



Sermon on the Mount Series

The Birds and the Bees

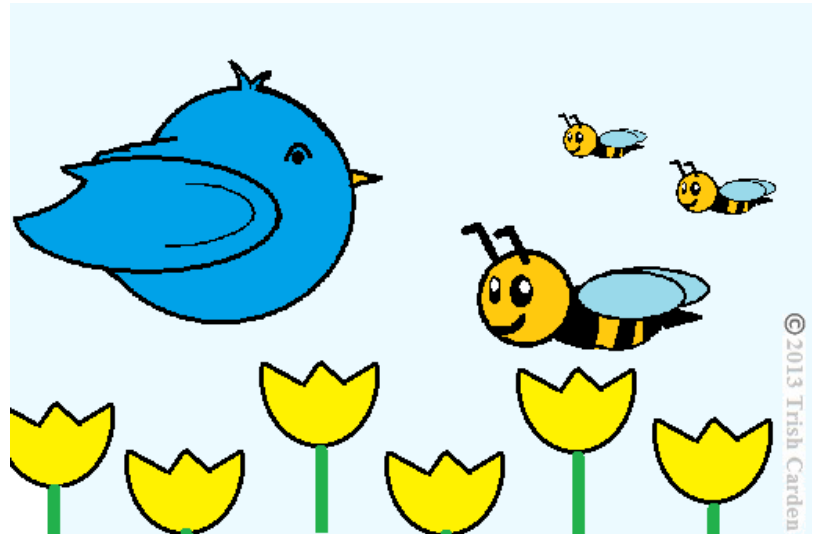
Adultery avoidance and marriage preservation - a course for men

Course Text: Matthew 5:27-32

This course has two versions, one for men and one for women. It is recommended that if you are taking this course as a group that you either let each person do this lesson as homework or that the men and women go through this lesson in separate groups.

Outline

Lesson	Topic
Lesson 1	Adultery
Lesson 2	Divorce
Lesson 3	Submission
Lesson 4	Love



It used to be when parents told their children about sex they called it talking about "the birds and the bees." The idea was to use natural figures of speech to keep the discussion from becoming vulgar and crass. I'm going to try to do the same thing. We need to have some plain talk about sex, marriage, adultery, and divorce, but I don't want it to descend into something unsuitable for mixed company. I hope you will forgive me where I fail. Generally speaking women are better at being women, than men are at being men. I know there are some witches out there, and some of you men may have married one of them, but generally speaking, women are better at relationships than we are, so this lesson is for men.

Suggested methodology for each course:

1. Allow time for greetings and fellowship (Save most of this for the end of class.)
2. Take prayer requests (Try to keep it from becoming a competition to see who has the most or the worst.)
3. Pray (The idea here is to leave our troubles with God so we can give His word our attention with a clear mind.)
4. Read the text aloud from the Bible one question at a time.
5. Answer and briefly discuss the "fill in the blank" questions. Let those who prefer to listen, listen. My answers on the next page are just one opinion; you may have a better answer. Repeat 4 & 5 for all questions except the "Think & Pray" questions.
6. On the final "Think & Pray" question everyone should take a few minutes to pray over it and jot down their own thoughts before the discussion. **This gives the Holy Spirit a time to speak, so don't rush it.** The class leader should watch for the pencils and pens to quit moving. Others can look at the "For Further Thought" questions while waiting for everyone to finish.
7. Discuss your "Think & Pray" answers. Never force anyone to share theirs. As with the other questions, my answer, when provided, are just one more opinion; you may have a better answer.
8. Close in prayer (It is best to call on others to pray, but try to get their permission ahead of time.)
9. Fellowship (Leave this as open ended as possible for the time and place you meet.)

Depending on the number of people, each lesson is expected to take about one hour. Steps 4 thru 7 are about half of that. If you take longer, let each lesson take more than one meeting, or consider breaking into two groups. If you take less time, extra questions are provided for discussion called "For Further Thought"

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Lesson 1 - Adultery: (Text: Matthew 5:27-30)

Most of my marriage counseling work has been with women. It is usually frustrating to me, because almost all of the time while I'm trying to help them, I think about what I would like to say to their husbands, who are the ones who really need to make some changes. Nevertheless, it is a universal truth that happiness in marriage comes from being a good spouse, not from having a good spouse. So people being what they are, sinners, I can usually help the ladies find some way to cope with the dope they are married to, by becoming better wives, while their so-called husbands continue on in their self-centered ways. But this course is for men and you are going to get to hear what I wanted to tell all those husbands over the years. I know that it won't all apply to all of you. Some of you are good husbands. But I'm going to teach as if you are not. I'm going to teach like you are all married to the women who came to me for help.

Read Matthew 5:27-30.

[1A] What does Jesus say is the same as committing adultery in the heart? _____

[1B] What does Jesus say you should do with your eye if it causes you to stumble? _____

[1C] It seems impossible that we should be able to do what Jesus suggests here. Gouge out our own eyes? Really? Are there actually people who can avoid lusting? What is He really saying?

Think & pray _____

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



Then out came a woman to meet him, dressed like a prostitute and with crafty intent. **Pr 7:10**

----- ANSWERS -----

Lesson 1 - Adultery: (Text: Matthew 5:27-30)

[1A] What does Jesus say is the same as committing adultery in the heart?

Lusting for someone Mt 5:28

[1B] What does Jesus say you should do with your eye if it causes you to stumble?

Tear it out Mt 5:29

[1C] Jesus says a couple of startling things in this passage. They were surprising to his listeners and they are to us as well, but probably for different reasons. First he says you are committing adultery just to look at a woman, with lust in your heart, and if you do that sort of thing you should mutilate yourself to prevent it. Remember the theme of this chapter. It is about running the other way from sin in order to prevent it. It is about not going near the edge, staying away from that place where you might fall into sin. Adultery is a sin. Looking at members of the opposite sex and thinking about how they might look unclothed is where adultery starts. Jesus is not saying we should gouge our eyes out. It is a figure of speech called a hyperbole. He just means do what you have to do to not start down that road towards adultery. Do whatever it takes.

I never had that talk about the birds and the bees with my father. He left it to my next older brother to introduce me to the facts of life. That was very unwise. In my day, most teenaged boys began their sex life with a stack of pornography magazines. In my father's day I guess it was the ladies underwear section of the Sears & Roebuck catalog or pictures of the native women in National Geographic Magazine. Today it is much more easily available. Pornography overflows into our homes via the internet and cable TV. So, don't look at it. That is what Jesus is saying. Don't look.

"It is not that simple," you say. I'm sorry. It is as simple as that. Don't look at pornography. Don't look at women's bodies at all, unless it is your wife. They have faces. Look at them. Don't let your mind start down the wrong path. "But that's impossible!" you say. You are right. It is a difficult battle and always will be. It is not something you get better at. I didn't say it was easy. I said it was simple. Every time you catch yourself looking where you should not, quit, and ask God to deliver you from temptation. "But," you say, "That will be a hundred times a day." Yep. Now perhaps we know why Paul said, "Pray without ceasing." (1st Thess 5:17) Every time it happens ask for help overcoming temptation. God will enjoy your frequent conversations with Him.

For further thought:

(1d) Read the story of David, Bathsheba & Uriah in 2 Samuel 11:1-27. It begins with David looking at Bathsheba in 2Sm 11:2 and ends with murder 2Sm 11:24. What was David's first sin in this sad series of sins? How would this story have turned out if David had heard and heeded Jesus' words in Mt 5:27-30?

(1e) In Proverbs 7:6-23 we read the story of a man who looks out a window and ends up dead. How would this story have turned out if he had heard and heeded Jesus' words in Mt 5:27-30?

(1f) Read Job 31:1. What do you think Job's understanding of this issue was? Why? Does he give us a useful idea?

(1h) Read Proverbs 4:25 and 2nd Peter 2:14. Are these talking about this same issue or are they about something else? How do you know.

Lesson 2 - Divorce: (Text: Matthew 5:31-32)

[2A] According to Deuteronomy 24:1-4 what did a man have to do to divorce his wife? _____

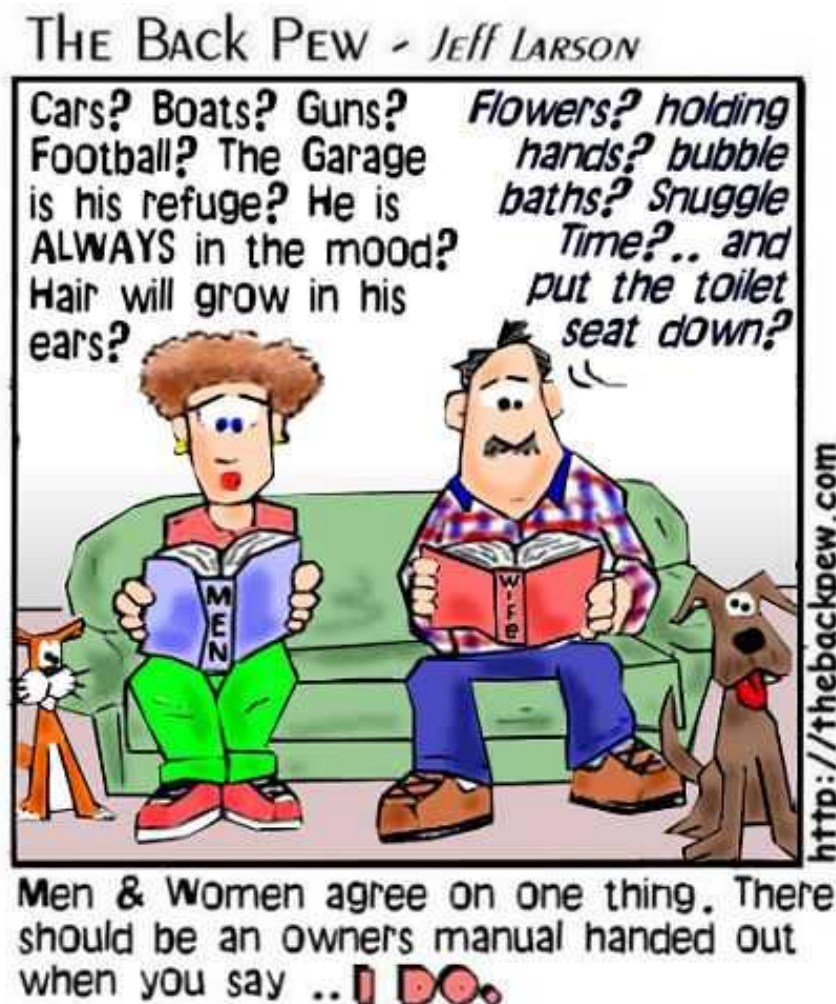
[2B] According to Matthew 5:31-32, if a man divorces a woman without just cause what does he cause her to do? _____

[2C] According to Malachi 2:16 what does God think of divorce? _____

[2D] If God hates divorce, why does he allow it? (Read Matthew 19:3-9) _____

[2E] How can divorcing a woman cause her to commit adultery? Isn't she responsible for her own sins?

Think & pray _____



----- ANSWERS -----

Lesson 2 - Divorce: (Text: Matthew 5:31-32)

[2A] According to Deuteronomy 24:1 what did a man have to do to divorce his wife?

Write a certificate Dt 24:1

[2B] According to Matthew 5:31-32, if a man divorces a woman without just cause what does he cause her to do? Commit adultery Mt 5:32

[2C] According to Malachi 2:16 what does God think of divorce? God hates divorce Mal 2:16

[2D] If God hates divorce, why does he allow it? (Read Matthew 19:3-9)

Because of our hard hearts Mt 19:8

[2E] How can divorcing a woman cause her to commit adultery? Isn't she responsible for her own sins? Yes, she is, but the plain truth is women are better at being women, than we are at being men. You divorce her and forget her, but you will always have a piece of her heart. She will never forget you. When you divorce a woman who is still committed to you, you put her in an impossible situation.

But you say. She wasn't submissive. Every night she had a headache. I had to see other women. She was always nagging me and harping on me. Nothing I ever did was good enough for her. I had to leave her. She was one of those witches you were talking about earlier.

I'm sorry. I don't believe you.

At some point in time she stood with you in front of a preacher or justice of the peace and bet her life on you. Or worse yet, she bet her life on you without you bothering to even make a formal promise in public. She believed your private promises and let you have your way with her and/or set up house together, or had your baby. Or even worse than that, she saw in you a man good enough to be responsible. She trusted in your character, even without your promises, public or private.

How did it get from her betting her life on you, to her being a witch? I'll tell you how. You did that to her. She was just an object to you that you used for your own pleasure and convenience. That is where witches come from. You take a good woman, abuse her for a few years, and sooner or later you have a witch.

Do you know what the word "husband" means? We think it means the household dictator. We think it means the boss of the home. We think it means we get our way, while she suffers with submissiveness. It is just her lot in life. Tough luck for her. Nope. I looked it up. Husband means "to manage, especially with prudent economy, to use frugally; conserve: for example 'to husband one's resources.' It means to preserve, save, store, hoard." You were supposed to take good care of her and instead you used her all up, until nothing was left but bitterness and bile.

For further thought:

(2f) In Ezra 10:1-19 divorce is sanctioned as not only allowed, but necessary. How can we reconcile this to Malachi 2:16?

(2g) How do Romans 7:3 and 1st Corinthians 7:11 speak about divorce and remarriage. Does this add clarity for you? If so, how?

(2h) Two more verses that often come up in this discussion are Genesis 2:24 and Ephesians 5:31. Do they help you or just cloud the issue? Why?

Lesson 3 - Submission: (Text: Ephesians 5:21-33)

"But," you say, "isn't she supposed to be submissive? Isn't that the way it is supposed to be?" Yes, it is. Let's look at the passage where that idea comes from. However, this time, instead of looking for all the things she is supposed to do, like we usually do, let's read it to see what we men are supposed to do.

Read Ephesians 5:21-33 and write the verse numbers below to show which verses go with which idea.

[3A] Verses that apply to the husband _____

[3B] Verses that apply to the wife _____

[3C] Verses that apply to both _____

[3D] Why is all this mixed up together. If Eph 5:21-33 is not about wives submitting to husbands, what is it about?

Think & pray _____



Taking Ephesians **5:22** out of context was bad enough, but using a bell to summon his wife was both stupid and dangerous.

----- ANSWERS -----

Lesson 3 - Submission: (Text: Ephesians 5:21-33)

Read Ephesians 5:21-33 and write the verse numbers below to show which verses go with which idea.

[3A] Verses that apply to the husband 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 32

[3B] Verses that apply to the wife 22, 24

[3C] Verses that apply to both 21, 23 (mostly husband), 31 (mostly husband), 33

[3D] It doesn't say anything here about you making her submit when she doesn't. It doesn't say anything here about you manipulating her into submission, if she doesn't submit. It doesn't say you desert her or insult her when she is not respectful to you. The call here is for you to sacrifice yourself for her. It says here you are supposed to do whatever it takes to lift her up and help her to be a better version of herself. Why? "Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ." Marriage is supposed to be the living example on earth of Christ's love for His church. Your marriage is supposed to be the gospel for others to see and be attracted to Jesus Christ. It is not about you. It is about Him. Your life is not about you. It is about Him. Your marriage is not about you. It is about Him. It is about glorifying Him.

Jesus Christ died on the cross to cleanse you from your sin. Your wife needs to be able to see that gospel message in your marriage. She needs to be able to see Jesus Christ in you.

Remember what I said about women being better at being women, than we are at being men? If you will submit yourself to Jesus Christ, more than likely she will follow your example, and submit herself to you, like you are submitting to Him. Even if she doesn't, you will still be better off, for God will bless your obedience to Him. Happiness in marriage does not come from having a good wife or a submissive wife. Happiness in marriage comes from being a good husband. Happiness in marriage comes from submitting yourself to Jesus Christ. He is the source of real happiness. He is the source of real joy. Love her like He loves you. Give her everything you have. Give her your sex, which is something Jesus did without, for your sake. Give her your attention. Give her your stuff. Give her your life. Give her your time. Give her your heart. Love her until you have nothing left to give, and then love her some more. And when you have given the last ounce of that, love her some more. Love, give, love, give, love, give. Never stop, ever, no matter what happens. It is the only way to have a happy marriage and it is the best way to show God your gratitude for sending Jesus Christ to die on the cross in your place.

"But," you say, "That is impossible. I can't do that. No one can."

You can. It happens first in the heart. Starting right now make her more important than you. If that is your heart, she will see it. She is yearning for you to become more like Jesus Christ. She doesn't think of it as you putting her first. She thinks of it as you becoming like Jesus. She doesn't have the pride and ego we have. She is yearning to follow you. But you have to show her something worth following. A life of purpose. A life of service to Jesus Christ. She will see it. She is watching for it like a person waiting for a loved one to arrive on the airplane from the war zone. She is expecting it. She is hoping for it. Lay down your life for your wife. If that woman in your bed is not your wife, make her your wife.

For further thought:

(3e) According to 1 Corinthians 7:2 what is the purpose of marriage?

(3f) Can 1st John 3:16 be applied to the love of a husband for his wife?

(3g) In Genesis 2:18 why did God make women?

(3h) In Malachi 2:13-15 what caused God to stop accepting their sacrifices? How does that apply to us?

(3i) In Revelation 19:7-9 who is getting married? So what?

(3j) In Revelation 21:1-2 who are the husband and wife? So what?

(3k) What does Proverbs 18:22 tell us about marriage?

(3l) What does 2 Corinthians 6:14 tell us about spouse selection?

Lesson 4 - Love: (Text: 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 & 1 Corinthians 7:1-5)

Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 and answer the following questions:

[4A] If my "spiritual" talk is not founded on sincere love what is it? _____

[4B] If I am "spiritual" but no love our neighbors, what am I? _____

[4C] If I give away everything for motives other than love, what good is it? _____

[4D] What is love? _____

[4E] What is love not? _____

[4F] What does love not do? _____

[4G] What does love do? _____

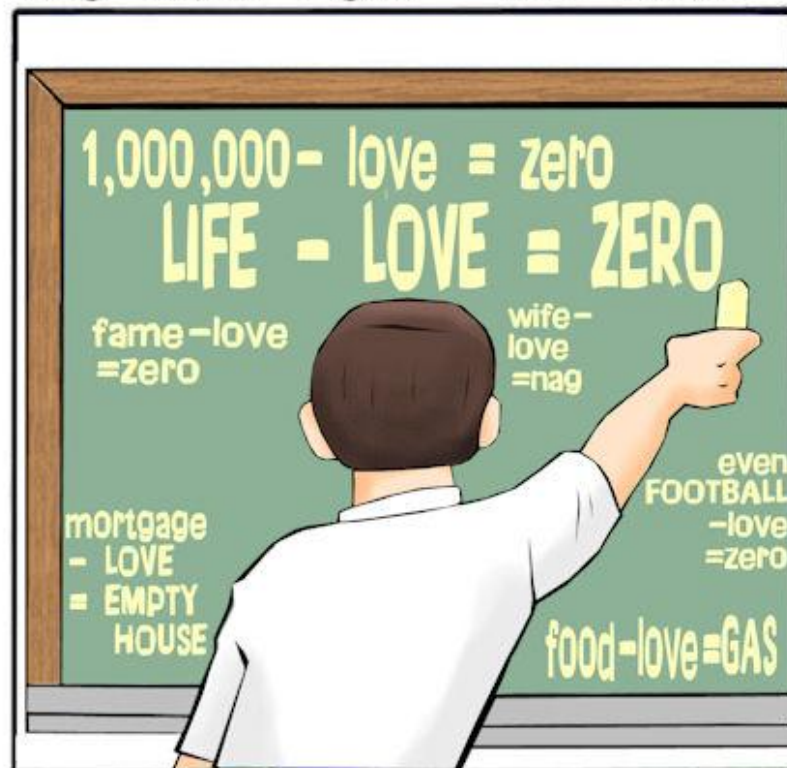
[4H] When the partial is gone, what will remain? _____

[4I] Faith, hope and love are all good, but which is best? _____

[4J] Read 1 Corinthians 7:1-5. What is it talking about? Does this mean your wife is obligated to you sexually?

Think & pray _____

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



MATH.. made easy. 1 Cor. 13:1-3

----- ANSWERS -----

Lesson 4 - Love: (Text: 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 & 1 Corinthians 7:1-5)

Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 and answer the following questions:

[4A] If my "spiritual" talk is not founded on sincere love what is it? Noise 1Co 13:1

[4B] If I am "spiritual" but no love our neighbors, what am I? Nothing. 1Co 13:2

[4C] If I give away everything for motives other than love, what good is it? No good 1Co 13:3

[4D] What is love? Patient, Kind 1Co 13:4

[4E] What is love not? Not Jealous, Not Arrogant, 1Co 13:4

[4F] What does love not do? Brag, Act Badly, Seek Selfishly, Get Provoked, Remember Wrongs, Rejoice in Unrighteousness, Fail 1Co 13:4-8

[4G] What does love do? Rejoices in truth, Bears, Believes, Hopes and Endures all things 1Co 13:6-7

[4H] When the partial is gone, what will remain? The perfect 1Co 13:10

[4I] Faith, hope and love are all good, but which is best? Love 1Co 13:13 Once the perfect comes we will no longer need faith and hope. Only love will remain.

[4J] Read 1 Corinthians 7:1-5. What is it talking about? Does this mean your wife is obligated to you sexually?

It is talking to the reader, not someone else. Yes, your wife has some obligations, but they are to God, not to you. It is *not* up to you to enforce them.

It is not about you. Sex is not about you. It is about her. It says, "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her." Sex is not supposed to be something you get, it is something you give. You need to do whatever is needed to please her, including leaving her alone if necessary. "In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies." When Jesus said, "... It is more blessed to give than to receive." He could have been talking about sex. If you will focus your sexual attention on giving her pleasure instead of taking your pleasure, you will find a life of blessedness you can not even imagine.

"You can't be serious. How does that work?" you ask. Well, I'm glad you asked.

It is simple, and yes, difficult. Don't look where you shouldn't. Love your wife like Christ loves you. He gave it all for you. You give it all for her.

You can't give this kind of love, until you have received this kind of love. This kind of love requires the Holy Spirit in your heart. You must repent of your sins and accept Jesus Christ as your Savior. Then you can have this kind of love to give. Then, and only then, can your marriage be the Gospel message it is intended to be.

Birds & Bees Conclusion:

{W} Is there a verse or passage from this course that you would like to commit to memory? Which one? Are you going to?

{X} If someone asked you what Matthew 5:27-32 is about, how would you explain it?

{Y} If you were going to re-write this course for women, what would be different?

{Z} What did you learn from this course that you would like to remember?