

Sex: Our Destruction Jeremiah 2:9-11

God created sex for our benefit and His glory, but sin has managed to bring ruin and destruction where God intended joy and growth. We have to compare God's Design for sex with Man's Destruction through sex in order to find how God can bring hope into a broken culture.

Intro: 127hr Hikers

- This is **Aron** and he is the hiker who got stuck in the middle of a canyon in 2004 and had to **cut his arm off** with what was basically a pocket knife. Aron first got his story out with his book ***Between a Rock and a Hard Place***, which led to him being played by James Franco in ***127hrs***.
- Whether or not you've seen the movie, just hearing the story leads most of us to think "**Wow, I never want to go hiking**" but apparently, it makes people like Wayne think "Wow, that sounds like a hoot" or **in his own words**: "I saw that movie about the guy that got his arm cut off, and I started reading about slot canyons," "That movie -really got me excited."
- Since Aron's story got out, the number of hikers who have been rescued from that exact canyon has skyrocketed **from 1 to 30!** But my favorite part of this insane story is the local sheriff, Kurt Taylor: "There's nothing special about this canyon other than it's in the middle of nowhere," "It's not Disneyland," Taylor says. "When God built that canyon, he didn't make it safe for people."
- This story is insane because people are **completely misusing Aron's story!** The moral of the story is "Be careful" NOT "Come to the canyon of doom!" We hear about people like this and think, "what a bunch of goobers!" but this is what we do! People can always take something that **started with great intentions and then break it...**

The Truth is...

- **We have misused sex!** Last week, we looked at God's design for sex and how it fit with **Intimacy, Commitment, Sacrifice, and Trust** (go back and listen)
- But rather than follow God's design, we've chosen to follow our own – which is exactly what **Jeremiah describes Israel** doing...

Jeremiah 2.11-13

Has a nation changed its gods,
even though they are no gods?
But my people have changed their glory
for that which does not profit.
Be appalled, O heavens, at this;
be shocked, be utterly desolate,
declares the Lord,
for my people have committed two evils:
they have forsaken me,
the fountain of living waters,
and hewed out cisterns for themselves,
broken cisterns that can hold no water.

- Not only have we forsaken God, we've **made ourselves into gods** and created our own cisterns... which are Broken
- Today, we're discussing how humanity has deviated from God's design. We're going to **look at our broken Cisterns, but we're going to see God's living water** as well!

Adultery (Exodus 20.14)

Exodus 20:14: “You shall not commit adultery.”

- One of the most famous verses about sex is in the 10 Commandments... Read **Exodus 20.14** – “Don’t have sex with anyone other than your husband/wife according to God’s original design for marriage”
 - God just used **one rule to cover practically every sexual sin**
- Adultery is an interesting sin because...
 - Believers and Non-believers generally all agree **it’s bad to have an affair**
 - **Ex:** bad guy in movie; *Cheaterz* on CW at 2am; #1 reason for Divorce
 - ... **Except when we don’t**
 - **Ex:** good guy in movie; Ashley Madison; Divorce dip thanks to new order - date/move-in/marriage
- **The Broken Cistern:** God knows when we separate sex from **Intimacy, Commitment, Sacrifice, Trust**, we’re going to face destruction
 - **Ex:** Everyone’s tried the whole “**married in God’s eyes**” deal because SEX; Sleeping together before or even during engagement creates future distrust
- **The Living Water:** Thanks to the **GOSPEL** we can trust God’s design and we can put our energy towards developing healthy relationships:
 - **Guys:** How are you protecting, caring, and communicating with women now?
 - **Girls:** How are you trusting, encouraging, understanding guys now?
 - Now is the time to **work through insecurities and relational patterns!**

Homosexuality

- *Guest speaker*
- www.livehope.org

Lust (Matt 5.27-29)

- Lust is by far the most common sexual sin we fall into mainly because it’s so incredibly easy – Read **Matthew 5.27-29**

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell.

 - Christ takes the most extreme stance possible on lust because He knows that it will absolutely wreck us if we allow it to control us
 - **Lust is the Starting Point** for every sexual sin
- Being internalized, it’s difficult to identify, but we’re all vulnerable – Guys and Girls
 - **Guys:** Definitely **physical** (Porn) but increasingly **mental (quote)**
 - **C.S. Lewis** – “When we say of a lustful man prowling the streets that he wants a woman. Strictly speaking, a woman is just what he does not want. He wants a pleasure for which a woman happens to be the necessary piece of apparatus.”
 - **Girls:** Increasingly **physical** (30%) but definitely **mental** (love triangles)
- **The Broken Cistern:** Lust is so self-focused that it builds an incredibly selfish mindset that is incredibly destructive in any future relationship
 - If you can’t **honor your boyfriend/girlfriend** now, you will dishonor, cheat, and use her later.
 - If sexuality right now is **all about you**, expect a huge wakeup moment later.
- **The Living Water:** We should realize that thanks to the **GOSPEL** we have **Freedom** from this potentially overwhelming issue (**Rom 6 – Died and Live with Christ**)

Romans 6:6-8: We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.

 - Put some **accountability, transparency, & boundary** systems into place!