SEXUAL PURITY BEFORE MARRIAGE

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God bless you,

Oluwatobi S. Adewuyi
Coordinator

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God bless you!

Topic:
SEXUAL PURITY IN MARRIAGE
Bible Text: Matthew 1:18-30

Prayer

Father, we thank you for the gift of being alive. We ask for mercy in any way we might have Sin. We commit today's bible study into your hands, come and begin with us that at the end of today's bible study we will have the full course to glorify your name. In Jesus' mighty name I pray. Amen

Bible Text

Matt.1.18 - Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.

Matt.1.19 - Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly.

Matt.1.20 - But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.

Study

Looking carefully into the accounts of the birth of The Lord Jesus Christ, one would see the kind of life His earthly parents lived? This should serve as a model for many in our world today, especially the youth. Considering what is happening in the world today, which is most prevalent, we can observe that the world is currently sick and needs serious spiritual attention. Therefore, we must not remain nonchalant or indifferent about what is happening, even in the lives of today's youths. Let's examine the lives of Joseph and Mary.

In a small town called Bethlehem, God, in His divine plans, decided to begin carrying out His divine plan of saving mankind. This He began doing by visiting those He wanted to use to carry out this uncommon mission. The Lord God Almighty visited Mary, a young lady who had been promised in marriage to Joseph, described as an upright and just man.

Matthew 1:18 KJV Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as His mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.

After Joseph and Mary had entered into courtship, she was found with a child. That is, she became pregnant without engaging in sexual intercourse. In fact, Mary was still a virgin when she got pregnant. The remarkable thing about this account is that there has never been any doctor or specialist who is able to prove to the world how it is possible for a virgin to get pregnant without any form of intercourse or fertilization of the female eggs by the male sperm. It is practically impossible and does not make any sense in natural terms. But this happened through the Holy Spirit. **Matthew 1:19 KJV** Then Joseph, her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily.

When Joseph, who was a promised husband, got to know about her being pregnant, he thought of how he would manage the situation without making her a public example, that is, putting her into public shame. He decided to put her away secretly. Let's look at what was said about Joseph.

The first thing that was said about him was that he was a just man. To be a just person simply means to be equitable in act or character. By implication, it means to be innocent and to be conformed to the standard of correctness. In Joseph's case, he was conformed to the standard of God's holiness. This was why he thought carefully on how best to handle the situation. For him to have thought about putting her away secretly, it means that he loved her and did not want anyone to know about it because it was a shameful thing to get pregnant out of wedlock. Just as an upright man, he wanted to do as the scripture stated

Deuteronomy 24:1 KJV When a man hath taken a wife, and married her, and it come to pass that she find no favour in his eyes, because he hath found some uncleanness in her: then let him write her a bill of divorcement, and give it in her hand, and send her out of his house.

Because he had not married her, there was no need for him to write a divorce letter for her, which would have easily made it known to everyone. This could have led to her being disgraced, trying to vindicate himself as being innocent and not the one responsible for her pregnancy. But Joseph did not only consider himself; he considered her. This shows that Joseph was not a selfish kind of person who was less concerned about others. He put himself in her shoes and chose not to put her in public shame.

If putting her away before marriage would bring her into public shame, what about putting a woman away when she's already married? This raises the question. This was why the Lord Jesus Christ said that the law of divorce was given to the children of Israel by Moses because of the hardness of their hearts.

Matthew 1:20 KJV But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

Divine intervention occurred as there was no way Mary could defend herself from accusations of fornication. The Lord, knowing this, sent His Angel to make the truth about her pregnancy known to Joseph, as they were already in courtship. All these events unfolded just as prophesied by Isaiah that a virgin would give birth **Isaiah 7:14 KJV** Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Luke 1:26-27 KJV And in the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, **[27]** To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

Looking at this, we can see that despite Mary being in courtship, she was a virgin and had not defiled herself. This serves as an example for the unmarried ones of this generation who are living promiscuous lives that do not honor the Lord. Mary, chosen to give birth to the Savior of the world, found favor in the eyes of God. If she had lived a promiscuous life, she might have disqualified herself from fulfilling the prophecy about the virgin who would give birth to the Lord Jesus Christ. Some disqualify themselves from divine favor through their lifestyle choices. God may withhold certain blessings if He sees that we are not qualified for them due to our actions. Mary was a virgin who knew the Lord; she led a sexually pure life and was not involved in any form of sexual immorality. The Holy Spirit cannot endure someone who is sexually immoral, engaged in activities like masturbation, chats about sex, lesbianism, smooching, romance, and kissing. The Holy Ghost would not be able to stay in the life of such a person. In fact, the Word of God equates sexual purity as part of holiness.

1 Thessalonians 4:3 KJV For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:

This implies that before anyone can claim to be holy, they must abstain from sexual immorality. Sexual immorality goes beyond fornication and

adultery; it extends to body defilements—anything done with our bodies that does not give glory to God can be considered immoral in His sight. Today, many claim to be virgins just because they have not engaged in penetrative sex. However, they indulge in various other forms of fornication. Their nakedness has been seen by different people, yet they still claim to be virgins.

Mary serves as an example of purity, contrasting with the impurity found in the souls and hearts of many today. Some individuals live with dirty souls and impure hearts, stinking before the Lord. They claim to be sexually pure merely because they haven't engaged in penetrative sex. Some indulge in sex chats, masturbation, and various immoralities while still asserting their purity. For anyone to carry a divine mandate and fulfill it, they must live a sexually pure life. This is one of the major areas Satan exploits to trap those with divine mandates and glorious destinies.

Just imagine if Mary had defiled herself—her glorious destiny would have been thwarted. Those who live in immorality, rejoicing in it and claiming wisdom because they can sleep with different people, are the most foolish and unfortunate people on earth. They are being used by the forces of darkness to destroy their own lives and others by going against the Lord's commandments. Those who have been living impure lives can repent and forsake their immoral ways and God will have mercy on them. Their jeopardized destinies can be restored by the Lord when they remain faithful and do not return to their immoral ways.

Looking at Mary and Joseph, one can learn from their personal lives because they knew God right from their youthful ages. There must have been youthful exuberance during their times, which they did not yield to. There would have been those who were into fornication and all kinds of sexual vices, yet Mary and Joseph chose to separate themselves and live holy lives. From their courtship, we could learn about abstinence, not prevention, when it comes to matters of sexual intercourse. They did not commit fornication, even in the anticipation of their impending marriage, unlike what many might choose to do today.

Today, it is becoming common to see couples giving birth to children out of wedlock, which is not according to the will of God. There are even situations where couples are wedded with their children present, cases where the woman is already pregnant, and instances of cohabiting couples being joined together by the church. The Lord does not align with such practices, and those involved should repent and forsake their wicked ways.

From the story of Mary and Joseph, another lesson is their self-control. They both exhibited self-control, unlike many young people today who

engage in various immoral acts. Living under the same roof with a woman whose bride price has been paid makes it legal to sleep with her, but Joseph's obedience to divine instruction restrained him from doing so. Today, many lack such self-control. Boys and girls under the age of 16 are already engaging in sexual immorality. Valentine's Day has become one of the most popular days consecrated by Satan for sexual immorality, especially among teenagers and youth. Some churches even organize special programs on this day, claiming they want to prevent the youth from being lost to the world. Whereas, all youths that are still carried away with such satanic celebration in the name of love are already lost to the world, and need to be found.

However, indulging in sex before and outside marriage is a sin, regardless of how it is painted. God will not accommodate those who persist in such behavior unless they repent. Every young man and woman must learn to remain sexually pure, not defiling themselves before God, as whoremongers and fornicators will face God's judgment and will not inherit the kingdom of God.

We have come to the end of this teaching, if you have any question please ask as you also attempt these questions.

1. What characteristics of Joseph and Mary's lives during the birth of Jesus Christ serve as a model for people today, especially the youth?

2. How does the account of Joseph and Mary's courtship and the divine intervention in Mary's pregnancy highlight the importance of abstinence and self-control in the face of societal norms?

3. In the teaching, what spiritual lessons are emphasized regarding sexual purity, repentance, and the consequences of living an impure life?

QUESTION

What if a couple were cohabiting before, with their children (no marriage and proper rites) as unsaved people, and they later got saved in the process, is it still right for them to wed(Church wedding) or not?

ANSWER

It depends on the leading of the Holy Spirit. It can be referred to as a correctional marriage, in this aspect it's just the Pastor's blessing that's needed, it should not be jamboree, but should be done in a sober, self reflective, and calm way.

QUESTION

Will God still consider and call a person who broke his/her virginity as a " Virgin" when he/she fully return to Lord and completely forsake all their part ways??

ANSWER

God can still do that because we are in the era of grace, God is merciful, In as much as such a person repents genuinely and does not go back into it.

Invitation

If you know that you are still living in sin and you are ready to repent and begin to live your life in strict obedience to God so that you can overcome every sin in your life to make heaven, please place your right hand on your chest and say this prayer with your mouth.

Say,

"Lord Jesus, I accept You as my personal Lord and Savior. I believe that You died for me and took away my sins so that I will not face the penalty of them. I surrender my life to You today, and I make a decision to obey and follow You. Come into my life now and accept me as Your child. Thank You for saving me, in Jesus Christ's name I pray, Amen."

Congratulations, now you are saved. If you prayed this short prayer, please WhatsApp +2347067511039 and let me know that you have just been saved. I want to have a word with you. God bless you!

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