

FRIDAY, June 11, 2010:

Seven Sins to Avoid

Avoid: *Lust*

Job 31:1 *"I have made a covenant with my eyes; why then should I look upon a young woman?"*

Chapter 31 of the book of Job offers a great inventory of sins that we should avoid. In verses 1-12 Job speaks of the sins of lust or sexual immorality.

I think it is significant that Job mentions this and mentions it first! If there was ever a mighty man of God it was Job, yet lust was first on his list! That should be a reminder of the danger we have of falling prey to this subtle and yet powerful temptation.

If you read verses 1-12 you will notice that Job offers at least two safeguards for avoiding the sin of lust.

- First: Guard what you look at
- Second: Guard where you go

Job had a lot to go through. His suffering is legendary, but one thing he did not have to go through or put his family through was sexual infidelity. I somehow feel that this devotional is for specific people and situations today. Its timing was orchestrated by God to warn you and to keep you from pain and regrets that will go with you and yours for a lifetime.

SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 11:6

The temptation is to put a very narrow definition on the word lust. But I'm afraid we "lust" a lot more than we realize, for you see the difference between love and lust is that lust is about "me" and love is about the other person.

SATURDAY, June 12, 2010:

Seven Sins to Avoid

Avoid: *Bigotry*

Job 31:15 *"Did not He who made me in the womb make them?"*

The second sin that Job instructs us to avoid is bigotry - seeing yourself as better than others.

In some ways our entire economy is driven by bigotry. We are not encouraged to buy things because we need them, but rather because we need to show that we are as good as everyone else, and/or better than most.

We are enticed by "exclusive offers" for only a select few. We are made to feel "less than" if we don't have at least a "gold card", but really we need to have a "platinum card" if we truly want to be important. The list could go on and on, but you get the point.

The danger in all of this is that we will begin to measure ourselves against other people, as if that really mattered. But you are not somebody because you have more than others. You are not valuable because you are in a higher category than most. You don't score if your credit score is in the top percentile. None of that stuff makes you "somebody."

Resist that lie! You are "somebody" because you are loved by God. This is true of everyone else also. They are your brothers and sisters and thus your equals - but never your superiors or underlings. Treat them accordingly.

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 55:1-3



Pastor Kemp's Weekly Devotional

For the week of June 6, 2010

Daily Reflection Questions:

- Reflection: Of what eternal benefit was my day?
- Reflection: What eternal truth(s) did I observe today?
- Reflection: Did my behavior match my values?
- Reflection: What am I thankful for today?

What I am thankful for this week:

MONDAY: _____

TUESDAY: _____

WEDNESDAY: _____

THURSDAY: _____

FRIDAY: _____

SATURDAY: _____



MONDAY, June 7, 2010:

Job 29:1 *“Job further continued his discourse, and said:”*

Do you know when people should stop talking? I would suggest that a good time for people to stop talking is when they are finished. Furthermore, I’ve learned that the greater the pain the longer they talk.

That is what happened to Job. If you’ve been tracking with me through our study of Job you’re probably wondering when the theme is going to change. I think we can all agree with Job that life is hard for him. So now, why can’t he just move on?

I really don’t know. But I do know that a good friend chooses to listen. The temptation is to try to fix people, to get them to move on and put their pain and problems behind them. But often the motivation is so that we can move on.

What I encourage you to do this week is take the time to hear people out. Let them cry, let them talk, and let them process their pain. You may have heard it a thousand times, but determine to hear it a thousand and one times. Keep praying and believing that like Job, one day they will turn the corner. And in the meantime, don’t burn any bridges by tuning people out / you could be the “straw” that is helping them hold on.

I believe God has some “appointments” for us this week. There will be hurting people that need a shoulder to cry on and someone just to listen; may God bring back to our memory this devotional.

SCRIPTURE: John 8:43

“God, whose law it is that he who learns must suffer. And even in our sleep pain that cannot forget, falls drop by drop upon the heart, and in our own despite, against our will, comes wisdom to us by the awful grace of God.” _Aeschylus, Agamemnon

TUESDAY, June 8, 2010:

Job 30:1 *“But now...”*

Chapter 29 was all about the “good ole days.” Job took us down memory lane fondly remembering how things were before calamity hit his life. But just as sure as night follows day, Chapter 30 follows Chapter 29 ... “But now...”

It is good to remember that for good or bad life is going to change. There is another stage approaching. New challenges, new opportunities are coming your way. One day you also will be saying, “Life used to be like that, but now...”

So what should we do? Treasure the moment. The “terrible twos” turn into a graduating teen before you know it. The drudgery of going to work turns into a retirement watch before you know it. The challenges of making ends meet turns into the end quicker than you realize.

Life, with all its challenges and crosses is still a gift from God. Don’t allow things that will soon pass to rob you of the special moments that should be remembered and treasured for a lifetime.

SCRIPTURE: 2 Samuel 12:23

*“Because Abraham looked for a city, he was content to live in a tent. (Hebrews 11:13-16).”
_Warren W. Wiersbe, *Be Joyful*, p. 122*

WEDNESDAY, June 9, 2010:

Job 30:1, 9 *“But now they mock at me, men younger than I, whose fathers I disdained to put with the dogs of my flock. And now I am their taunting song; yes, I am their byword.”*

It is so easy to become attached to position, power, and perks. Job did. That was what his speech in chapter 29 was all about – remembering the good old days when he was “somebody.”

But in chapter 30, he reminds us of another important principle – position, power and perks do not last forever. Job had climbed up the ladder of success but now he was climbing back down that same ladder, meeting the people he passed on the way up on his journey back down – and it was not pretty.

The same is true for you and me. Never forget that you are going to meet the same people you passed on the way up the ladder when you start back down (and you will start back down). No one ends up on top - they end up dead. Therefore, it is important to treat people in such a way that there will be no regrets on the way down and on the judgment day.

SCRIPTURE: Luke 14:10

*“The applause of all but very good men is no more than the precise measure of their possible hostility.”
_Canon Henry Liddon*

THURSDAY, June 10, 2010:

Job 30:20 *“I cry out to You, but You do not answer me...”*

Because we can read the end of the book of Job, we know that God did answer Job’s cries. So in reality, what God was doing during the silent time was saying, “Wait.”

This is a message that we all need to hear at times, for we’ve all been where Job was – praying and praying but seemingly getting no answer.

Just remember, when going through those seasons when God is silent – wait. He will eventually answer, but for the time being he is only saying, “Wait.”

Don’t lose heart. Don’t give up. Hold on. The answer is on the way. And in the meantime, though you can’t sense His presence, God is still with you.

SCRIPTURE: Romans 8:25

*“When you feel like giving up, remember why you held on for so long in the first place.”
_Unknown*