

LESSON 6: MISERY LOVES COMPANY

Intro:

BIG IDEA: Jesus can use our _____ to draw us _____ to Him.

¹⁶To the woman he said,
“I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing;
in pain you shall bring forth children.
Your desire shall be for your husband,
and he shall rule over you.” **Genesis 3**

- God does not initiate the _____ immediately.
- Our _____ and _____ actions don't remain _____ and _____.
- The Bible teaches ‘ _____ justice’ which limits _____ but makes it fit the crime.
- All of this traces back to _____ sin (Romans 5) because he was our _____ head.

Filling the Earth is Filled with Misery

- Eve _____ the created order, desiring something forbidden & giving it to Adam.
- Her consequences strike her in her _____ calling: filling the earth or relationships.
- It begins with _____, or pregnancy. She will not be as fruitful as she desires.
- The Scriptures here also mention the pain of _____.
- Sadly not every bundle of joy is born _____: birth defects, illness, accidents.
- Those little bundles of joy often break our hearts with _____ - _____ choices.

“The curse for a woman is directed against the area where she is uniquely built for joy: receiving and offering life in relationships.” **Dan Allender & Tremper Longman**

The Misery of Loneliness

- Marriage is intended to provide meaningful _____ as we fulfill _____.
- Often child _____ masks some of that loneliness. When the nest is empty so is she!
- Intimacy is not _____, it is _____. It requires a consistent _____.

The Misery of Control

- “*Desire*” is a key word. It is about seeking _____.
- Because she inverted the family order her husband will _____ over her.

Marriage: A Practical Theology

- The _____ suffers. Some husbands rule w/an iron fist. Others are sinfully absent.
- Some husbands act like _____, wanting her dependent.
- Others act like _____, dependency.
- The partnership God created has been overtaken with _____.
- Those battles result in _____ & _____.

¹⁷ And to Adam he said,

“Because you have listened to the voice of your wife
and have eaten of the tree
of which I commanded you,
‘You shall not eat of it,’
cursed is the ground because of you;
in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;
18 thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;
and you shall eat the plants of the field.

¹⁹ By the sweat of your face
you shall eat bread,
till you return to the ground,
for out of it you were taken;
for you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.” **Genesis 3**

Ruling the Earth is Ruled by Misery

- Adam disregarded the voice of _____ and listened to, or _____, Eve’s voice.
- His calling to “*subdue and rule*” is cursed with _____. All _____ is cursed.
- Adam will work very hard but won’t have as much as he wants to show for it.
- Fruit and vegetables, and beautiful flowers aren’t all that grow: _____ & _____.
- Eventually we will die and return to the _____ from which we have come.

What does this look like?

The Misery of Dissatisfaction

- Men are often dissatisfied with their labors at _____ and at _____.
- There rarely seems to be enough _____. The things we fix _____ again.
- We often have jobs that seem _____, that lack value.

How the Gospel Matters

- Satan wanted to _____ God’s kingdom in the Garden by severing _____.

Marriage: A Practical Theology

- The curse is there at every turn, _____ every _____ that we experience.
- God promised that the seed of the woman would _____ the head of the _____.
- Jesus would bear the curse on the _____ so we could receive _____ as sons.
- Apart from Christ we cannot handle the _____, lust and greed that curse marriage.
- Real change in marriage happens as _____ works in us to _____ us.
- He often works in us through our _____, to humble us so we seek grace.
- _____ is God's means to reveal our brokenness otherwise we don't _____ out.
- Misery is God's means to reveal to us that we cannot _____.
- Grace is the power of God unto salvation that teaches us to say 'no' to _____.
- Grace reconnects our _____ with the _____ so it doesn't end with the curse but redemption.

“The only source of hope and joy in marriage is in the gospel.” **Dan Allender & Tremper Longman**

- God gives us the Holy Spirit by which Jesus _____ in us, empowers us and purifies us.
- _____ and _____ know that God has something better for us than we have today.
- Faith receives God's _____, refusing to let misery have the final word.
- Hope is like a _____ - _____, bringing us back to the surface so we can breathe, & live.
- By faith a woman embraces her husband's often-flawed _____ knowing Christ is working.
- By faith a man moves into the _____ territory of _____ in the family by God's design.
- By faith a woman finds _____ with God in Christ instead of demanding it of him.
- By faith a man moves into the fearful territory of _____ to meet her emotional needs.

Repentance

- Puritan Thomas Brooks called repentance “the _____ of the _____.”
- We agree with God that a particular sin is self-_____ and _____ from it.
- We also begin to embrace God's _____ and _____ for us.
- We begin to be honest with our spouse about our _____ and _____.