

NEW CITY DAILY DEVOTIONAL FOR WEEK OF 10/5/2020-10/9/2020

The following content is based on the message on 10/4/20 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. It is not meant to be a full synopsis, but rather a resource to help you analyze and apply the main ideas. To use this devotional effectively, please listen to the message found at <http://newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

MONDAY // GOD'S DESIGN

Read Genesis 2:24-25. God created men and women to live in a perfect world. Before sin changed everything, God created man and woman as naked and unashamed. This is the design that He created for marriage. God created marriage between one man and one woman. But this is not the perfect world that we live in. Now, we experience shame because we walk away from the design of God. The moment sin entered the world, or our hearts, then shame overtook us. Satan wants us to experience shame that takes us away from God even more. The antidote to shame is to bring our sin into the open arms of Jesus.

- *How does shame keep you from fully giving yourself over to God? Of what do you feel ashamed today?*
- *Set a timer for 2 minutes. Tell God what you feel ashamed of today. Allow the Holy Spirit to speak the love of Jesus over you.*

TUESDAY // CITIZENS OF THE KINGDOM

Read Matthew 19:3-6. Jesus comes to earth physically and He announces the kingdom of God. He invites us to follow Him into the kingdom. We become citizens of God's kingdom when we turn to Him. This means that every area of our lives need to be characterized by the values of God—including our sexuality. Jesus gives us some insight into kingdom sexuality in today's passage. Within the context of divorce, Jesus returns to the definition of marriage that God designed at creation.

- *Why do you think citizens of the kingdom of God need to allow the values of the kingdom to permeate every area of your life?*
- *If there is an area of your life that you are unwilling to give over to Jesus, what does that say about that area of your life?*
- *Set a timer for 2 minutes. Imagine that you are in the presence of God (which you are). How does that reflection change the way you think about every aspect of your life?*

WEDNESDAY // GIVEN OVER TO JESUS

Read Romans 1:18-27. Culture tells us that we have to practice our sexuality in order to be fully human. It tells us that if we are not sexually active, then we must not be able to experience life. But what scripture tells us is that when we fully give ourselves over to our desires, then we are actually experiencing the judgment of God. We don't need to fully give ourselves over to our desires in order to be fully human. In fact, anyone who does so, creates an idol out of that desire. The only thing that a Christian should fully give themselves over to is Jesus.

- *How do we give ourselves over to an different identity when we fully give ourselves over to our desires?*

- *Reflect on your desires. To what desires have you given yourself over too much? How do those desires turn into an identity that you seeking?*

THURSDAY // ALL OF SIN HURTS GOD

Read Romans 1:29-30. Christians have long attempted to rank different sins as worse than others. It's true that some sin affects other people more than other sins. However, all sin hurts the heart of God equally. In this passage, Paul details some ways that living fully in our desires leads us into a plethora of other sin. All of this sin hurts God, others, and ourselves. We can't miss this. Even though some sin might feel good, all sin ultimately hurts us.

- *Why is it extremely important for the Christian to believe that all sin hurts God and damages ourselves? If we see sin in a hierarchy, what effect would that have on our hypocrisy?*
- *Set a timer for 2 minutes. Ask God to reveal sin in your life. Sit in silence and allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you.*

FRIDAY // JESUS WAS FULLY HUMAN

Read Hebrews 4:15. Jesus Himself was tempted in every way like we are tempted. Jesus was fully human, meaning Jesus was born with sexuality. Jesus was fully human despite the fact that He never acted out on His sexuality. Jesus is completely counter-cultural to what our culture teaches us about sex and sexuality. Sex within the context of a loving covenant of marriage is a good gift. But it isn't a gift that is given to everyone to experience. Jesus Himself was not given that gift and yet He was the ultimate of humanity

- *What does Jesus' singleness and abstinence teach you about your own sexuality?*
- *Set a timer for 2 minutes. Ask God to strengthen you to give yourself over to him completely. Sit in silence and allow Him to strengthen you through His Spirit.*