatment of angina pectoris.” (Oxford Dictionary)

“Contrary to Mrs. Grundy, sex is not sin. Contrary to Hugh Hefner, it is not salvation either. Like nitroglycerin, it can be used either to blow up bridges or heal hearts.” – Frederich Buechner

In the wilderness, there’s more going on than meets the eye, and it’s full of dangers and snares.

“...the ones who followed Balaam’s advice and enticed the Israelites to be unfaithful to the Lord.”
Numbers 31:16

“While Israel was staying in Shittim, the men began to indulge in sexual immorality with Moabite women, who invited them to the sacrifices to their gods. The people ate the sacrificial meal and bowed down to these gods.”

Numbers 25:1-2

“So Israel yoked themselves to the Baal of Peor. And the Lord’s anger burned against them. The Lord said to Moses, ‘Take all the leaders of these people, kill them and expose them in broad daylight before the Lord, so that the Lord’s fierce anger may turn away from Israel.’”

Numbers 25:3-4

“Moses told the people, ‘Arm yourselves for war and carry out the Lord’s vengeance on them.’”

Numbers 31:3

“Moses sent them into battle, a thousand from each tribe, along with Phinehas son of Eleazar, the priest, who took with him articles from the sanctuary and the trumpets for signaling.”

Numbers 31:6

We read stories like this with a 21st century mindset and it's hard to understand.

If we only judge this book by its cover, we may miss the meaning – the lessons.

1. There comes a time when God’s patience runs out and our opportunity is spent.

- It happened with Pharoah
- It happened with the first generation of the Exodus
- Now it’s happening with the pagan nations

What are you doing with the time God’s giving you?



“God tells Abram, ‘In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, for the sins of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure.’”

Genesis 15:16

The Moabites and Midianites were people of this region who’d experienced God’s long-suffering patience for years, but never turned from their sin.

Their culture was toxic with depravity and inhumanity.

“Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.”

Galatians 6:7

2. Free sex is never really free. There’s always a price tag somewhere.

Their free sex was actually hijacking something God intended for good and using it to blow stuff up.

The men may have been telling themselves it's only sex but from God's perspective they were blowing up their covenant with Him and their families.

“Then an Israelite man brought to his family a Midianite woman right before the eyes of Moses and the whole assembly of Israel while they were weeping at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting.”

Numbers 25:6

The Bible warns repeatedly of the dangers of sexual immorality.

“We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did – and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died.”

1 Corinthians 10:8

Our culture has been like the proverbial ‘frog in the kettle’, unaware of its danger as the water keeps getting hotter as more and more immorality is accepted as the norm in society.

God brought his people out of slavery to bring them into promise.

- Brought down Egypt’s false gods
- Showed saving power in Passover and the Red Sea parting
- Introduced Himself on the Mountain and provided the 10 Commandments
- Journeyed with them via the Tabernacle in midst of Israel’s tents



Though God had to discipline them, he never abandoned or gave up on them.

God judged the sexual corruption in Moab to be so dangerous to the future promise of his people that it had to be eradicated.

3. Spiritual warfare involves dramatic, discerning decision-making.

There are situations in life where, if you don't make up your mind before you get in them, your unmade mind will unmake you.

*“You adulterers! Don’t you realize that friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God?”
James 4:4 NLT*

You've got to set and honor the boundaries God has given.

*“If you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don’t fall!”
1 Corinthians 10:12*

Flee immorality - 1 Corinthians 6:18

Flee idolatry - 1 Corinthians 10:14

*“No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. 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 10:13*

God wants you to grow in discernment and deeper understanding, to succeed in overcoming temptation, and to develop your decision-making muscles.

Sacrifice: We give up things we love for things we love even more.

These temptations are not going away.

“Chastity is the most unpopular of the Christian virtues... Either marriage, with complete faithfulness to your partner, or else total abstinence.”

“Now this is so difficult and so contrary to our instincts that obviously either Christianity is wrong or our sexual instinct, as it now is, has gone wrong.”



“Being a Christian, I think it is the instinct that has gone wrong.”

– C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity

How do we get it right in a world gone wrong?

- How will you answer?
- How will you help your kids to answer?

Holy Sex:

1. Know God – build a genuine and intimate relationship with Jesus Christ

2. Steward your body honorably – as of great value and worth

3. Say ‘No’ to say ‘Yes’ – to God’s way of fulfillment through male/female 1 flesh marriage

Do not underestimate the power of human sexuality.

By God's design human sexuality has tremendous power to do good, but it also the power to do damage when abused.

It’s like fire...

- In a fireplace, it can warm and illuminate.
- On the stove, it can help provide nourishment
- But out of control, it will burn your house down

Sex is a good and powerful gift of God meant for good, but it comes with instructions: “Take only as directed”

What are we to do with the damage? Bring it to Jesus.

“The one who comes to me I will by no means cast out.”

John 6:37 NKJV

“God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.”

John 3:17

God can meet us at the point of our shame and bring grace, healing and truth that leads to freedom.

“There is now no condemnation for those who are in Jesus Christ.”

Romans 8:1



Are you fighting shame today?
Get in Christ Jesus. His blood cleanses us from all unrighteousness.

“Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy.”

Proverbs 28:13

