

## Lecture 5: Beginning the Healing Process

### I. The Problem

- a. Sin has perverted the proper meaning of sexuality, so that it leads to frustration for both the man and the woman
  - i. **What women want:**
    1. To be loved and cherished as a person of great value: *forever*
    2. Many women want this forever-relationship so badly, they will use sex to get it
      - a. Before the forever-relationship exists, or even without the prospect of the relationship in the hopes of getting it.
  - ii. **What men want:**
    1. Sexual conquest, a sense of achievement, and pleasure
      - a. Aren't generally as interested in the relationship
      - b. They will exploit this desire for a relationship on the part of some women to get what they want
- b. What happens?
  - i. When a man simply uses a woman – with no commitment to her personally – it pulverizes the woman's sense of self-worth
    1. It's a blatant denial of her inestimable value
      - a. "I have tried you, I'm done with you, and I'm ready to move on."
      - b. Treats her as a thing, a product to be consumed and then forgotten.
    2. So she tries to get some affirmation back by throwing herself at the next man to come along
      - a. And the vicious circle goes on: a) she offers herself, no-strings attached b) she is used and forsaken c) she is bitterly hurt d) she tries to recover with a rebound with some other guy
  - ii. Nor is it satisfying to the man
    1. He longs for achievement, victory
      - a. But because he loses respect for each easy woman he has, he never feels satisfied with these meaningless conquests
      - b. He feels like less of a man, not more.
        - i. And as he continues his promiscuous ways, he realizes that his chances for ever being able to prove himself worthy – man enough – for a really noble and desirable woman are constantly decreasing.

### II. We must counter this culture where people just settle

- a. **Women**
  - i. Many women have despaired of finding a dedicated lover apart from bestowing sexual favors in advance
  - ii. But the fact is, God has given the woman a very unique and great power

1. She has the power of **yes** or **no**
    - a. That is, *the woman can name the stakes of a relationship*
  2. It is amazing to what lengths a man will go when there is a particular woman he's set his heart on.
    - a. A great portion of human history is the history of a man trying to do something extraordinary to get the attention and favor of the woman he loves
      - i. Can go back as early as the Trojan War to get a clear example.
      - ii. A huge percentage of painting, music, poetry is dedicated to the women loved by the artist
  - iii. Many women don't realize it, but perhaps the most vulnerable aspect of a man's being requires your permission, your acceptance of him
    1. Every man is at the mercy of the woman.
    2. George Gilder:
      - a. This difference between the sexes gives the woman the superior position in most sexual encounters. The man may push and posture, but the woman must decide. He is driven; she must set the terms and conditions, goals and destination of the journey. Her faculty of greater natural restraint and selectivity makes the woman the sexual judge and executive, finally appraising the offerings of men, favoring one and rejecting another, and telling them what they must do to be saved or chosen.
  - iv. Women need to make use of this power
    1. They can draw greatness and love out of a man
    2. Or you can give sex away first, and lose the opportunity of ever inspiring the man to win you, cherish you, and commit to you forever.
- b. Men**
- i. Men need to accept the challenge of winning a truly noble, amazing woman
    1. "pretty faces come a dime a dozen"
    2. So do needy women who flatter and give themselves to any passerby
  - ii. But a beautiful, graceful, self-possessed woman; she is rare, and she can only belong to an extraordinary man
    1. Only in acquiring such a woman can a man actually feel true achievement

### III. Charity and the Life of Virtue

- a. Often times the relationship between a man and a woman arises out of mere emotional ties
  - i. For instance:
    1. physical attraction
    2. the right chemistry
    3. affinity

4. finding each other's company pleasurable
5. having a good time together
- ii. These things are good, but by themselves they don't last
  1. It's the nature of feelings to come and go
  2. Consequently, these can't be the foundation of a strong relationship
- b. On the contrary, the only reliable foundation for any relationship is Charity
  - i. Charity loves the person for who they are
    1. Not just for something accidental feature; you don't just love because the other person
      - a. Is funny
      - b. Interesting
      - c. Useful
      - d. Has a hot body
      - e. Serves as an antidote to loneliness
  - ii. Charity is other-centered
    1. Doesn't just focus on how you stand to benefit
      - a. E.g., you relieve *my* loneliness, you enable *me* to feel wanted, you give *me* sexual pleasure
    2. Rather, charity is concerned with the other person's happiness
      - a. I want what is good for you, what is in your best interest
      - b. *Charity wills goodness to the other and is willing to give and sacrifice for that good*
- c. Now, Virtue is intimately involved in Charity
  - i. First of all, because if you don't have virtue, then you can't love someone else in charity
    1. Those without virtue are normally self-centered
      - a. Habitually, they are conditioned to choose what they want apart from considerations of what is best for the other or for society.
    2. Further, they are basically unable to help others become happy
      - a. The unvirtuous don't know what the good life is, or are unwilling to pursue it
      - b. They aren't happy themselves, so how can they help others become happy?
        - i. You can't give what you don't have.
  - ii. Also, when you have Charity, you desire good for someone else
    1. And the greatest good you can desire for someone else is that they grow in virtue (since that's what makes them truly happy)
    2. So Charity
      - a. Demands that you try to gain virtue
      - b. Demands that you try and help the one you love to gain virtue
- d. This is the mission of Marriage
  - i. Partnership to help one another to heroic virtue – holiness
  - ii. To have and raise children to heroic virtue
  - iii. It is here that the enormous tragedy of not being virtuous, of not living the good life, starts to become clear.

1. Deep in our hearts, we all desire to be happy
  2. And to help others to be happy
  3. And to be happy with them
- The unvirtuous man is frustrated on all counts  
 ---To the extent that we fail in virtue, we fail in charity, we fail in our relationships with the opposite sex.

#### IV. Friendship

- a. Although Charity and Virtue are indispensable conditions of good relationships between men and women, yet it is also prudent to attempt the fostering the enjoyment of each other's company
- b. What makes friends?
  - i. The common pursuit of a common goal
    1. Therefore, as long as there is Charity and Virtue, there will be the deepest level of friendship
      - a. Since both the man and the woman will be together pursuing each other's natural and supernatural happiness
    2. Still, the more specific the pursuit is, the more intimate and mutually satisfactory will be the friendship
      - a. E.g., work partners, sports fans, stamp collectors, etc...
        - i. They all feel connected to the degree that they share a common interest and activity
- c. This should also be the objective in the relationship between a man and a woman
  - i. Those pursuits which they can share should be cultivated
    1. Whatever it is; cooking, bicycling, reading, home repair, tennis...
  - ii. This is why children are such a blessing in a marriage
    1. They provide a million projects in which the father and mother are meant to cooperate, thus bringing them closer to each other
    2. Prayer life, especially, draw the man and woman together
      - a. By embarking on the spiritual journey together, they will be able to make a common property of the most important thing they have: their relationship with God
        - i. This will lead to a truly great Friendship.