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Susanna, The Chaste!

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A “Forgotten” Example!

**“It is better for me not to do it and
fall into your hands, than to sin
against the Lord”**

(Daniel 13:23)

**“How then can I do this great
wickedness, and sin against God?”**

(Genesis 39:9)

Susanna:

A Biblical Example That We Need Badly!

- 1. What's Going on These Days?**
- 2. Between Joseph & Susanna**

1. What's Going on These Days?

We Speak a Different Language!

How Do We Communicate Now?

Examples from New Technologies

- **Mobiles:** iPhone; Blackberry; 4G ...
- **Mobiles/Computers:** Text/Instant Messaging; Chatting ...
- **Computers:** Email; Video Cams & Clips; ...
- **Photography:** High Definition/High Pixel
- **Social Rooms:** Face Book; My Space; Twitter; YouTube ...
- **The Internet**
- **The New Urban Dictionary**

What's New?

Is Human Nature the Same?

The New Battles Against the Devil:

1. Obsession with **Unrestricted Freedom**
2. Obsession with **Experimentation**
3. Obsession with the **New Addictions**

Unrestricted Freedom or Slavery?!!!

How Do We Lose Our Freedom?

- It starts with **Habits**
- Habits Become **Patterns**
- Patterns Become **Behaviors (Addiction?)**

“Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. And a slave does not abide in the house forever. Therefore, if the son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.”

(John 8:34-36)

Experimentation?!

“Why Not?”

Her Letter:

“Last year was my first year of high school, so I guess I thought I was independent and I felt like I was on top of the world ... **People at my school talked freely about porn**, and that was something I had never been subjected to. I accidentally saw like **5 seconds** and it was playing in my mind for about a week.”

The “New” Serpent!

“Our Contemporary Addictions”

Facts:

- 42% of the songs on the top CDs contained sexual content -- 19% included direct descriptions of sexual intercourse
- On average, music videos contain 93 sexual situations per hour, including eleven "hard core" scenes depicting behaviors such as intercourse and oral sex

The “New” Serpent!

“Our Contemporary Addictions”

Facts:

“Girls who watched **more than 14 hours of rap music videos per week** were more likely to have multiple sex partners and to be diagnosed with a sexually transmitted disease.”

The “New” Serpent!

“Our Contemporary Addictions”

Facts:

“Pornography can be addictive, with the individual becoming desensitized to 'soft' porn and moving on to twisted and dangerous images of sexual bondage as in rape and homosexuality”

“Pornography is a \$13 billion/ year business.”

2. Between Joseph & Susanna

Flee & Resist

Joseph Facing Temptation

(Genesis 39:7-9)

And it came to pass after these things that his master's wife cast longing eyes on Joseph, and she said, "Lie with me." But **he refused** and said to his master's wife, "Look, my master does not know what *is* with me in the house, and he has committed all that he has to my hand. **There is no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you are his wife.**

Therefore,

“How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?””

“And though she spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her or even be with her.”

“One day he went into the house to attend to his duties, and none of the household servants was inside. She caught him by his cloak and said, ‘Come to bed with me!’ But he left his cloak in her hand and ran out of the house.

(Genesis 39:9-12)

The Reward!

(Genesis 39)

The LORD was with Joseph, and he was a successful man.

(Genesis 39:2)

But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him mercy, and He gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison.

(Genesis 39:21)

Susanna

(Daniel 13:19-23)

“The two elders rose up, and ran to her, saying, ‘Give us your consent, and lie with us. If you will not, we will bear witness against you that a young man was with you.’ ...Then Susanna sighed, and said, ‘I am straitened on every side: for if I do this thing, it is death for me: and if I do not, I will not escape your hands. But it is better for me to fall into your hands, and not do it, than to sin in the sight of the Lord.’”

طهارة الجنس Purity of Sex

- **St. Clement of Alexandria- “How can we be ashamed of talking about organs God was not ashamed of creating.”**
- **القديس اكليمندس السكندري يقول ” كيف يمكن أن نخجل من الكلام عن الأعضاء التي لم يخجل الله أن يخلقها فينا .”**
- **Christianity is NOT anti-sex, it is anti-irresponsible sex**
- **المسيحية ليست ضد الجنس ولكنها ضد الجنس الغير مسئول**
- **To the pure all things are pure (Tit 1 : 15)**
- **كل شيء طاهر للطاهرين (تي 1 : 15)**

Adultery الزنا

Fashionable Socially

يواكب الموضه الإجتماعية

- Sex-obsessed society (culture sexuality)
- المجتمع المأخوذ بالجنس (الحضارة الجنسية)
- Society has debased and degraded and cheapened sexuality
- المجتمع قام بتحقيق ومحو قيمة مفهوم الجنس
- “One-night stand,” “hooking up,” “hit and run,” “adult entertainment,” “a fling”, “gentlemen’s club”
- علاقة عابرة، ليلة واحده، نادي الرجال

Adultery الزنا

Formed Internally يتكون (يتشكل) داخليا

The most important sex organ is the eye

أهم عضو جنسي هو العين

Sin always promises happiness, but it never gives it. The devil always shows me the allure of sin without showing me the consequences.

الخطية دائما تعد بالسعادة ولكنها لا تعطيها أبدا. الشيطان يغريني دائما بالخطية ولكنه لا يريني العواقب.

Outsiders

الدخلاء

Is pornography benign ? (I did not touch any woman, I was just looking)

(أنا لم ألمس أي امرأة ولكني كنت أنظر فقط)

Wherever your mind goes, your body will follow

أينما يذهب ذهنك، سيتبعه جسدك

Whatever is only virtual will only become physical or real (acting out).

ما هو مجرد شيء غير حقيقي، سيصبح بعد ذلك جسدي أو حقيقي

Susanna the Chaste

- **Chastity** = The condition or practice of abstaining from sex on moral or spiritual grounds
- **Chastity** = Simplicity or Plainness of Style
- **Self-Control** = Being in Charge and Ability to Control One-Self's Behaviors

Chastity & Self-Control

- *Is it really about sexual behaviors and attitudes?*
- *Purity of the Body*
- *Purity of the Heart*
- *Purity of the Mind*
- *Purity of the Senses*

Self-Control Over the Senses

- This is our major challenge, especially in today's world and technology!
- Prevention is ALWAYS better than treatment!
- Remembering what is in the Bible!
- It is NOT ONLY seeing or hearing!
Remember also Tasting & Touching

Self-Control Over the Mind

- Evil Thoughts Come from the Heart
- Are They Avoidable?
- Stages of Committing a Sin:
 1. *Sensory Reception*
 2. *Forming a Brain Image*
 3. *Body Reaction (Physiology)*
 4. *Mind Interaction (Contemplation)*
 5. *Action (Sinning)*

Susanna & the Reward

“Therefore Hilkiah and his wife praised God for their daughter Susanna, with Joachim her husband, and all the kindred, because there was nothing Shameful was found in her.”

(Daniel 13:63)

Glory be to God forever. Amen