

CHRISTIANITY

MONEY, SEX, MARRIAGE & GOVT



JRR LEWIS

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INTRODUCTION: Four Things We Must Get Right

You don't have to look far to see the confusion.

It's in the headlines.

The hashtags.

The pulpits.

And the quiet corners of our own homes.

We were told we could have it all—

Money, freedom, love, identity, power—

without any foundation.

Without God.

Without a King.

And now?

We're adrift.

We chase wealth and call it security.

We distort sex and call it freedom.

We reject covenant and call it growth.

We cling to politics and call it hope.

Even in the church, we've been quiet where we should have been bold,
and loud where we should have been humble.

We've tried to live as if these things were **secular matters**,
when they've always been **spiritual battles**.

But God never stopped speaking about them.

In fact, His Word says more than we care to admit.

Why These Four?

This book is about **money**, **sex**, **marriage**, and **government**—
not because they're trending topics,
but because they're timeless battlegrounds.

- **Money** exposes what we trust.
- **Sex** reveals what we worship.
- **Marriage** displays how we love.
- **Government** tests where our allegiance lies.

Every generation struggles with these.
But we are called to be different—
not better than others,
but **rooted in something better.**

◆ **Not Just What's Right—But Why**

We won't give you slogans.
We won't offer culture war strategies.
And we certainly won't reduce these sacred things to political talking points.

Instead, we'll do what Scripture does:

- Diagnose the real problem
- Call the heart to repent and realign
- Invite the believer to live out Kingdom truth today—wherever God has placed them

This book will be direct.
Sometimes uncomfortable.
But always aimed at hope.

What's Ahead

Each section contains **multiple chapters** exploring the nuance and spiritual depth behind these four areas.

- In **Money**, we'll learn what it means to be stewards—not owners.
- In **Sex**, we'll confront both the silence and the confusion, and return to God's design.
- In **Marriage**, we'll reflect on covenant, purpose, unity, and choice.
- In **Government**, we'll remember our true citizenship—and how to live well in Babylon.

You'll also find time to reflect,
to wrestle,
and to pray.

Because this is not just about information.
It's about **transformation**.

Why It Matters

We are not just waiting for heaven.
We are Kingdom people now.
And how we handle money, sex, marriage, and government **plants seeds**—
Seeds that may not sprout in this life,
but will bear eternal fruit.

You may not get everything right.
None of us do.

But you can live **submitted**.
Surrendered.
Sent.

This is your invitation.

Let's begin.

CHAPTER 1: God Owns It All (*Money — Part 1*)

You don't own your house.
You don't own your bank account.
You don't even own your body.

You're not the owner.
You're the steward.

This is where the whole conversation about money must begin—not with budgets, not with giving, not with debt, but with **ownership**.

“The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.”

—Psalm 24:1

Everything you've been given—your paycheck, your savings, your retirement, your car, your gifts, your opportunities—is **on loan**.

This isn't meant to be depressing.
It's actually freeing.

If it's not yours, then you don't have to cling to it, define yourself by it, or panic when it's threatened.
You are **a manager of the King's assets**, not the source of your own provision.

This truth dismantles pride and melts anxiety in one sentence:

God owns it. I just manage it.

Ownership vs. Stewardship in Scripture

The Bible is clear from beginning to end—**God gives, God owns, and God assigns**.

In Genesis, Adam is placed in a garden he didn't plant, told to tend what he didn't design.

He names what he didn't create and walks freely in land that wasn't his. He is entrusted—but not entitled.

When Israel enters the Promised Land, God reminds them:

“The land must not be sold permanently, because the land is mine and you reside in my land as foreigners and strangers.”

—Leviticus 25:23

When Joseph becomes second-in-command in Egypt, he doesn't gain ownership of the nation's wealth.

He becomes its steward—**distributing wisely, planning ahead, saving grain, and providing for others**. That's biblical financial wisdom.

And Jesus picks up the same thread in His parables.

In the story of the talents, the master entrusts his wealth to three servants. The only one condemned is the one who **buries** what he was given.

God doesn't expect you to multiply what He hasn't given.

He expects you to **faithfully steward** what He has.

What Stewardship Looks Like Today

Modern stewardship isn't just about tithing.

It's about how you live.

God may never ask you to sell your house and give the money to the poor—

But He may ask if you ever opened your home to someone in need.

He may not take your paycheck—

But He may ask whether your job has taken your time, your rest, and your witness.

Here are a few questions modern stewards must wrestle with:

- **Your time:** Is your calendar yours, or God's?

- **Your talents:** Do your gifts build your name—or His Kingdom?
- **Your income:** Is it first directed to generosity, or to comfort?
- **Your savings:** Are you planning wisely, or building bigger barns?

Most people don't think they're rich.

But globally, if you have clean water, a refrigerator, and a stable income—you're among the top 10%.

If you're reading this with the lights on, you're likely managing more resources than 90% of the world.

So the question isn't, "*Am I rich?*"

The question is, "*Am I faithful?*"



Ownership Feeds Anxiety

The more you think you own, the more you fear you'll lose.

That's why Jesus told His followers:

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal."

—Matthew 6:19

When you believe it's all up to you—

You panic when the market drops.

You obsess over savings goals.

You compare constantly.

You give little because you fear you won't have enough.

You work too much because "just in case" always lingers behind you like a shadow.

But then Jesus says something radical:

"Your heavenly Father knows what you need."

—Matthew 6:32

This isn't laziness.
It's not irresponsibility.
It's trust.

Trust that your **Provider** owns the resources, the land, the doors of opportunity, the food on your table, and the air in your lungs.

You are not your own savior.
You are not your own source.
You are **a child**, not a god.
And children are not expected to provide—they are called to trust.

A Modern Parable

There was a family—average income, three kids, a modest home.
Nothing flashy.
But they saw their house as a gift from God. Not a trophy. Not an asset. A tool.

So they opened their doors.

Every other Friday, they fed neighborhood kids who had nowhere else to go.
They kept the guest room tidy and ready—because sometimes God brought someone who needed a bed.

They loaned their car to a struggling single mom until she got back on her feet.

They budgeted, but their hands stayed open.

One day, a storm hit.
The roof caved. Insurance delayed. Finances stretched.
And yet—they never lacked.

Neighbors helped. A local church offered repairs.
Groceries showed up on their porch.
The same hands that had opened to others were now being filled.

They didn't panic—because they knew it had never been theirs in the first place.

Live Below Your Means — A Spiritual Act

Most Christians don't need more money.
They need **more margin**.

Living paycheck to paycheck—when you don't have to—may not be sinful, but it is **shortsighted**.
And often, it's rooted in pride.

Pride buys the better house, the better car, the newer phone, the showy outfit—*not* because it's needed, but because it *looks* like success.

But the Spirit whispers something else:

“You don't need to impress anyone. You're already mine.”

Living below your means is one of the most powerful spiritual decisions you can make:

- It creates margin for **generosity**.
- It cultivates **gratitude** for what you already have.
- It strengthens the fruit of **self-control**.
- It quiets the voice of **envy** and comparison.

When you don't spend all you earn, you can **freely give**—without panic, without resentment, and without strings attached.

This is not about legalism.

It's about living wisely and freely—*as one who serves a different Master*.

“*Better a little with the fear of the Lord than great wealth with turmoil.*”
—Proverbs 15:16

When your lifestyle is smaller than your income, your ability to bless others gets bigger than your ego.

What This Means

Let's say it plainly:

- Your **tithe** is not generosity—it's **obedience**.
- Your **possessions** are not trophies—they're **tools**.
- Your **income** is not your identity—it's your **assignment**.
- Your **giving** is not just about meeting needs—it's about demonstrating **trust**.
- Your **budgeting** isn't about control—it's about **faithful foresight**.

Jesus never condemned planning.
He condemned hoarding.

He never rebuked wealth.
He rebuked worshiping it.

The goal is not poverty.
The goal is **surrender**.

REFLECTION

What would change if you stopped calling it *your* money?

Would it change how you spent...

How you gave...

How you planned...

How you prayed?

Are you living like a steward or like an owner?

A steward seeks wisdom.

An owner seeks power.

A steward asks what the Master wants.

An owner asks what they deserve.

What part of your life are you still clutching with closed fists?

Where is God asking you to **open your hands**?



PRAYER

Father,

I forget so easily.

I cling to what was never mine.

I panic when it slips through my fingers—because I thought I owned it.

But you are the Giver.

The Sustainer.

The Master of all things.

You entrust, not to burden me, but to invite me into your Kingdom work.

You call me not to build my empire—but to reflect your generosity.

Help me trust again.

Help me let go.

Help me see everything in my life—possessions, gifts, time, even trials—as yours.

Make me a joyful steward.

A wise manager.

A faithful servant.

And a generous child.

Amen.

CHAPTER 2: The Love of Money — Why It Ruins So Many and What It Hides (Money — Part 2)

Money isn't evil.
But the **love** of it is.

That subtle shift—from tool to treasure—destroys more souls than poverty ever could.

“For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.”

—1 Timothy 6:10

Paul didn't say money *causes* all evil.
He said the **love** of money is a **root**—a seedbed that spawns rot.

Money Doesn't Corrupt—It Reveals

Money doesn't change a person.
It reveals them.

It reveals the hidden attachments, the true desires, the secret priorities.
It shines a spotlight on what we fear most—and what we hope in most.

A poor man can be greedy.
A rich man can be generous.
But it is the **love**—not the amount—that tells the truth.

The Pharisees were religious men, but Luke tells us plainly:
“They loved money.” (Luke 16:14)
And so, they justified themselves and scoffed at Jesus.

Because money does something dangerous:
It allows us to **fake fruit**.

Money Hides the Need for God

Money is the great illusionist.

It gives us the illusion of control—
“I can fix it with a check.”

It gives us the illusion of identity—
“I’m worth more because I have more.”

It gives us the illusion of security—
“I’m safe as long as the account is full.”

But all three are lies.

Money can’t fix the soul.
It can’t define the heart.
And it can’t guarantee tomorrow.

In Revelation 3, Jesus rebukes the wealthy Laodicean church:
“You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.”

They thought money meant maturity.
It meant blindness.

The Cycle of More

The love of money isn’t just desire—it’s addiction.
It always asks for **more**.

A higher salary.
A bigger house.
A longer vacation.
A better investment.
A newer car.

A fuller closet.

A just-in-case fund.

A second stream of income.

A third.

A passive one.

Then it whispers, *“Once you reach that number... then you’ll rest.”*

But the number always moves.



Biblical Examples: Love of Money Destroyed Them

- **Judas Iscariot** — sold Jesus for silver. Regret was instant. The love of money led to death.
- **Ananias and Sapphira** — lied to God to look generous while hiding their portion. Fear of man + love of money = judgment.
- **The Rich Young Ruler** — wanted eternal life, but not enough to part with his possessions. Jesus didn’t chase him.

Jesus let him walk away.

Because you **can’t carry the cross and your full treasure chest at the same time.**



Hidden in Christian Language

The love of money doesn’t always look like greed. Sometimes it looks like *“responsibility.”*

- *“I’m just being a good provider.”*
- *“I need to save for my family.”*
- *“God helps those who help themselves.”*

- *“It’s just wise to have a backup plan.”*

All these have a place.

But none of them should be your **god**.

Some believers never ask God what He wants them to do with their money—because they’ve already decided.

They tithe, they save, they invest, they build—
but they never **surrender**.

Jesus doesn’t want your 10% if you’re not willing to open your hands with the other 90.



Rich Toward God

Jesus told a parable about a rich man whose land produced a great harvest.

The man said to himself,

“I’ll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I’ll store my surplus grain.”

He thought he was being wise.

God called him a fool.

“This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?”

—Luke 12:20

Then Jesus says:

“This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God.”

God doesn’t mind the barns.

He minds when we think they **belong to us**.

The Cross and the Cash

Jesus didn't talk about money once or twice—He talked about it **more than heaven and hell combined**.

Why?

Because money was always meant to be a **servant**.

But we keep making it a **king**.

And kings demand worship.

But Jesus said:

“You cannot serve both God and money.”

—Matthew 6:24

You can't serve two masters.

And you can't love both at once.

The love of money is not just dangerous.

It's **idolatry**.

A Story — The Man Who Gave It All

There was a man in his fifties—never rich, but never lacking.
He worked in HVAC, made a decent wage, gave faithfully.

But then one year, he felt a nudge.

God was asking him to go further.

He and his wife sold their second car.

Then downsized their home.

Then canceled vacations and subscriptions and all the little things that drain the soul.

They began to **live below their means**—on purpose.

Not out of guilt, but out of vision.

In the next two years, they gave away more than they had saved in the previous ten.

Supported three missionaries.

Paid for a single mom's legal fees.

Bought groceries for a widow.

And when asked how it felt, he said:

“Like I finally remembered what I'm here for.”



Warning Signs

You might love money more than you think if:

- You check your investments more than your Bible.
- You're quick to tip for service, but slow to give without being asked.
- You judge someone's success by their income, not their faith.
- You excuse greed with “common sense.”
- You avoid generosity until everything else is paid.
- You think only the rich love money.



REFLECTION

Let the Spirit ask you what you won't.

- What number do you think would finally bring you peace?
- How much do you withhold out of fear?
- If Jesus asked you to walk away from your wealth—would you?

What you won't surrender, you've already worshiped.

Ask yourself:

Am I rich toward God?



PRAYER

Father,

I don't want to be like Judas—selling You for silver.

Or like the rich young man—walking away because I won't let go.

Or like the fool who builds bigger barns while ignoring eternity.

I want to be **rich toward You**.

Take the throne back from money in my heart.

Expose the places I'm still trusting in wealth to keep me safe.

Show me where I'm hiding behind false security.

Train me to live below my means.

Grow the fruit of self-control.

Let me love You more than what You've given.

I can't serve two masters.

So today, I choose You.

Amen.

CHAPTER 3: Scarcity or Abundance — Fear, Memory, and the Withholding Heart ***(Money — Part 3)***

Somewhere deep in the back of our minds—
many of us believe this quiet lie:

“There might not be enough.”

Not enough money.

Not enough time.

Not enough help.

Not enough future.

And so we close our fists.

We stop giving.

Stop trusting.

Stop hoping.

Scarcity doesn't begin in the bank account.

It begins in the heart.

The Scarcity Mindset

Scarcity isn't the same as poverty.

You can be broke and generous.

You can be wealthy and terrified.

The scarcity mindset believes **what I have is all I'll ever get,**
and **if I let it go, I won't recover.**

It sounds like:

- *“I just need to hold on a little longer.”*
- *“Once I hit this goal, I'll give more.”*

- *“We’ve got to take care of ourselves first.”*

But it’s not strategy.

It’s fear.

And it turns faithful stewards into stingy survivors.



Manna and Trust

God trained His people against this very thing.

In the wilderness, He gave them **manna**—just enough for the day.

If they tried to store it, it rotted.

He was teaching them this:

“I am your supply. Not your storage.”

One day at a time.

Enough for today.

Trust for tomorrow.

But they didn’t trust Him at first.

And neither do we.

We stockpile.

We hoard.

We save “just in case” long past what’s reasonable.

Because deep down, we believe we are on our own.



Oil That Didn’t Run Out

God told Elijah to go to a widow during a famine.

She had one handful of flour and a drop of oil.

She was preparing to die.

But Elijah said:

*“First make a small cake of bread for me... For this is what the Lord says:
The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry.”*
— 1 Kings 17:13–14

She gave what little she had.
And God made it last.

The supply wasn't abundant at once.
It simply **never ran out**.

Sometimes God provides not by making us rich—
but by sustaining us quietly, day after day.



The Simpler Days: Memory and Longing

Many older believers remember a different kind of world.
Where neighbors helped without asking.
Where people trusted each other.
Where a handshake meant something.
Where giving came before calculating.

People brought casseroles when someone was sick.
Left doors unlocked.
Watched each other's kids.
Shared vegetables from their garden.
Worked hard, gave freely, and rested on Sundays.

It wasn't perfect.
But it felt more human.
More whole.
More Christian.

And now, some look around and quietly mourn:

“What happened to us?”

The Younger Generations: A Lost Language

But for many younger people, this is a foreign language.

They didn't grow up with community.

They grew up with isolation and algorithms.

They learned from screens, not from elders.

They fear being judged, not welcomed.

They don't assume help is coming—so they hustle for it.

They weren't taught to rely on others.

They were taught to build a brand.

They aren't selfish—they're **scared**.

And they don't know what communal generosity looks like—because they've never seen it.

But if they did...

They might love it.

Was the Nation More Christian Then?

Some say America was more Christian back then.

Maybe.

Maybe not.

There were more churches.

More prayer in schools.

More Bible literacy.

But Christianity isn't a statistic.

It's a spirit.

What many older people miss isn't just the culture.
It's the **trust**, the **dependence**, the sense that we needed God—and each other.

We didn't give because we were rich.
We gave because we were raised to believe **others mattered**.

And now that scarcity and fear have taken hold,
we've traded community for convenience.
Sacrifice for self-care.
Faith for financial security.

And the Church often followed along.

When Fear Becomes Theology

Today, we baptize scarcity into strategy.

We don't call it fear.
We call it “being wise.”

- “I'm just planning ahead.”
- “We've got to be careful.”
- “This economy is unpredictable.”

All true.
All possibly prudent.

But the truth is—**many believers aren't generous because they're scared**.

They don't tithe because they think they can't afford it.
They don't give because it might stretch them.
They don't open their homes because it might be uncomfortable.

They live like orphans—forgetting the Father owns the storehouse.

Kingdom Math

Jesus doesn't use the world's calculator.

He says:

- *“Give, and it will be given to you.”*
- *“With the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”*
- *“Freely you have received; freely give.”*
- *“Seek first the Kingdom... and all these things will be added to you.”*

Kingdom math isn't about percentages.

It's about faith.

The world says:

“If you give, you'll have less.”

God says:

“If you give, I'll make more.”



A True Story — The Garden That Fed the Street

A retired woman in a mid-sized town didn't have much—just her social security check, a paid-off house, and a backyard.

She didn't have grand kids nearby.

But she had time.

And a garden.

So she started growing more.

And giving it away.

She set up a “take what you need” bin near the street.

Zucchini. Tomatoes. Peppers. Sometimes eggs.

She met more neighbors in two years than in the twenty before.
She prayed with them.
Listened to them.
Fed them.

One day a young man knocked and handed her a sealed envelope.
Inside: a note and five twenty-dollar bills.

“I was going to buy drugs today. But your kindness reminded me I could still start over. Thank you.”

She cried.
Because she had thought it was just a garden.

But it was a **Kingdom storehouse**.



Fear Starves the Future

When we believe there's not enough:

- We stop giving.
- We stop trusting.
- We stop sowing.

And when we stop sowing, we stop harvesting.

You were made to be a river, not a reservoir.
God's blessings are not meant to stop with you.
They're meant to **flow through you**.

The only way to experience abundance is to **let go of scarcity**.



REFLECTION

- Do you see your world through the lens of “never enough”?

- Are you more generous with excuses than with money or time?
- What do you fear losing most—and why?
- Do your children or neighbors see you as open-handed or tightly wound?

And here's a harder one:

- Are you living like the Kingdom is coming, or like it's never going to be enough?

You might be waiting for the economy to stabilize.
But God is waiting for **you** to trust.

 **PRAYER**

Father,
You fed your people from the sky.
You sustained the widow's jar.
You multiplied loaves and fish.
You've never failed to provide.

But I've failed to trust.

I've made excuses for my fear.
I've acted like I'm on my own.
I've forgotten the days when people gave and didn't count the cost.

I want to be like that.
I want to remember who You are—and live like it's still true.

Make me bold.
Make me generous.
Make me trust that if I sow faithfully, You will bring the harvest.

And let me teach those younger than me what it looks like to believe in
abundance. **Amen.**

CHAPTER 4: Kingdom Economy — Giving, Working, Resting, Investing in Eternity (Money — Part 4)

God doesn't measure like the world.

He doesn't reward like the world.

He doesn't operate on supply and demand, inflation rates, or quarterly returns.

God has His own economy.

And it never crashes.

The Currency of the Kingdom

In the world's economy, value is built on productivity.

In the Kingdom, value is rooted in **obedience**.

In the world's economy, what you give is what you lose.

In the Kingdom, what you give is what you gain.

The world says:

“Take care of yourself first.”

The Kingdom says:

“Seek first the Kingdom, and all these things will be added to you.” —
Matthew 6:33

The world says:

“Work harder, longer, more.”

The Kingdom says:

“Work heartily as unto the Lord... and rest.” —Colossians 3:23, Hebrews 4

The difference isn't just in outcome.
It's in **purpose**.

One builds your name.
The other builds God's.

Kingdom Work

Work is not a curse.
Work existed in Eden before sin ever did.

“The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.” —Genesis 2:15

You were designed to do something meaningful.
To **steward**, not just survive.
To reflect God's image in how you manage time, energy, and gifts.

Whether you're sweeping floors, managing accounts, raising children, or building websites—if it's done for Him, it's Kingdom work.

But the economy of the world lies to you:

“You are what you produce.”

No.
You are not your productivity.
You are God's child, and your work is an offering—not a resume.

Kingdom Giving

God doesn't need your money.
But He wants your heart.

And your heart **always follows your treasure**.

“Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” —Matthew 6:21

In the Kingdom, giving is not just about generosity.
It's about **alignment**.

You're showing where your heart lives.
Where your trust lies.
Who your real provider is.

The Leftover Trap

Many Christians plan their giving *after* everything else:

- Mortgage
- Utilities
- Groceries
- Entertainment
- Subscriptions
- Eating out
- Savings
- Vacations
- Emergency fund
- THEN... "What's left for God?"

But in Kingdom economy, the first is His.

The best is His.

Not because He needs it—but because **you need to remember who owns it all**.

Cain gave something.

Abel gave the **first and best**.

God accepted one and rejected the other.

The heart matters.

Sabbath and the Economy of Rest

The world doesn't rest.

It grinds.

It hustles.

It burns out and brags about it.

But God rested.

Not because He was tired, but because **He was done**.

And He told His people to do the same.

“Six days you shall labor, but on the seventh day you shall rest...” —Exodus 34:21

Rest was a declaration of **trust**.

God said to stop gathering, stop producing, stop striving—and believe that what He provided would be enough.

Breaking the Sabbath wasn't just breaking a rule.

It was saying, *“God, I don't trust You to provide.”*

Today, many believers still break it—not by working seven days, but by **never stopping to remember who the Provider is**.

Burnout Is Not Fruit

If you work constantly, grind without ceasing, and sacrifice your soul to make your “life” work—you are **not winning**.

You are disobeying.

Jesus never sprinted.

Never ran to His next meeting.

Never said, “I'm swamped this week.”

He worked.

He prayed.

He slept.

He walked.

He finished the mission *on time*.

Kingdom economy includes rest.

And your refusal to rest may say more about your faith than your schedule.

Investing in Eternity

The world says:

“Invest in what brings the greatest return.”

But Jesus flips the portfolio.

- He praises the widow who gives two coins.
- He warns the man building bigger barns.
- He tells the rich ruler to sell everything.
- He teaches that storing treasure in heaven is the wisest plan of all.

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth... but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven...” —Matthew 6:19–20

You can't take your wealth with you.

But you can **send it ahead**.

Eternal ROI

Every time you give to someone in need—
every time you serve when no one sees—
every dollar you give to gospel work—

every moment you rest in faith—
every hour you labor with excellence for His glory—

You are investing in what will **never perish**.

Your return won't come on this side of heaven's gate.
But on the other side, it will be *immeasurable*.



A Story — The Faithful Truck Driver

He never made more than \$40,000 a year.

Worked nights.

Lived in a small town.

Drove the same pickup for 20 years.

Lived in a modest house with secondhand furniture.

But he was faithful.

Every month:

He tithed.

Gave to two missions.

Sponsored a child.

Picked up groceries for shut-ins.

Drove others to church.

Cut neighbors' grass.

When he died, people packed the church.

Not because he was famous.

But because his life had been an investment.

Three young men entered ministry because of his impact.

One former addict he mentored now leads a recovery ministry.

The child he sponsored in Uganda became a pastor.

His truck was passed to a family in need.

He was never wealthy.

But he was **abundantly rich**—in the only Kingdom that counts.



What Are You Building?

You can spend your life building an earthly net worth—
or an eternal inheritance.

One gets measured by accountants.

The other gets recorded in heaven.

The first dies with you.

The second meets you at the gate.

Jesus doesn't want you to be broke.

He wants you to be **invested**—in the things that don't burn, break, or fade.



REFLECTION

- Does your current lifestyle reflect the world's economy—or God's?
- Do you give first—or give what's left?
- Do you trust God enough to rest?
- Are you investing in what lasts—or what fades?

How would your checkbook look if Jesus filled it out?

Would your weekly calendar reveal a soul at peace—or a soul chasing wind?



PRAYER

Father,

I've measured success by the wrong numbers.

I've stored up things that will rot.

I've trusted in work more than rest.
I've lived like I'm the provider.

But You are my portion.
You are my supply.
You give me time, money, energy, purpose—and You ask for my first and best.

Help me remember that work is worship.
That rest is trust.
That giving is freedom.
That eternal treasure is worth more than any earthly gain.

Teach me Kingdom math.
Teach me to build what lasts.
Teach me to live like this world is not my home.

Amen.

CHAPTER 5: God Invented Pleasure — The Purpose of Sex in God's Design (Sex — Part 1)

Sex didn't come from sin.
It didn't evolve from biology.
It wasn't an accident.

God made it.

And not just for reproduction.

He made it **for pleasure**.
For connection.
For vulnerability.
For joy.

Sex Is Not the Devil's Domain

The Church has acted for years as if sex is something to be *avoided, tamed*, or at best, *silently endured*.

As if it's **dirty until blessed**, and then suddenly **sacred but not spoken of**.

But that's not the biblical view.
Sex wasn't Satan's idea.
It was **God's gift**—from the beginning.

“The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.” —Genesis 2:25

No shame.
No hiding.
No fear.

Only trust.
Only joy.
Only oneness.

And then sin entered.
And everything changed.

The Silence of the Church

For many, the Church has been tragically silent on sex —
Or when it speaks, it only says: “*Don’t.*”

- Don’t look.
- Don’t touch.
- Don’t cross the line.
- Don’t think about it.
- Don’t talk about it.

But children still learn about sex.

If not from the pulpit or the dinner table, then from **TikTok, TV, and locker rooms.**

So the world became the teacher.

And the Church, the scolder.

And God’s design was buried beneath layers of fear and confusion.

Pleasure With a Purpose

God made sex **pleasurable on purpose.**

He wired the brain with endorphins, hormones, euphoria.

He designed bodies to respond to one another.

He created **the most intimate act on earth** to reflect something spiritual and eternal.

Sex is not just physical.

It is spiritual, emotional, relational.

It speaks a language the soul understands—

Because it was **written into our design**.

And when used as God intended, it leads to:

- Joy
- Trust
- Vulnerability
- Healing
- Oneness
- Worship

Yes—**worship**.

Because anything that aligns with God’s created purpose points back to the Creator.



Why Inside Marriage?

God didn’t limit sex because He’s a killjoy.

He limited it because He is **holy**—and He made sex to be **holy** too.

He wrapped it in **covenant**—not as a cage, but as a **safety vault**.

Marriage is not just a legal contract.

It’s a **sacred promise**—a reflection of **Christ and the Church**.

“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother... and the two will become one flesh.” —Ephesians 5:31

Sex is not just part of marriage.

It is the **seal**—the act that physically represents the spiritual oneness of two souls joined by God.

Outside of that covenant, sex becomes:

- Selfish
- Shallow
- Disconnected
- Risky
- Empty

The pleasure may still be there—
But the purpose is lost.



Like a Drug, But Better

Sex lights up the brain like few things do.

It releases **dopamine**, **oxytocin**, and other chemicals that create bonding and euphoria.

It's why people return to it, chase it, crave it.

It's also why sex outside of God's design can be so damaging.

Because like a drug, it **hooks the soul**.

But unlike a drug, it doesn't just alter brain chemistry—
It alters **identity**.

Who you give your body to, you also give part of your heart to.

And when you bond with people outside covenant—
You begin to lose yourself.

What was meant to be **sacred union** becomes **scattered connection**.

Teaching the Next Generation

We teach our kids about drugs.
About peer pressure.
About alcohol.
About consequences.

We teach them about fire—**that it can warm, or it can burn.**

But sex?
We give them a rule and hope it's enough.

Or worse—
We shame them into silence.

No wonder so many Christian kids know what's *forbidden*,
but don't understand what's *beautiful*.

We must do better.

A Story — The Couple Who Waited

She was 26. He was 28.
Both had made mistakes in the past.
Both had recommitted their lives to Christ.
They met in a Bible study, fell in love quickly.

But this time—they wanted to do it right.

They set boundaries.
Told friends to keep them accountable.
Read Scripture together.
Prayed through temptation.
And waited.

On their wedding night, it wasn't magazine-perfect.
It was awkward. Honest. A little funny.
But it was **holy**.

Because what they were doing wasn't just physical.
It was covenantal.

And years later, through highs and lows—
That night became a cornerstone of their trust.

Not because of fireworks.
But because of **faithfulness**.

Sex Is Not...

- A reward for being in love
- A replacement for intimacy
- A form of control
- A casual outlet
- A performance
- A test drive
- A need

Sex is not a need.

It's a **gift**.

And like any gift, it should be received with gratitude, not taken by force or assumed by entitlement.

What Sex Points To

In the end, sex is a **signpost**.

It points to the deep, relational union God desires with His people.
The closeness. The vulnerability. The joy. The safety.

The kind of intimacy where we are **fully known and fully loved**.

That's what makes it holy.

That's what makes it worth guarding.

And that's why Satan attacks it so viciously.

Because if he can distort sex, he can distort the **very image of God's love**.

REFLECTION

- What messages did you learn about sex growing up—spoken or unspoken?
- Have those messages been shaped more by Scripture or by culture?
- Do you view sex as shameful, sacred, or selfish?
- If you're married, is sex a form of worship or a point of tension?
- If you're single, are you honoring your body—and the bodies of others—as God's temple?

Sex is not the problem.

But the misuse of it reveals what we truly believe about **God, trust, and worth**.

Ask yourself honestly:

Do I believe God designed sex **for joy and for His glory**?

 **PRAYER**

God,

You are the Creator of every good gift.

You made us in Your image—male and female.

You designed sex not as shameful, but sacred.

Not just for reproduction, but for pleasure, intimacy, and unity.

Forgive us for turning Your gift into something selfish or secret.

Forgive the Church for being silent when clarity was needed.

Heal the wounds caused by distortion, abuse, or regret.

Teach us to honor You with our bodies.

To speak with truth and tenderness.

To guide the next generation with wisdom and grace.

Let our intimacy, whether present or future, reflect Your beauty—

And point to the ultimate union we have in Christ.

Amen.

CHAPTER 6: Desire and Disorder — When the Church Goes Silent and the World Takes Over (Sex — Part 2)

Desire is not the problem.
God made desire.

Desire is what draws a man to his wife.
What sparks beauty, passion, and pursuit.

But when **desire is misdirected**, it becomes **disorder**.
And when the Church stays silent, the world fills the silence with lies.



Silence Is Not Neutral

The Church has long been uncomfortable with sex.
Rather than speak clearly, we mumbled.
Rather than teach boldly, we hinted.
Rather than prepare the next generation, we gave them rules and shame—and hoped for the best.

The result?

- A generation of Christians who feel guilty for even thinking about sex.
- Another generation that abandoned the Church's voice entirely.
- And a world that rushed in with a counterfeit gospel of desire:
"If it feels good, it must be good."

But desire untrained is like fire untamed.
It warms the home or burns it down.
It depends on where it's placed.

When the Church Withheld the Truth

Many believers grew up hearing:

- “Sex is bad.”
- “Don’t do it.”
- “Save it for marriage.”
- “God will bless it later.”

That’s like telling a child:

“Never touch fire. It’s evil. But on your wedding night, we’re going to hand you a blowtorch and say good luck.”

No wonder there’s confusion.

We didn’t teach **why** sex matters.

We didn’t model healthy marriages.

We didn’t talk about attraction, temptation, or boundaries.

We were afraid of being too worldly — so we became **wordless**.

And so...

The world became the teacher.

And the lessons were loud.

The World’s Curriculum

The world teaches that desire defines you.

That your feelings are your compass.

That you’re free when you follow your urges.

And anyone who says otherwise is repressive, judgmental, or hateful.

It teaches:

- Sex is casual.
- Gender is fluid.

- Porn is normal.
- Consent is the only moral boundary.
- Love is love—no matter the object, covenant, or consequence.

This is not just wrong.

It's **confusion dressed up as freedom.**

What Scripture Really Says

The Bible is not silent about sex or desire.

It says:

- *“Flee from sexual immorality.”* (1 Cor. 6:18)
- *“Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit.”* (1 Cor. 6:19)
- *“Put to death whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, lust, evil desires...”* (Col. 3:5)
- *“God gave them over to shameful lusts...”* (Romans 1)
- *“Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure.”* (Heb. 13:4)

But it also says:

- *“Delight yourself in the wife of your youth.”* (Prov. 5:18)
- *“They were naked and felt no shame.”* (Gen. 2:25)
- *“Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth—for your love is more delightful than wine.”* (Song of Songs 1:2)

God's Word is not prudish.

It is honest. Direct. Beautiful. Guarded.

Common Disorders of Desire

When desire becomes disordered, it leads to devastation.

Let's name some of the most prevalent distortions:

1. Pornography

Easily accessed, deeply addictive, and spiritually corrosive.

It trains the brain to expect fantasy, not covenant.

It disconnects intimacy from relationship.

And it rewires desire around **performance and consumption**, not love and sacrifice.

2. Casual Sex and Hookup Culture

Sex without commitment creates **bonding without safety**.

It devalues the soul and tells people their bodies are commodities.

Many wake up not feeling empowered—but **emptier** than before.

3. Same-Sex Attraction and Gender Confusion

The culture tells us to affirm every feeling as identity.

But Scripture calls us to be **transformed**, not simply affirmed.

This does not mean hatred.

It does not mean shame.

It means calling sin what it is—while loving every person with **grace and truth**.

Desire is real.

Temptation is real.

But so is **redemption**.

What the Gospel Offers

Jesus didn't come to shame sinners.
He came to save them.
To heal desire.
To cleanse identity.
To reorder what sin has disordered.

Whether you've battled porn, confusion, regret, abuse, or misplaced longing

—

Jesus doesn't cast you out.
He calls you **forward**.

Forward into freedom.
Forward into holiness.
Forward into healing.

“Such were some of you. But you were washed. You were sanctified. You were justified...” —1 Cor. 6:11



A Story — The Man Who Confessed

He was a deacon.
Married. Two kids.
Respected.
But for years, he had lived a secret life—addicted to pornography, silently struggling with same-sex attraction.

He never acted on it physically.
But the war inside had worn him down.

One day, he broke.
Not into sin, but into **confession**.

He told his wife.
Then his pastor.

He stepped down from leadership.

Started counseling.

Joined a support group.

Started praying again—not to feel nothing, but to feel **rightly**.

Years later, he said:

“The temptation hasn’t vanished. But I’m no longer owned by it. Jesus owns me now.”

That’s the gospel.

Not immediate erasure.

But **ongoing redemption**.

What We Must Say

The Church must not stay silent.

We must say clearly:

- Desire is not sin.
- Confusion is not identity.
- Holiness is not hate.
- Redemption is always possible.
- God's grace is strong enough to rewire the heart.

And we must create **spaces for honesty**.

For testimony.

For accountability.

For healing.

Shame grows in silence.

Freedom grows in the light.

The Truth: Everyone Is Broken

The sexually confused.
The proud virgin.
The addicted husband.
The cohabiting couple.
The oversexed.
The underloved.
The wounded.
The wandering.
The ashamed.
The angry.

We all need the cross.
And the cross **makes us new**.

REFLECTION

- Where have you confused temptation with identity?
- Have you carried shame that Jesus already paid for?
- Do you believe that your sexuality can be made holy—or just hidden?
- Are you still waiting for the Church to speak where it once stayed silent?

Ask yourself:

What desires have I allowed to define me—and what would it look like for Jesus to reorder them?

PRAYER

Jesus,
You see my heart more clearly than I do.

You know every desire—twisted and true.
You know what I long for, what I hide, and what I fear I'll never overcome.

But You don't push me away.
You draw me near.

You restore what is broken.
You rewire what is misfired.
You speak truth where I've believed lies.

Forgive the silence of the Church.
Forgive the silence in me.
Teach me to see sex as holy again.
Teach me to speak with truth and grace.
Make me bold in love, fierce in purity, and faithful in desire.

Let the broken parts of me become the redeemed parts of Your story.

Amen.

CHAPTER 7: A Picture of Christ — Why Marriage Is More Than a Contract ***(Marriage — Part 1)***

A speaker once said:

“The difference between prostitution and marriage is the length of the contract... and the cost.”

It was meant to be a critique.
But it exposed a sobering truth.

In today’s world, marriage has become transactional.
A negotiated deal.
A shared lease on sex, comfort, and security—
Until one party stops delivering.

Then the contract is voided.

Contracts Are Built on Exit Clauses

The world calls that *freedom*.
But it's not covenant.
It's business.

Contracts say:

- *“I’ll stay as long as you meet my expectations.”*
- *“If the product changes, I reserve the right to walk away.”*
- *“You give me what I want, and I’ll give you what you want.”*

Contracts protect self-interest.
Covenants protect relationship.

God's First Picture of Love

Before there were kings or laws or temples,
there was a **marriage** in a garden.

“The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.”
—Genesis 2:25

God made man and woman for each other.
He didn't just tell Adam to love Eve—He joined them, physically and
spiritually.

He said:

“The two shall become one flesh.”
Not *one agreement*,
Not *one house*,
But **one being**.

It was a picture.
A divine symbol.
And from the beginning, **marriage was sacred**—not practical, not
convenient, not optional.

The Covenant of Christ and the Church

The Bible doesn't just use marriage as an illustration.
It **builds theology on it**.

Paul writes:

*“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the Church and gave
himself up for her...”*
—Ephesians 5:25

That's not contract language.
That's **cross** language.

Jesus didn't negotiate His love.
He bled for a Bride who betrayed Him.
He pursued us when we were unfaithful.
He forgave before we asked.
He committed before we believed.

Marriage is not a metaphor.
It's a **living picture of the gospel.**

The World Cheapens the Sacred

When the world views marriage as just a longer version of prostitution, it's not entirely wrong—**if marriage is reduced to contract.**

- If sex is just a benefit exchanged for affection...
- If vows are conditional on performance...
- If the agreement is revoked the moment it feels inconvenient...

Then yes—**that's not marriage.**
That's **legalized consumption.**

And the Church has sometimes adopted this thinking.

We enter marriage to *be completed*—not to serve.
To *receive intimacy*—not to give it.
To *fix loneliness*—not to walk in love.

But that's not covenant.
That's craving.

What Covenant Really Means

A **contract** protects me from you.
A **covenant** commits me to you.

A contract is self-preserving.
A covenant is self-giving.

Marriage, in God's eyes, is not a private romance.
It is a **public reflection of Christ's love for the Church.**

- That's why it's **permanent**—because His love is.
- That's why it's **forgiving**—because His grace is.
- That's why it's **sacrificial**—because His cross is.

To make marriage temporary is to preach a temporary gospel.



A Story — The Marriage That Outloved Cancer

They married young.
Laughed a lot.
Raised two boys.
Then came the diagnosis—Stage 4.

Chemo. Pain. Hair loss. Hospital beds.
She couldn't cook, work, or walk most days.
She felt broken, useless, undesirable.

But he stayed.
Washed her hair when she had some.
Held her hand when she wept.
Read Scripture to her.
Prayed with her.
Served her communion.

At the funeral, people said:

“He loved her more when she was sick than most people do when everything's good.”

That's covenant.

That's Christ.

That's marriage.

The Danger of "I Deserve Better"

Many marriages die not from adultery,
but from **disappointment**.

Someone says:

- "I'm not happy."
- "We've grown apart."
- "I deserve more."
- "We're just not the same anymore."
- "I've fallen out of love."

But marriage isn't built on *staying the same*.
It's built on *growing together*.

The world says:

"Follow your heart."

But the heart is deceitful.

Follow your **vows**.

Love is not a mood.

It's a mission.

Renewed Every Day

No one naturally loves like Jesus.

No one easily sacrifices.

No one instinctively forgives.

But in marriage, **you become like the one you imitate.**

- You die to self.
- You serve in silence.
- You stay when it would be easier to leave.
- You show mercy when they don't deserve it.

Marriage is not where you get everything you want.

It's where God grows in you everything He wants.

Walking It Out Daily

If you're married:

- Do you see your spouse as a gift—or a burden?
- Do your actions reflect the gospel—or a contract?
- Do you fight for your marriage—or just within it?
- Do you pray together—or just push through?

If you're not married:

- Are you preparing for a covenant—or craving companionship?
- Are you asking God to make you a Christ-like spouse—or just send one?

REFLECTION

- Have I treated marriage as a contract, expecting return on investment?
- What would it look like to love my spouse as Christ loves the Church?
- Where have I let disappointment replace devotion?
- Where has the gospel been absent from my marriage—or my idea of marriage?

Remember:

Marriage doesn't just require love.
It **reveals it**—or its absence.



PRAYER

Jesus,
You are the Groom who never walked away.
You stayed when we ran.
You forgave when we betrayed.
You loved before we asked.

Teach me to love like that.

Forgive me for viewing marriage as a transaction.
For measuring it by performance instead of purpose.
For giving when I felt like it—but withholding when I didn't.

If I'm married, make my home a picture of Your grace.
If I'm not, make me into the kind of person who reflects Your covenant
wherever I go.

Let my life, my love, and my relationships preach the gospel—
That You are faithful, forever.

Amen.

CHAPTER 8: Unequally Yoked — When Unity Is Absent, the Covenant Suffers ***(Marriage — Part 2)***

God never said love was enough.
He said **oneness** was.

That’s why He warned His people again and again —

“Do not intermarry with them...for they will turn your children away from following Me.”

—Deuteronomy 7:3–4

This wasn’t about ethnicity.
It was about **worship**.

God knew:

When two hearts walk in opposite spiritual directions, the marriage will **fracture under the strain**.

What Does “Unequally Yoked” Mean?

In ancient farming, a yoke connected two oxen.
The purpose? To plow straight and steady.

If one ox was stronger—or pulled in a different direction—the plow would wander or break.

One animal would carry the load, while the other dragged the path crooked.

That’s the image Paul uses:

“Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what fellowship has light with darkness?”

—2 Corinthians 6:14

It's not about superiority.
It's about **alignment**.

⚠️ **Why God Warned Israel**

Throughout the Old Testament, God's people were tempted to marry outside the faith.

Why?

Because the other nations were attractive, powerful, and different.
They offered novelty.
And eventually... they demanded compromise.

Solomon had wisdom, wealth, and favor.
But his love for foreign women **turned his heart away** from the Lord.

"His wives led him astray." —1 Kings 11:3

The issue wasn't beauty.
It was **divided worship**.

💔 **Modern-Day Misalignments**

Today, "unequally yoked" still applies to marriages between believer and unbeliever.

But it also shows up in **subtler ways**:

- One spouse is on fire for Christ—while the other is cold or complacent
- One wants to tithe, serve, raise kids in faith—the other resists
- One sees life as Kingdom-first—the other sees faith as optional

The yoke may look even, but the path is jagged.

And over time, the **strain becomes resentment**.

Two Can't Build Different Houses

Amos asks:

“Can two walk together unless they agree?” — Amos 3:3

Marriage is meant to be **mutual labor in one direction**.

If your spouse doesn't share your mission—
you will either slow down or silently pull them.

Either way, it wears you both down.

That's why marriage isn't just about love.
It's about **shared worship**.

A Sobering Statistic

Many assume Christians have stronger marriages.
But the data is disappointing.

Christian marriages only last **slightly longer** than secular ones.
Why?

Because many Christian couples are technically aligned—
but **spiritually divided**.

They go to church but don't pray together.
They quote Scripture but don't obey it at home.
They agree on doctrine but don't share discipleship.

You can live under the same roof
while walking down different roads.

Unequally Yoked Isn't Just About Conversion

Some believers say:

“I’ll bring them to faith after we’re married.”

But that’s not God’s design.

That’s a rescue plan He never asked for.

Evangelistic dating often leads to **spiritual exhaustion**, not revival.

It’s hard to build a home when you’re still dragging someone to the foundation.

And yes—God is merciful.

He redeems broken choices.

But **we are warned for a reason.**

A Story — The Uneven Pull

She was 23, newly saved, and deeply in love.

He was kind, smart, funny—and *“spiritual enough.”*

He believed in God. Just didn’t want to talk about it much.

She thought: *“He’ll come around.”*

They married.

But the cracks grew:

- She longed to serve at church. He’d rather stay home.
- She wanted to raise their children in prayer. He was indifferent.
- She tithed secretly. He questioned it.
- He rolled his eyes when she read the Bible at night.

One night she whispered:

“I feel like I’m building a Kingdom alone.”

What If You’re Already Married?

Some reading this are already unequally yoked.
And the answer is **not** to walk away.

Paul gives guidance:

“If any brother has a wife who is not a believer and she is willing to live with him, he must not divorce her...”

— 1 Corinthians 7:12–14

If you're already in it, your calling is now to:

- **Love faithfully**
- **Pray consistently**
- **Model Christ humbly**
- **Entrust the outcome to God**

Some hearts are won not by argument, but by example.
God can redeem what began with disobedience or blindness.

The Goal Is Oneness

Marriage isn’t about sameness.
It’s about **oneness**.

Not agreeing on everything—
But being aligned in what matters most.

Two people walking toward Christ, together.
Lifting each other when they fall.

Spurring one another toward love and good deeds.
Building a home that speaks of heaven.

When unity is absent, the covenant suffers.
But when hearts are joined in purpose,
marriage becomes the **Garden it was meant to be.**

REFLECTION

- Am I in a spiritually aligned relationship—or just a romantic one?
- If I'm married, are we walking together toward God—or in separate directions?
- If I'm not married, am I filtering every possibility through the lens of **shared faith and mission**?
- Have I made excuses for spiritual complacency in the name of love?

Unity isn't optional.
It's **essential** to covenant.

PRAYER

God,
You are the One who binds hearts and homes.

You warned us not to tie ourselves to those who walk away from You—
not because You are cruel, but because You are kind.

You know that disunity leads to pain.
That shared worship is what holds love together.
That passion fades, but purpose endures.

Help me walk wisely.

If I'm married, align our hearts again.

If I'm not, guard my steps before I tie my life to another.

Make our homes into sanctuaries.

Let our marriages reflect the unity of Christ and His Bride.

And where the yoke has been uneven, bring grace, strength, and hope.

Amen.

CHAPTER 9: Love Is a Choice — What Breaks Covenant and What Holds It Together ***(Marriage — Part 3)***

Most marriages don't die from disaster.
They die from **drift**.

Not with an explosion, but a slow leak.
Not with betrayal, but with neglect.
Not with shouting, but with silence.

People say: "*We just grew apart.*"
But growing apart is a **choice**.
So is staying together.

Because love is not just a feeling.
It's a **decision you repeat every day**.

Covenant Breakers

Biblical marriage is built on covenant.
But covenant can be broken—not always with one dramatic fall, but with small, steady cracks.

Here are five slow-burning threats to covenant:

1. Pride

Pride whispers:

"I shouldn't have to apologize first."

"I deserve better."

"They need to change, not me."

Pride turns marriage into a competition—
two people trying to win rather than surrender.

But love isn't proud.

It kneels.

It listens.

It chooses humility, even when it's right.

2. Withholding

Some don't walk out physically.

They walk out emotionally.

They withhold affection.

Withhold forgiveness.

Withhold communication.

Withhold intimacy.

They weaponize silence or sex or kindness.

And in doing so, they fracture the very covenant they vowed to protect.

3. Unforgiveness

Every marriage needs grace.

Without it, old wounds become walls.

Some couples stay “together” for years
but stop being intimate, joyful, or kind
because they're still rehearsing the hurt.

Unforgiveness doesn't just block healing—
It **starves** it.

4. Infidelity

This one seems obvious.

But it often begins with something subtle:

- An emotional bond with someone at work
- Private texts
- Secrets
- A wandering eye unchecked

Jesus said, *“Anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”*

—Matthew 5:28

The betrayal begins in the heart.

The covenant starts to break long before the bed.

5. Neglect

Marriage takes work.

You cannot coast and expect closeness.

Love is like a garden—

it needs water, sunlight, pruning, and time.

Neglect doesn't look like rebellion.

It looks like **scrolling while your spouse talks.**

Like separate lives under the same roof.

Like never praying together.

Like forgetting to see them.



“I Don't Feel in Love Anymore.”

That's common.

But it's not the end.

Feelings are real.
But they are not the engine.
They are the smoke, not the fire.

Love is not something you fall into.
It's something you **fight for**.

Some days, you don't feel it.
That's why it's a covenant.

Love Isn't What You Feel. It's What You Feed.

What you focus on, you strengthen.

- If you feed resentment, it grows.
- If you feed fantasy (through comparison or porn), reality weakens.
- If you feed gratitude, affection returns.
- If you feed faithfulness, desire deepens.

Don't wait for the feeling to come.
Feed what's holy until it comes back.

God's Model: Hosea and the Faithless Wife

Hosea was a prophet told to marry a woman who would be unfaithful.
God used their story to show how **He loves us**—
even when we cheat, wander, and forget Him.

Hosea pursued her.
Bought her back.
Loved her again.

Why?

Because **covenant love chooses mercy**.
It's not blind—it's **bold**.

A Story — The Choice That Saved Their Marriage

They were five years in.
Fights got sharper.
Conversations shorter.
Affection rare.

They tried counseling. It helped—then faded.

Then one night, the husband decided to **start over**.
Not with someone new—but with **her**.

He began to pursue her again:
notes, prayer, listening, dating, complimenting, serving.
She resisted at first.
Didn't trust it.
But he didn't stop.

Weeks became months.
Months became laughter.
Laughter became healing.

When asked what changed, he said:

*“I stopped waiting to feel in love.
I started choosing it.”*

What Holds a Covenant Together?

- **Forgiveness** — even when it hurts
- **Prayer** — together, even if awkward

- **Patience** — with their wounds
- **Pursuit** — even when they feel distant
- **Humility** — to go first in love
- **Vision** — remembering what you're building

Love isn't proved by perfection.
It's proved by **persistence**.

Brick by Brick

You don't build a marriage in one day.
You build it brick by brick:

- One apology
- One act of kindness
- One night of listening instead of fixing
- One prayer said out loud
- One choice to stay when you feel like leaving

That's how covenants stay strong.

When Love Breaks Down

Sometimes, people stay married legally but not emotionally.
They become business partners.
Roommates.
Co-parents.

But not **lovers**.

Not teammates.

Not co-laborers in grace.

Jesus doesn't want lifeless marriages.

He wants **resurrected ones**.

And He has the power to **restore what's gone numb**.

REFLECTION

- Have I been waiting to feel love instead of choosing to give it?
- Where have I contributed to the drift in my marriage?
- Am I more focused on what I'm not getting than what I'm called to give?
- Have I neglected forgiveness, pursuit, or prayer?
- Do I still believe that God can breathe new life into what feels dry?

What breaks a covenant?

Not just sin—**stubbornness**.

What holds it together?

Not romance—**daily surrender**.



PRAYER

God,

You are faithful when I am not.

You love with a covenant that never quits.

You chose me when I had nothing to offer.

Teach me to love like that.

Break the patterns of pride in my heart.
Disarm the ways I withhold love.
Remind me that love is not about being fulfilled—but being faithful.

Help me fight for what matters.
Help me forgive what still hurts.
Help me speak life when I'm tempted to retreat.

Let my marriage reflect Your mercy.
Let my home be a sanctuary.
Let my love be a choice—again and again.

Amen.

CHAPTER 10: God Over All — No Nation Saves, No Ruler Is King ***(Government — Part 1)***

The Bible says God raises up kings and tears them down.
The Church often forgets.

Instead, we act like the future of the Kingdom hangs on the next election.
We panic.
We argue.
We divide over leaders who will **all be dust** in a hundred years.

But the Bible is unshaken:

“The Most High is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth and gives them to anyone He wishes.”

—Daniel 4:17

God is not on the ballot.
He’s on the throne.

We Keep Asking for Kings

In 1 Samuel 8, Israel asked for a king.
They wanted to be like the other nations—powerful, protected, represented.

God warned them:

“They are not rejecting you, Samuel—they are rejecting Me as their King.”

He gave them what they wanted.
And they got what they deserved.

Their kings:

- Took their sons for war

- Took their daughters for labor
- Took their fields, their taxes, their freedom

And most of them led the people straight into idolatry.

God never wanted a system where His people were ruled by popularity or personality.

He wanted to rule them **directly**.

No Nation Saves

There is no political party that reflects the full gospel.
No constitution that perfectly echoes the Kingdom.
No human leader who can bear the weight of being a savior.

The moment we think our nation is the hope of the world,
we have traded Jesus for **Caesar**.

Nations rise and fall.
Empires crumble.
Borders shift.

But the Word of the Lord **stands forever**.
And His Kingdom has no term limits.

When Christians Confuse the Kingdom

When the Church begins to equate the success of a nation with the success of the gospel, two things happen:

1. **We compromise truth to maintain influence.**
2. **We forget the gospel spreads best under pressure—not power.**

Jesus never sought office.
He never tried to reform Rome.
He didn't spend His time lobbying Pilate or organizing protests.

He **preached repentance**.
He healed the sick.
He called twelve ordinary men to carry a Kingdom that **would never end**.

That's how you change the world.

The Cross Wasn't a Political Victory

Some Jews expected Jesus to overthrow Rome.
To take the throne.
To lead a revolution.

Instead, He carried a cross.

And He said:

"My Kingdom is not of this world." —John 18:36

That wasn't an escape.
It was a correction.

Jesus didn't lose by dying.
He won by **submitting to the Father's plan**, not by conquering Caesar's.

If we forget this, we'll chase the wrong battles.

Government Has a Purpose—But Not the Power to Save

Romans 13 tells us that governments exist to reward good and punish evil.
They are **instruments**, not idols.
God can use them—but they are not Him.

You should pray for your leaders.
You may vote, participate, and speak.
But you must never **place your hope** in systems designed by sinners.

The Danger of Christian Nationalism

When patriotism replaces discipleship,
When political parties become theological litmus tests,
When flags are lifted higher than crosses—

We are no longer preaching the gospel.
We are marketing **a rival kingdom**.

Jesus didn't die to make Rome great again.
He didn't bleed to preserve a nation.
He died to bring people of **every tribe and tongue** into a new family, under a new rule.

If your "Christianity" can't survive outside your country's success—
it's not Christianity.
It's cultural religion.

A Story — The Pastor Who Forgot the King

He was faithful for decades.
Preached the gospel.
Made disciples.
Led prayer meetings.

Then came a divisive election.

His preaching changed.
Every sermon became political.
Every social media post combative.
He began to lose friends, then church members, then credibility.

One night, his daughter asked,

“Dad, do you love Jesus more than your candidate?”

He didn’t answer.

But the Spirit did.

He wept.

Repented.

And on Sunday, he preached the gospel of a **Kingdom that cannot be shaken.**

He never forgot again.

God Is Not Republican or Democrat

He is not conservative or progressive.

He is not libertarian, populist, or moderate.

He is **holy**.

He is **righteous**.

He is **just**.

He is **true**.

And His ways cut through all man-made systems.

Sometimes one party aligns more closely with a biblical value.

But **no party embodies the fullness of God’s Kingdom.**

You are allowed to care.

You are called to think critically.

But you are not allowed to give your allegiance to **any kingdom but His.**

There Is One King

His name is not on a ballot.

He cannot be impeached.

He does not campaign.
He does not pivot or poll or compromise.
He reigns.

He is the Lion and the Lamb.
The Alpha and the Omega.
The Judge of all the earth.

His crown has no expiration.
His throne has no rivals.

And **He alone is worthy.**



REFLECTION

- Have I placed more hope in political power than in Kingdom truth?
- Do I speak about Jesus with the same passion I speak about politics?
- Have I allowed fear or anger to divide me from other believers?
- Is my allegiance to Christ clear in both word and witness?
- Would I still stand for Christ if my nation fell tomorrow?

Your faith is not rooted in a flag.
It's rooted in a cross.



PRAYER

King Jesus,
Forgive me for forgetting who rules.

When I panic over elections,
When I argue like the world,
When I act like governments can save—
Remind me that You alone are sovereign.

Strip away false loyalties.
Tear down idols of party, platform, or country.
Teach me to live as a citizen of heaven,
Even as I walk this earth.

Let my hope be unshakable.
Let my speech be full of grace and truth.
Let my heart be fully Yours.

Because no ruler is King—
But You.

Amen.

CHAPTER 11: Divided Loyalties — Left, Right, or Kingdom? **(Government — Part 2)**

Fear has shaped a lot of Christian politics.

Fear of the left.

Fear of the right.

Fear of losing freedom.

Fear of being silenced.

Fear that “our way of life” will vanish.

And so we vote—not always for conviction, but for **comfort**.

We support the lesser evil,

hoping they’ll keep things good for “people like us.”

But that’s not Kingdom living.

That’s **self-preservation**.

And Jesus never called us to preserve a way of life.

He called us to **lose it**.

“Take Up Your Cross”

Jesus said:

“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.”

—Luke 9:23

He didn’t say:

- Take up your vote
- Take up your rights
- Take up your comfort

He said *cross*.

He said the way would be **hard**.

And He never once told His followers to chase political protection.

The early Church grew **while persecuted**.

They didn't win elections.

They won hearts.

Fear-Based Voting

Many Christians vote out of fear:

“If this candidate wins, we’ll lose our rights.”

“If they take power, they’ll destroy the Church.”

But Jesus already told us:

“In this world you will have trouble.” —John 16:33

He **guaranteed opposition**.

He didn't teach us to avoid it—He taught us to **endure it with joy**.

If our votes are only about making our lives easier,
we've forgotten what we signed up for.

The Real Divide: Kingdom vs. Culture

It's not left vs. right.

It's Kingdom vs. world.

Political parties are **man-made vessels**.

They may carry fragments of truth—

but they are not holy, eternal, or unshakable.

Some Christians lean left:

- They care deeply about justice, poverty, and compassion.

- But they may ignore personal responsibility, biblical sexuality, or the sanctity of life.

Some lean right:

- They fight for religious freedom, family structure, and pro-life values.
- But they may overlook compassion, justice, or the systemic sins of the past and present.

Both sides can fall into **idolatry**.

Both twist truth to serve their ends.

And both tempt believers to **anchor themselves too deeply in this world**.



Micah 6:8 Still Stands

“What does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”

- **Justice** without mercy becomes self-righteous activism.
- **Mercy** without truth becomes moral confusion.
- **Humility** without courage becomes cowardice.

Kingdom people must walk **with all three**.

Not just cherry-pick policies that benefit their side.



When the Church Sells Its Soul

The Church compromises when it:

- Justifies immoral behavior because “at least they fight for us”
- Excuses arrogance, deception, or injustice if it benefits the base
- Refuses to challenge “our side” when it strays from righteousness

- Preaches more about political power than spiritual transformation

God will not bless divided loyalty.

He is not a mascot for either team.

He is the **King of all nations**, and His Kingdom does not share power.

What the World Sees

When Christians are louder about political victories than gospel truth,
when we slander people we disagree with,
when we treat neighbors as enemies because they vote differently—
the world stops seeing Christ.

They see a Church obsessed with **power, not presence**.

They see division, not discipleship.

They hear noise, not good news.

And it pushes them further away.

A Story — The Friend Who Unfollowed

Two women.

Both Christians.

Both friends since college.

Until election season.

One posted a political meme.

The other commented a Scripture.

The thread blew up.

Accusations flew.

Old wounds reopened.

They stopped talking.

Months later, one sent a message:

“I miss praying with you. We let the world divide us. I’m sorry.”

The Kingdom doesn't win when we burn bridges over ballots.

Jesus Is Not Riding a Donkey or an Elephant

He's not waving a flag.

He's not defending a platform.

He's not tweeting political hot takes.

He's washing feet.

He's healing the outcast.

He's feeding the hungry.

He's rebuking the religious.

He's calling sinners home.

He's building a Kingdom that will outlast **every democracy, empire, and republic.**

He's not left.

He's not right.

He's **holy.**



How Should Christians Engage?

Be engaged.

But be **anchored** in the right Kingdom.

- Vote with conviction, not fear
- Speak with humility, not hostility
- Hold leaders accountable without idolizing them
- Refuse to excuse sin—on either side
- Remember that your enemy is not flesh and blood

And **always let the gospel be louder than the politics.**

You Represent Another Government

You are an ambassador.

A foreigner.

A citizen of heaven.

Paul wrote:

“Our citizenship is in heaven.” —Philippians 3:20

You live here.

You work here.

You may even vote here.

But you represent **there**.

Every opinion you express, every cause you support, every argument you enter—

says something about your **true loyalty**.

REFLECTION

- Do I speak about Jesus more than I speak about politics?
- Am I more concerned with winning arguments or winning souls?
- Have I slandered others in the name of political passion?
- Do I use the Bible to support my views—or let it correct them?
- Is my political identity stronger than my Kingdom one?

Your party didn't die for you.

Jesus did.

 **PRAYER**

Father,
Forgive me when I've confused patriotism with holiness.
Forgive me when I've placed my hope in policy instead of Your promises.
Forgive me for being louder about politics than about the gospel.

Help me walk humbly.
Help me act justly.
Help me love mercy.

Give me wisdom to speak truth,
and grace to stay gentle.

Let my loyalty be to the Lamb, not a party.
Let my witness reflect the Kingdom, not the culture war.
Let my words lead people to Christ, not push them away.

I am Yours.
Not left. Not right.
Just redeemed.

Amen.

CHAPTER 12: Citizens of Heaven — Living Well in Babylon (Government — Part 3)

You weren't born into a neutral world.
You were born into **Babylon**.

A place of power, pride, luxury, confusion, and idolatry.
A place that builds towers to the sky and says, "*Let us make a name for ourselves.*"

And yet God calls His people to **live there**.
Not to escape.
Not to dominate.
But to **shine**.

Exiles, Not Tourists

In Jeremiah 29, God speaks to His people in exile:

"Seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it..." —Jeremiah 29:7

They were in Babylon.
A foreign land.
Ruled by a pagan king.
Surrounded by idolatry.

But God didn't say: "*Run.*"
He said: "*Plant gardens. Build homes. Have children. Seek the city's peace.*"

Why?

Because even in exile, they were **still His people**—
and He had a plan.

We Live in Babylon Too

We may not be under Nebuchadnezzar,
but we live in a culture of:

- False gods
- Sexual confusion
- Corrupt systems
- Greedy empires
- Empty pride
- Political idolatry

We are surrounded by it.
But not shaped by it.

Because our citizenship is **somewhere else**.

“Our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there...”
—Philippians 3:20

Thinking Like an Ambassador

You are not a settler.
You are a **representative**.

An ambassador of a different Kingdom—
sent into a foreign land with orders to:

- Live with wisdom
- Speak with truth
- Love with humility

- Point people to the King

Jesus prayed this for you:

“My prayer is not that You take them out of the world but that You protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it.”
—John 17:15–16

He didn’t ask the Father to rescue you from Babylon.
He asked Him to **strengthen you in it.**



Daniel Was a Citizen of Another Kingdom

Daniel served in Babylon.
He worked for a pagan regime.
But he never bowed.

He refused to eat their food.
He refused to stop praying.
He interpreted dreams that exposed kings.
He was respectful—yet resolute.

And when the government told him to disobey God,
he didn’t start a riot.
He opened his windows, knelt, and prayed like always.

He feared **God more than the king.**

And Babylon watched him **thrive without compromise.**



When to Obey—and When to Resist

Romans 13 says we should submit to governing authorities.
But Acts 5 shows the apostles saying:

“We must obey God rather than men.”

So which is it?

Both.

We submit **unless** obedience to man requires disobedience to God.

- Pay taxes? Yes.
- Honor leaders? Yes.
- Worship false gods? No.
- Stay silent when told to? Never.

Faithful resistance is not rebellion.

It's **loyalty to the higher throne.**



The Church Has Thrived in Every Empire

From Rome to China,
from persecuted underground churches to cathedrals in free nations—
the gospel has never depended on favorable governments.

It thrives in prison cells.

In slums.

In dictatorships.

In war zones.

Because the Kingdom of God doesn't rise or fall with the kingdoms of man.

We don't need permission to be faithful.

We just need **courage.**



Planting Gardens in Babylon

Jeremiah 29 wasn't just about survival.

It was about **investment.**

- Build.
- Plant.
- Marry.
- Pray.
- Work for peace.
- Raise children who will raise children.

It was a long vision.

God wasn't saying, "*Wait it out.*"

He was saying, "*Live on mission, even here.*"

We must do the same:

- Open our homes
- Love our neighbors
- Start businesses
- Support the poor
- Train our children
- Share the gospel
- Build churches
- Leave legacies

We don't hide from Babylon.

We seed it with light.

A Story — The Woman Who Stayed

She lived in a hostile city.

Post-Christian.

Secular.

Progressive.

Her friends moved away — said they'd had enough.

But she stayed.

Why?

Because she believed God sent her there.

She hosted Bible studies.

Befriended skeptics.

Walked her neighborhood.

Gave cookies to the local school staff.

Prayed over her block.

Saw a few neighbors come to Christ.

Kept sowing.

Ten years in, someone asked:

“Why haven't you left?”

She smiled and said,

“Because Babylon is where the light's needed most.”

What Babylon Can't Take

Babylon may take your comfort.

Your position.

Your approval.

Even your life.

But it cannot take:

- Your faith
- Your witness
- Your worship
- Your reward

Your treasure is not here.

Your glory is not here.

Your King is not here—yet.

But He's coming.

And Babylon won't last.

A Greater Kingdom Is Coming

Revelation doesn't end in chaos.

It ends with **a new city.**

“Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great!” —Revelation 18:2

“The kingdom of the world has become the Kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ.” —Revelation 11:15

All of man's systems will fall.

Every empire will bow.

Only one Kingdom will stand.

And you already belong to it.

So live like it.

REFLECTION

- Am I living as a tourist, a settler, or an ambassador?
- Have I treated comfort as more important than calling?
- Where have I compromised truth to fit into Babylon?
- What would it look like to “plant gardens” where I live?
- Do I believe my mission matters, even in a world growing darker?

You're not just passing time.
You're **planting eternity**.

PRAYER

God,
You've placed me here, in this generation, in this nation, for a reason.
Not to hide.
Not to fear.
But to build.

Teach me to live as an ambassador.
Faithful in exile.
Loyal in the land of compromise.
Humble in the face of power.
Bold in the face of pressure.

Make me a light in Babylon.
Let me plant seeds that will grow for generations.
Let me speak truth when it's not popular.
Let me pray like it changes everything.

And let me remember—
Babylon doesn't get the last word.

You do.

Amen.

EPILOGUE: What We Do Now Matters

We were made for a garden.

Not just Eden—
but the garden still to come.
The one where God walks with man again,
where every tear is dried,
every motive is pure,
and every heart is home.

But we don't get there by accident.

What Grows in the Soil of Faithfulness

The world says:

- “Money is power.”
- “Sex is pleasure.”
- “Marriage is optional.”
- “Government is ultimate.”

But God says:

- “You are stewards, not owners.”
- “You are temples, not animals.”
- “You are covenant people, not consumers.”
- “You are citizens of Heaven, not pawns of empires.”

And in these four areas—money, sex, marriage, and government—the battle for your heart is often the fiercest.

Why?

Because they all touch what you **desire**,
what you **trust**,
and what you're willing to **surrender**.

These are not just moral checklists.
They are mirrors.
They show us what Kingdom we truly belong to.

Looking Backward—And Forward

You may look back and see:

- financial failure
- sexual sin
- broken relationships
- misplaced political hope

And yet God is not finished with you.

The cross was built for people who carry regrets.
The resurrection was made for people who need restoration.

This is not a book about shame.
It is a book about **light**.

And light exposes for the sake of healing.
Not to humiliate—
but to *redeem*.

Living What We've Learned

If you read this far, it means something in you is **ready**.
Ready to live with intention.
Ready to walk in the Kingdom even while living in Babylon.

So what now?

We go back into the world—
the real world of bills and taxes, lust and loneliness, weddings and politics—
and we live differently.

Not just because we should.
But because we've seen something better.

◆ **With Our Money...**

We live below our means.
We give joyfully.
We invest in eternity.
We trust that generosity is better than greed.

Not to impress.
But to show self-control and sow seeds for others to eat long after we're
gone.

◆ **With Our Bodies...**

We honor what God made holy.
We talk plainly about sex—not as shameful, but sacred.
We teach truth with compassion, not silence.
We train our children before the world does.

We don't pretend purity is easy—
but we know it's worth it.

◆ **With Our Marriages...**

We see them as covenants, not contracts.
We fight to forgive.

We choose love even when it's not felt.
We avoid being unequally yoked.

And when others falter, we offer grace—
because we've needed it too.

◆ **With Our Governments...**

We don't put our faith in politics.
We vote with wisdom, not fear.
We seek peace in the city, but hope in the Kingdom.
We refuse to be pawns in man's games.

We are Daniel, not Nebuchadnezzar.
Ambassadors, not empire-builders.

✂ **The Garden Must Be Planted Here**

You don't have to move to a monastery to live for God.

You plant the garden right where you are:

- At the gas station.
- In the kitchen.
- On the phone.
- Through a spreadsheet.
- Over dinner with your children.
- At the voting booth.
- Through the quiet acts no one will applaud but God.

This book wasn't meant to inform you.
It was meant to *recommission* you.

You are not a bystander.
You are not powerless.

You are a **citizen of the eternal Kingdom**—
And what you do now matters.

Seeds You'll Never See—Fruit That Will Never Die

Some of the seeds you plant will never sprout in your lifetime.
Some of the gifts you give will be forgotten by men.
Some of the choices you make will cost you dearly.

But none of it is wasted.

“Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.” —1 Corinthians 15:58

The fruit may not appear in this world.
But it will in the next.

Because the garden is real.
The King is coming.
And His reward is with Him.

A Better Ending

This world won't end with politics.
Or romance.
Or power.

It ends with **a wedding**.
A reunion.
A celebration.

“Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!” —
Revelation 19:9

Until then—
we steward,
we endure,
we speak truth,
we show love,
we reflect the garden to come.

We live as if the King is real—
because He is.



FINAL PRAYER

Lord,
You are my King.
Not money.
Not sex.
Not romance.
Not rulers.

You.

Give me vision to live like that's true.
Give me courage to choose obedience when it costs.
Give me patience to plant what I may never see.
Give me peace that this life is not the end.

Let my life shine with Kingdom priorities.
Let my home reflect Kingdom values.
Let my heart remain fixed on Kingdom joy.

And let me never forget—
I am already Yours.
Already sent.
Already loved.

Until the garden is restored,
I will live as a seed.

Amen.