Russell Kelfer Adultery: Disease of the Eye Part 2

722-B Series: God's Living Legends (Part 1)



Disease of the Eye Part 2

Here we are back at the doctor's office. Isn't it great that our Great Physician has a waiting room that is big enough for all of us? Isn't it great to know that He only makes us wait when it is for our good and when it is a necessary part of the treatment? We have just been told that the doctor is in and He will be calling for us in a moment. Perhaps we had best explain to those of you who were not here for our first appointment why it is that we are here. There seems to be a disease spreading through the world and through our nation in particular like wildfire. It certainly is not a new germ. Society has been infected with it for over 6,000 years. But recently there seems to be an apathy that has settled upon man. It is an unconcern about treating this disease in its initial stages. As a result, it seems to be infecting even those parts of society, the church for instance, that had been thought to have developed an immunity to it or at least a resistance to it. This disease is infectious immorality. Its most apparent symptoms include an outbreak of adultery, a rash of perversion and a flow of pornography and obscenity that has been injected into the bloodstream of modern civilization. The disease has reached epidemic proportions.

We learned in the last lesson that one of the primary carriers is the fallout caused by radiation from our garbage dispenser machines called television. These machines have so mesmerized our world that much of our society is considered to be addicted. What we are addicted to is a system which systematically breaks down our natural resistance through constant exposure to a strain of germs which gradually change the chemistry of the soul through a process known as compromise. The disease seems to be dormant in its early stages but there are so many outward symptoms which render it difficult to diagnose, that surface reactions are often mistaken for a more healthy germ called tolerance. It isn't until the deadly venom has reached its crippling stage that many come to realize the whole body is infected.

So in the last lesson we took a look at the symptoms and we

made an appointment with Dr. Jehovah. He confided in us that the malady has indeed reached epidemic proportions. Indeed, even some of His own regular patients were showing symptoms of the disease in its early stages. Now as we mentioned in the last lesson, we feel comfortable in the presence of this Great Physician because He has known us from the very beginning. Psalm 139 tells us that He was there while we were being formed in utter seclusion. It is He who performed surgery on us before He even gave us life. It says *He made all the delicate parts* of our body and *knit us together in our mother's womb*. Of course, no one better knows our real condition than He does. He saw us before we were born and scheduled each day of our lives before we even began to breathe. Every day was scheduled in His book.

We signed a release form for treatment last week. If you haven't done that, you might want to do that today. It says simply this:

Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts:

And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. (Psalm 139:23,24)

I think the doctor is ready to see us now. Don't be nervous. He has never lost a patient. Dr. Jehovah has the perfect mixture of straightforwardness and love. His diagnoses are always understandable. He uses words even a child can understand. Best of all, you can even read His prescriptions. So even though it is a tense moment, we can relax and look forward to the truth. Even if the truth hurts, it is so bathed in love when He gives it, that we will never be offended. What a perfect pattern for other doctors to follow. So the doctor, with a gracious smile that abolishes our fears, begins the diagnosis.

"Children," He begins, "I know you are anxious to see the results of your tests. But you need not be afraid. My tests do show that you have a problem. But it is not one that is incurable. I think the place to start is with our brain scan and x-ray of the head area. I hope it wasn't too uncomfortable for you, but the results indicate that it was well worth it. Let Me show you what I found. This x-ray will show you what I mean. The problem you have been having with the somewhat schizophrenic response to moral issues and moral choices seems to have its roots here. What we have here is called Christianioso Confusiasto. But I like to be simple," He said, "I call it double-mindedness. It comes from overexposure to the wisdom of the world which feeds the computer-like mechanism of the brain with signals which are in total conflict with the signals it receives from the Word. So both kinds of conflicting information are stored in opposite memory banks in the mind. When a decision looms on the horizon that involves a moral choice, the will receives impulses from both sides of the brain. Moral confusion is the result. Double-mindedness I call it."

"One example is your situation, Christina Coed. When you go out on a date and are tempted to even slight moral compromise the mind of Christ sends up a response: *He who has called you is holy, therefore be ye holy in every thing you do*. But your friends all do it, your mind comes back. All the programs you watch on television indicate that the new standard of morality says to do what is right to you. Your emotions say that you don't want to offend this guy or you might lose a chance to witness to him. Oh, Christina, you have been too friendly with the world. You have watched its programs and absorbed its music. You have unconsciously accepted its standards. God says that you are guilty of spiritual adultery. Look at James, chapter four:

Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy?

But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness.

Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up. (James 4:4-10)

"That is what I see in your x-rays," the kindly Physician goes on, "double-mindedness. The medical journal says that any act or activity that feeds the mind with the world's standards, any act of friendship with the world is an act of war against God. There is absolutely no compatibility between what the world calls right and the righteousness of God. You simply have to choose either to submit yourselves to God and draw near to Him or submit yourself to Satan and he will draw near to you. But no man can serve two masters. Either he hates one and loves the other or the other way around. But you hold hands with two standards and you become the victim of double-mindedness. It will affect your relationships. It will affect your job. It will affect your marriage. It will affect your ministry. It will affect your mind."

"In fact, My medical journal concludes," He went on, "that a double-minded man is unstable in all his ways. That is why I John 2 gives such a clear prescription:

Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

(I John 2:15-17)

Colossians 3 gives the simple solution:

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

Set your affections on the things above, not on things on the earth.

For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

(Colossians 3:1-3)

In other words, don't let the world squeeze you into its mold. Become so single-mindedly God's man or God's woman that at every turn you resist the devil until he flees from you. Life is a series of choices. You have chosen to program your mind with two conflicting standards. You may not need surgery, but you need a radical new diet and a whole program of nutritional spiritual supplements until you only see life from one perspective— God's."

"Is that the extent of our problems?" asked Polly Prophet, one of the more vocal of the group.

"No," Dr. Jehovah answers, "I'm afraid I feel your doublemindedness has allowed the disease to spread into your bloodstream. I think you need to see a heart specialist. As you know, My Son shares My practice. His name is Dr. Jesus Christ. He specializes in taking the illnesses that trouble men and tracing their cause and effect to the heart. I've given Him the results of your tests, and with your permission, I'd like to bring Him in for consultation."

We, of course, know His Son quite well, don't we? It was He who saved our lives. He literally brought us back from death when the disease of sin had made its mark on our hearts and we were diagnosed with terminal heart disease. He had the only blood pure enough to give us a transfusion. So He used His own blood to save us. We know Dr. Jesus quite well. What a privilege to have Him in on the case. As Jesus enters the room, we see a marked resemblance to His Father. They have the same mixture of honesty and love. What an amazing Friend to have. Not only has He saved us, not only does He live to keep us whole, when He is not our doctor, He becomes our advocate. It was He who came to both reveal the Law and pay the penalty when we stood trial for murder. Yes, what a friend we have in Jesus, indeed.

"My Father and I have talked much about your case," Jesus begins, "and I've looked at all your tests including your EKG. I'm afraid the double-mindedness you suffer from has allowed the disease to enter your bloodstream. Our tests show that it has already affected your heart. The reports reveal that your heart has been infected by the bacteria known as adultery."

Adultery? We all know what adultery is and most of us have thought of ourselves as mostly free from that. But, as with the sin of murder, we tend to overlook the root of our problems in order to become proud over our outward conformity to the minimum standards of the Law.

"You do know what adultery is?" Jesus asked. We all nodded affirmatively. "Well ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, thou shalt not commit adultery." We all nodded in agreement. "But I say unto you," He continued, "that whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart."

We all recognized those words. They came from Matthew 5:27 and 28. The very next verse that follows is the one He used only

weeks ago to arrest our attention. "What I am saying to you is that you do not have to commit the act of adultery to be infected with its venom." He said; "adultery, like murder, is basically a disease of the heart. You can be a dynamic deacon with a storybook marriage and still commit adultery every day. When you fix your eyes on an attractive woman and your mind generates emotional excitement over the sensuality of her appearance, that is the beginning. Unless you confess it to be sin then, it can, in a matter of seconds, lead to even more impure thoughts and desires until the whole soul is infected. It is a tough disease to diagnose in its early stages because the adulterous heart is often clothed in religious clothing. In fact, it is not uncommon to cover up an adulterous heart by trying to "do" for God and become religious activists, never stopping long enough to deal with the dreaded disease that is eating up the very fiber of the soul. Adultery is an immoral act, a physical relationship between two people outside of the marriage bond. But it is more than that."

You may be asking, "What is adultery?"

"Adultery is that second glance at the attractive woman down the aisle at church or at work. That is adultery. It is the motion picture of the mind that plays reels of make-believe love affairs and then convinces you that they are all right because they are make-believe. That is adultery. It is hugging your spouse while entertaining for even a second a mental image of another. That is adultery. Adultery is looking at a television program under the guise of being interested in the plot when you are not. Adultery is fantasizing in your mind what it would be like to be married to your best friend's wife. Adultery is sharing your emotional affections with one of the opposite sex even in the name of spiritual encouragement. Adultery is accepting the emotional affections or interests of another when their emotional affections belong to another, whether you call it harmless or not. Adultery is never harmless. Adultery is eagerly awaiting that commercial where a sensual model sells sex, and a product as a by-product. Adultery is enjoying a scene in a movie that portrays adultery even if you say on the way out, "How disgusting." That is what adultery is. It is any thought that is entertained or encouraged which in turn encourages the mind to consider impurity or immorality," Dr. Jesus explained.

"So you can see why many of the world's greatest adulterers are in church on Sunday morning," He continued. "They are at deacon's meeting on Monday night and choir practice on Wednesday. The air of hypocrisy that pretends it isn't there causes the symptoms to go underground until they rot out the very foundations of the soul. For the wicked heart pumps into the bloodstream impurities that eventually affect the nervous system, the lungs, and every part of the body. Adultery of the heart, left unchecked, is what leads to the act itself. Then the guilt-ridden soul proclaims, 'I never thought it could happen to me!' when in reality it had been happening in the heart for years."

"For those things that proceed out of the life proceed from the heart. They defile the man," Jesus reminded us, "for out of the heart proceed evil hearts, murders, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, blasphemy, these are the things which defile a man. In other words, in Proverbs 23 it tells it like it is:

For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: (Proverbs 23:7a)

"The answer then is to treat the heart. Is that right Dr. Jesus? Is that the solution?" we all asked.

"Well, we need to treat the heart," He answered, "and I will give you some specific cures before you leave. However, my colleague and I have a theory."

"Colleague?" the patients asked, "What colleague?"

"My co-laborer," He added, "Dr. Comforter. He and I work as a team. He specializes in eye problems. He is an ophthalmologist. Together we have come up with a theory. It is a theory that adultery is a disease of the eye."

Just then, Dr. Comforter enters the room. We were aware of His presence, but He never called attention to Himself. It seems as though each time you would look at Him, He would disappear behind Jesus. Whenever He spoke, He never spoke of Himself, but He always gave us Jesus' words. It was very strange. Jesus seemed to be the very image of His Father. It was as if when you had seen Him, you had seen His Father. Dr. Comforter seemed to be the perfect expression of Jesus, so that when you saw the three of them together, it was as though you only saw one person. But when you saw them separately, it was as though you were seeing three expressions of the same person. They were different in function but one in spirit. It was an amazing phenomenon.

Dr. Comforter began, as always, by quoting Jesus. He said,

"Remember Matthew 5:27 and 28. When the Master Physician quoted a few moments that He that looks on a woman to lust after her had committed adultery in his heart. Let's go on to the next verse.

And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.

And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell. (Matthew 5:29,30)

A literal translation would be this: whatever it takes, get rid of anything or everything that leads you into immorality. If the television set offends you, cut it off. Better to miss a program than to miss God's mark. If the movies offend you, don't go. Better to stay at home than to let Satan be at home in your life. Do your magazines offend you? Throw them out. Better to miss some news than hear the news that you are an adulterer. If your idle time offends you, fill it with godliness. Better to miss that program or that event than to poison your soul with adultery of the heart. What it means is to pay whatever price it takes to keep your heart pure. If it is your eye that triggers the problem, you would be better off to lose the eye and win the battle. That is what Jesus is saying."

"I believe," Dr. Comforter went on, "that the eye is the key to adultery. Look with me at Matthew 6:

For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.

But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!

No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

(Matthew 6:21-24)

You might paraphrase that passage this way—The lamp of the body is the eye, if therefore your eye be in single focus, pure, sound then your whole body will be well lighted. But if your eye is diseased, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light which is in you is darkness, how great that darkness will be. The Living New Testament paraphrases it like this:

If your eye is pure, there will be sunshine in your soul.

But if your eye is clouded with evil thoughts and desires, you are in deep spiritual darkness. And oh, how deep that darkness can be! (Matthew 6:22,23 TLB)

Ecclesiastes 1:8 says:

...the eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear with hearing.

They can never receive enough.

Mine eye affecteth my heart... (Lamentations 3:51)

The key is once again, as a man thinketh in his heart, so is he. A man's heart is determined by what he looks at. That is why Deuteronomy 11:18 tells us that the Word is to be as frontlets between our eyes.

Satan in the garden chided with Adam and Eve, "Disobey God and your eyes will be opened and you shall be as gods." And when they saw that the tree was pleasant to their eye, it ignited within them a disease of the heart and man died. It is a cycle. Mark 7:22 says, "Out of the heart proceeds an evil eye." So the eye lusts for evil and programs the heart which in turn sends signals back to the eye to look for more evil to satisfy what it started. The eye lusts, the heart enjoys it and sends up a signal to the brain, "More!" This cycle runs until the disease of adultery has poisoned the whole soul. We must treat the heart," Dr. Comforter added, "But we must also do something about your eyes. What you look at is very important. In the final analysis, is not adultery a disease of the eye?"

"The first thing I want to ask you," Dr. Comforter began, and you could tell that one of His jobs was to convince us that we had a problem, "How badly do you want to be healed? Or are you so enjoying these lapses of the mind to impurity that you are really satisfied to miss the deeper spiritual walk that impurity makes impossible? If so, feel free to be excused for now, and call for another appointment when you feel that you are sick enough of the sickness to submit to the cure. But God never intended the Christian to play the game of internal immorality. I Thessalonians 4:1-8 explains that. Here is how J.B. Philips paraphrases it : To some of my brothers we beg and pray you by the Lord Jesus that as you have learned from us the way of life that pleases God, you may continue in it as indeed you are doing now and deepen your experience of it.

You will remember the instruction we gave you, then, in the name of the Lord Jesus.

God's plan is to make you holy and that means a clean cut with sexual immorality;

everyone of you should learn to control his body, keeping it pure and treating it with respect;

never allowing it to fall victim to lust as do pagans without knowledge of God;

you cannot break this rule without cheating and exploiting your fellow-men; indeed, God will punish all who offend in this manner, as we have plainly told you and warned you.

The calling of God is not to impurity, but to the most thorough purity.

Anyone who makes light of the matter is not making light of man's ruling, but of God's command, it is not for nothing that the spirit God gives us is called the Holy Spirit.

(I Thessalonians 4:1-8 Philips translation)

In other words, lust is natural for the unbeliever, but don't let Satan sell you the lie that His Holy Spirit can live with unholiness. Then do you remember Colossians 3 that we stated earlier? Paraphrased it goes like this:

> Since you became alive again, so to speak, when Christ rose from the dead, now set your sights on the rich treasures and joys of heaven where He sits beside God in the place of honor and power. Let heaven fill your thoughts; don't spend your time worrying about things down here. You should have as little desire for this world as a dead person does. Your real life is in heaven with Christ and God. And when Christ, who is our real life, comes back again, you will shine with him and share in all of His glories.

> Away then with sinful, earthly things; deaden the evil desires lurking within you; have nothing to do with sexual sin, impurity, lust and shameful desires; don't worship the good things of life, for that is idolatry. God's terrible anger is upon those who do such things. You used to do them when your life was part of this world; but it is time now to cast off and throw away all these rotten garments of anger, hatred, cursing, and dirty language

You are living a brand new kind of life...

(Colossians 3:1-8,10a TLB)

In other words, God never intended His children to live in defeat. Lust may always be a temptation for us, for are not most of our temptations a result of grooves in our mind where we have allowed the enemy to run with freedom for years? Sure, Satan is out to get us, but aren't we too the victim of our own choices? Wasn't Eve? She listened to the voice of the stranger for so long it sounded reasonable to her. Lust may always be a temptation, but it need not always, no it need not ever again be victorious. There is a cure for adultery, even adultery of the heart.

"Come back into the conference room," the three doctors said in unison. "I," they said (for they spoke as One), "I will give you some prescriptions. The medication I give you will control the symptoms immediately and cure the disease eventually. You can enjoy that brand new kind of health Paul talked about."

"First," Dr. Comforter began, "I would like to prescribe some eye drops and some new glasses. These eye drops are to clear up your vision and make you more sensitive to the light. It may burn a little when you use it, but in due time your eyes will be full of light again. It is called Spirit-Controlled Vision. It makes your eyes burn and then blur every time you try to focus on something sensual. It may limit your television to the six-o-clock news, but you've got that big black book over there that you need to read anyhow, so you can find something to do. The amazing thing about these drops is that the more they blur your vision for lust, the clearer they make the word of God. They are refillable upon request. Just call the doctor and ask for help with your vision. He will send you a brand new batch."

"I've also designed some special glasses," Dr. Comforter continued; "you put them on when you are tempted to look at what you shouldn't. I call them blinders. Horses have to wear them to keep their eyes where they are going and, if you show no more self-control than a horse does, just wear them for a while. If these don't work, I have a neck brace, but that shouldn't be necessary."

Dr. Jesus then spoke up, "While we are at it, let's begin treating that ailing heart. Here are two prescriptions for it. Prescription number one is to memorize key passages that deal with adultery. You will agree with me to review them three times a day for the rest of your life if need be. Here I've put together some verses that form God's mind where adultery is concerned that some of you might want to consider putting into a package of your own. It goes like this:

Above all else guard your affections. For they influence everything else in your life.

Look straight ahead; don't even turn your head to look. (Proverbs 4:23,25 TLB)

Drink from your own well, my son—be faithful and true to your wife.

Let her breasts and tender embrace satisfy you. Let her love alone fill you with delight.

For God is closely watching you, and He weighs carefully everything you do. (Proverbs 5:15,19,21 TLB)

Don't lust for their beauty. Don't let their coyness seduce you.

Can a man hold fire against his chest and not be burned? Can he walk on hot coals and not blister his feet?

So it is with a man who commits adultery with another's wife. He shall not go unpunished for his sin.

But the man who commits adultery is an utter fool for he destroys his own soul. (Proverbs 6:25,27-29,32 TLB)

Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery:

But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart. (Matthew 5:27,28)

The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, the whole body shall be full of light.

But if thine eye be evil, the whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness. (Matthew 6:22,23)

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. (Philippians 4:8)

"You can work up your own set of verses. Use whatever translation you choose. The main thing is that you commit the word to memory and review it again and again and again and again in this one area. This is why the Great Physician wrote in Psalm 119: Wherewith all shall a young man cleanse his way? [How do I get my heart cleaned up?] by taking heed thereto according to thy word.

Thy word have I hid in mine heart [engraved], that I might not sin against thee. (Psalm 119:9,11)

The key is not only memorizing, but also meditating. The meditation is your medication My child."

"My second prescription," Dr. Jesus went on, "is called a vow. A vow is a promise made to God based on His word and His power. But you never make one lightly. Ecclesiastes 5 says this:

When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed.

Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay. (Ecclesiastes 5:4,5)

"So you don't make a vow lightly, but you make it for workable segments of time. Make it for something you can believe God for. First, a day at a time. Can you believe God that He can give you victory in this area for one day? Make a vow to God and trust Him for one day. The next morning you rise, fall on your knees by the side of your bed, and renew your vow. Do this the next day and the next day and the next day. Then you try for two days at a time. Then try for three days at a time. Then try for a week at a time until that vow has become a workable part of your life. Vow that you will put a watch over your eyes not to look at anything that triggers adultery of the heart. Vow to bring every thought under captivity to the mind of Christ so that when the mind begins to run away you have your hand on the brake. Then, the instant you start to lust, repeat to yourself, When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it. For he hath no pleasure in fools. If you have to repeat it again in one minute, you do it. You may spend the whole first day repeating that verse over and over and over. Before long though, your mind gets the message, "No. Scratch that signal." The computer goes off. You will find that Satan will flee from you for you have drawn near unto God and resisted the devil. Don't reject the prescription if you haven't tried it long enough to give it a chance to work."

So Dr. Jehovah concludes the session with this, "See to it that you get regular checkups. Come in every morning before you start your day and talk to Me about the symptoms and let Me give you a dose of faith when you need it. Don't stay away because you are not well; that is what doctors are for. Don't hesitate to tell Me about your thought life. I know all about it anyway. You see, man looks on the outward appearance. They can be fooled, but I look at the heart. As you come, spend time bathing yourself in the pool of My holiness. As you are cleansed thereby, your desire to be holy will increase. Oh, yes, and a word to those who don't have a problem with lust. Congratulations, our pharmacy also has a prescription for pride."

"You ladies may not be able to fully comprehend why this disease is so rampant among men. Ask God to give you an understanding heart for your husband. Pray for his eyes. Pray for his heart to be pure. Be the kind of wife God wants you to be and he will be more likely to have eyes only for you. Don't ever dress or act in a way that will cause another man to stumble or you become a part of his problem. It is a serious problem. It is adultery. It is serious enough that God found it necessary to say to Moses at Mount Sinai, "Thou shalt not commit adultery." Serious enough that Jesus said to His disciples, 'Don't even look at woman with lust in your heart or you have committed adultery."

So the battle for the purity of the mind is not a battle easily won. For many it is not a battle totally won until the veil is lifted at death and we enter into the very presence of the holy of holies and see Him face to face. Sin will be eradicated. Lust will be forgotten and all of life will be holy. But until then, we can, in the Spirit, declare war on the enemy. We can drive the spirit of impurity from our homes and place a guard at the doorpost of our eyes to guard the very gateway to our hearts from the Satanic onslaught of impurity that the world sends our way. Or we can let the world squeeze us into its mold and accept a lower standard of morality as inevitable and succumb to a level of double-mindedness that tries to enter the presence of God fresh with mental impressions of adultery, perversion and sensuality. Then we wonder why we do not grow beyond a certain level in our spiritual lives.

As always, the choice is ours. The Master Physician has made the diagnosis clear. The disease is debilitating. The process of recovery is slow. Sometimes it is painful. But the cure is amazing. There is restoration of emotional and spiritual vibrancy lost at the shrine of impurity. As always, the choice to take the cure or enjoy the disease is ours. I don't know how serious it may seem to you but God is looking for single-minded people. He is looking for men and women whose hearts are pure and whose eyes are clear and whose minds are clean. He needs holy men and holy women because He wants to use them to change a very unholy world.

HOLY MEN

God is looking for holy men, Men whose hearts are pure. Men who know the heart of God, Men whose steps are sure.

God is looking for moral men, Men with transformed eyes. Men who, for the kingdoms sake, Refuse to compromise.

God is looking for disciplined men, Men who will pay the price To walk the walk of a holy God In the power of Jesus Christ.

God has lots of half-hearted men, The casual, indifferent kind, Who constantly toy with the germs of lust That take and disease the mind.

But God is looking for holy men And oh, that today we might see That the men He wants to be holy Are men like you and me.

All He asks is that we agree To do whatever it takes, Until the power of a holy God Each stronghold of Satan breaks.

God wants to change our sin-scarred lives And cleanse them every one; He wants to trade our unclean minds For the mind of His dear Son.

God really wants to change our hearts, Until they're repulsed by sin And we become, by His precious grace, His band of holy men.

For Focus and Application

1- What do you think it means to "resist the devil"? What do you think it means to "be afflicted and mourn"? What does "resisting the devil" have to do with "humbling yourself in the sight of the Lord? Why do purity and humility and usability almost always seem inseparable in Scripture?

2- What are the three characteristics James 2 indicates are symptomatic of "loving the world"? Can you find these three characteristics in Satan's test of Eve? In Satan's test of Jesus in the wilderness?

3- How can you "set your affections on things above" and still be effective on earth? How can you be dead and still very much alive?

4- How does adultery of the heart begin? What steps can you take to guard your heart against those inroads? What misconception allows us to condemn those who have committed adultery, while condoning compromises in our own minds which will lead to adultery and which are adultery in God's sight?

5- Paraphrase Matthew 5:27-29. Make it relevant to today's world.

6- How does God describe the eye in Matthew 6:21-24? What control do you have over what the eye does? Where do the signals go that eye sends? Why are they so hard to erase when you consciously allow them to linger on that which feeds the flesh rather than the spirit?

7- Why is Scripture memory so vital to dealing with adultery of the eye and mind? Why must we memorize verses that specifically deal with the disease we are fighting?

8- Memorize the verses listed on pages 14 and 15. Add to them any other verses God has given to you that deal with this issue and the victory that is yours.

9- Consider making a vow for one day that you will close the gate of your eyes and the doorway to your imagination to any and all thoughts and sights that tempt you to lust. Make that vow every day for one week, one day at a time. When you are tempted to ignore that vow, meditate on the verses you have learned. Begin praising God for His holiness. As you focus on His holiness, thank Him that He in you will always be...holy.

dtm discipleship tape ministries, inc.

10602 Mossbank, San Antonio, TX 78230 210-226-0000 or 1-800-375-7778 www.dtm.org • dtm@dtm.org • © Russell Kelfer

(03.07.15)