



SERIES: July Series “OFF ROADING”

SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD

Tuesday, July 27, 2021

Scripture: Hebrews 13:4 / 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5/ 1 Corinthians 10:13

TITLE: The Grass Isn't Greener

“The grass is greener on the other side”. We all think that from time to time. It happens with jobs. It happens with homes. It happens with cars. It happens with friendships. But it also happens with sex.

A number of years ago, I was counseling a gentleman who had a habit of cheating on his spouse or girlfriend. I asked him, “Why do you keep cheating on these people?”

He said, “I guess, I always think, the grass will be greener. The problem is it never is. But I keep believing the lie.”

This person wasn't alone. Many of us today mentally or physically struggle with lust and staying pure. But we do have a choice in the matter. Let's check out a couple passages from God's Word to see what God has to say about this.

Hebrews 13:4 (NLT) says, “Give honor to marriage and remain faithful to one another in marriage. God will surely judge people who are immoral and those who commit adultery.”

1 Thessalonians 4:3-5, “God's will is for you to be holy, so stay away from all sexual sin. ⁴Then each of you will control his own body and live in holiness and honor— ⁵not in lustful passion like the pagans who do not know God and his ways.”

God's standard is clear. Sex and sexual expression are for the monogamous marriage bed between one man and one woman. Anything that contradicts this is sin. It's over the fence line where the grass isn't greener. In fact, it's desolate.

I once heard that sin is meeting a legitimate need in an illegitimate way. God designed our sex drive. He designed sex as a beautiful gift for expressing intimacy between a husband and a wife. But when we violate that with pornography, homosexuality, infidelity, and so on, we tell God that He is a liar. His ways aren't best. Our plans are far greater. But they always lead to heartache, pain, and disappointment.

But we do have a choice. Paul said in 1 Cor. 10:13, “The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure.”

We truly have a choice whether we sin or not. The question is, do we desire God's best?

So here's my challenge for you today: admit where it is you struggle with lust. And then ask God for help. When we admit our struggles and sins, it is freeing. Satan wants you to live in the dark with sin. God wants you to live as children of light. So admit your struggle and then ask God for a way out. He has promised to provide it. The question is, do you really want an escape, and if so, will you take it? It's our prayer you will.