TEXT: Jeremiah 23:10 For the land is full of adulterers...

14 I have seen also in the prophets of Jerusalem an horrible thing: **they commit adultery**, and walk in lies: **they strengthen also the hands of evildoers, that none doth return from his wickedness:** they are all of them unto me as Sodom, and the inhabitants thereof as Gomorrah.

**Exodus 20:14** Thou shalt not commit adultery.

Leviticus 20:10 And the man that committeth adultery with another man's wife, even he that committeth adultery with his neighbour's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.

**Proverbs 6:32** But whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul.

2 Timothy 2:19...Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

**Ephesians 5:3** But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;

- **1 Corinthians 5:1** It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife.
- 2 And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you.
- 6 Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? 11 But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a
- brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.

**Proverbs 30:20** Such is the way of an adulterous woman; she eateth, and wipeth her mouth, and saith, I have done no wickedness.

**Hebrews 12:15** Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up **trouble you, and thereby many be defiled**;

16 Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright.

- **2 Corinthians 7:10** For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.
- 11 For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves, yea, what indignation, yea, what fear, yea, what vehement desire, yea, what zeal, yea, what revenge! In all things ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter.
- "*Was*, refers here to the time past, though lately past; she had lately been infamous and notorious, but it appeareth by what followeth that she was not so now..."
  (Poole)
- **John 8:4** They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act. 5 Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou?
- 6 This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him...
- 11 She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.
- "...he was neither a witness in the case, nor yet a secular judge...Sin no more; whatever becometh of thee as to man's judgment, thou hast reason to fear the greater judgment of God..."

(Poole)

"Nor doth he say, *Commit adultery no more*; but, *sin no more*. No partial repentance..." (Poole)

14 I have seen also in the prophets of Jerusalem an horrible thing: they commit adultery, and walk in lies: they strengthen also the hands of evildoers, that none doth return from his wickedness: they are all of them unto me as Sodom, and the inhabitants thereof as Gomorrah.

**Proverbs 27:5** Open rebuke is better than secret love.

6 Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.

"*They strengthen* ... - First by neglecting to warn and rebuke sinners: secondly by the direct influence of their bad example."
(Barnes, *Notes*)

"...either by their false doctrine...putting a fair gloss upon [sins], or at least by their mealy mouths, fearing or forbearing to tell sinners of their wicked courses..."

(Poole)

Ezekiel 13:22 Because with lies ye have made the heart of the righteous sad, whom I have not made sad; and strengthened the hands of the wicked, that he should not return from his wicked way, by promising him life:

**Jeremiah 23:22** But if they had stood in my counsel, and had caused my people to hear my words, then they should have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their doings.

- 24 Can any hide himself **in secret places** that I shall not see him? saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD.
- 27 Which think to cause my people to forget my name by their dreams which they tell every man to his neighbour...
- 32 Behold, I am against them that prophesy false dreams, saith the LORD, and do tell them, and cause my people to err by their lies, and by their lightness...

**Psalms 50:18** When thou sawest a thief, then thou consentedst with him, and hast been partaker with adulterers.

"Here we see men who were neither thieves nor adulterers themselves, yet have their portion with them, and come under the fame condemnation, by consenting with them...There are other ways whereby we may become guilty of other men's fins, not only by consenting, or seeming to consent, to their fins; but by not reproving them as we have occasion; for it is a necessary effect of that love which we owe to our brethren, to warn them of any danger we see coming upon them. And not to do it is in effect to hate them, to let them perish, when it is in our power to rescue them. Thus it is written, Lev. xix. 17. Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart; thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbour, and not suffer sin upon him...So that we are guilty of that sin we do not reprove. And St. Paul said, Acts XX. 26, 27. I am pure from the blood of all men; for I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God: which implies, that if he had not declar'd the whole counsel of God, all of it, if he had kept back any part, he had been guilty of their blood."

(Charles Leslie, A View of the Times, 1750)

**Ezekiel 3:18** When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand.

**1 Timothy 5:22** Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure.

"Those who excuse others in trickery are guilty themselves...If we can **acquiesce** in anything which is not upright, we are not upright ourselves, and our religion is a lie..." (Spurgeon)

**Matthew 12:39** But he answered and said unto them, An evil **and adulterous** generation seeketh after a sign...

**Romans 12:1** I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye **present your bodies** a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, **that ye may prove** what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

**Jeremiah 9:2** Oh that I had in the wilderness a lodging place of wayfaring men; that I might leave my people, and go from them! for **they be all adulterers**, an assembly of treacherous men.

- 3 And they bend their tongues like their bow for lies: but they are not valiant for the truth upon the earth...
- 4...for every brother will utterly supplant, and every neighbour will walk with slanders.
- 8 Their tongue is as an arrow shot out; it speaketh deceit: one speaketh peaceably to his neighbour with his mouth, but in heart he layeth his wait.
- 9 Shall I not visit them for these things? saith the LORD...

**Jeremiah 7:8** Behold, ye trust in lying words, that cannot profit.

- 9 Will ye steal, murder, and commit adultery, and swear falsely, and burn incense unto Baal, and walk after other gods whom ye know not;
- 10 And come and stand before me in this house, which is called by my name, and say, We are delivered to do all these abominations?
- 24 But they hearkened not, nor inclined their ear, but walked in the counsels and in the imagination of their evil heart, and went backward, and not forward.
- 26 Yet they hearkened not unto me, nor inclined their ear, but hardened their neck: they did worse than their fathers.

- **2 Peter 2:2** And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.
- 10 But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities.
- 11 Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord.
- 14 Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children:
- 19 While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.
- 21 For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.
- 22 But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.

Hebrews 13:4 Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.

Ecclesiastes 8:11 Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.

Job 24:15 The eye also of the adulterer waiteth for the twilight, saying, No eye shall see me: and disguiseth his face.

24 They are exalted for a little while, but are gone and brought low; they are taken out of the way as all other, and cut off as the tops of the ears of corn.

**Proverbs 9:17** Stolen waters are sweet, and bread eaten **in secret** is pleasant. 18 But he knoweth not that the dead are there; and that her guests are in the depths of hell.

1 Thessalonians 4:3 For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: 5 That no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter: because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified.

7 For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.

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