

A WAR ON WOMEN: THE GOSPEL AND SEX SLAVERY
HOT TOPIC: SEX SLAVERY

MAY 4, 2025

LESSON ONE: CLOSER TO HOME AND MODERN SLAVERY

(Gal. 5:1; Prov. 31:8-9)

INTRODUCTION: At nine years old Maliha's mother allowed her to be taken from her home in Nepal, with promises that she would work outside of her village making more money to help support her family. Hannah was sixteen years old living in Birmingham, Alabama with a family who could provide all that she needed. Hannah wanted more freedom and ended up falling in love with a young man who convinced her to leave home and move in with him. The stories in this chapter focus on how Maliha and Hannah, both became victims of sex slavery and exploitation. Maliha's ordeal took place in northern Nepal, a setting that might feel distant and foreign. In contrast, Hannah's experience in Alabama brings the issue close to home.

We are fighting an age-old fight that sprouted with God's first gift to mankind (Gen. 2:18.) Sin entered the world and all of God's Creation became perverted when Adam and Eve who were naked and unashamed, eyes opened, and suddenly felt ashamed of their nakedness (Gen. 3:7.) There are many instances of sexual abuse, exploitation, and trafficking throughout the Bible, history, and to our present day. People get trapped into sex slavery out of deception and desperation.

- **Gen. 19:1-8 – When the men of Sodom wanted to have sex with the two angels who entered Lot's house disguised as men, Lot sexually exploited his virgin daughters when he offered them to the men of Sodom to protect the angels.**
- **2 Sam. 13:1-11 – When Prince Amnon fell in love with his half-sister, he raped her after he devised a plan to trick her to his bedroom.**
- **V. 15 – Amnon's love immediately turned to hate and ordered her out.**
- **V. 19 – Tamar tore her virgin robes, put ashes on her head and laid her hand on her head and went away crying.**
- **Mat. 14:6-11 – On Herod's birthday Herodias' daughter danced for him and his company. Herod was greatly pleased that he promised to give her whatever she asked. Her mother prompted her to ask for John the Baptist's head on a platter. So, he had John beheaded and given to the girl on a platter. This was an instance of child exploitation.**

The idea of slavery seems to many a relic of bygone centuries. Twenty-seven million people live in slavery today, more than any other time in history. Millions are being bought, sold, and exploited for sex in what has become one of the fastest growing industries on earth.

MAY 11, 2025

LESSON TWO:

CREATED EQUAL

(Ex 21:16; Jam. 2:1-9; 1 Tim.1:9-10)

INTRODUCTION: There are no easy answers to questions about slavery, and there are no simple solutions to this epidemic problem. The gospel alone provides the depth of perspective alteration and heart transformation needed to eradicate slavery. The gospel begins with God—the God who alone who has authority to rule and reign as Master and Lord in the universe. He alone owns us all (**Ps 24:1.**) This does not preclude relationships between people marked by loving authority and glad submission, such as we see in God’s design for a good father who loves and cares for his young children. Even here, a dad does not own his children, nor does the children belong to his dad. This ownership ultimately belongs to God. When the Scripture specifically addresses first-century slavery, it reminds those who would call themselves “master” that their “Master” is in heaven (**Ep 6:9**), and He alone rules over them.

- **Psalm 24:1 – The earth is the LORD’S, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they dwell therein.**
- **Eph. 6:9 – And ye masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening: knowing that your Master also is in heaven, neither is there respect of persons with him.**
- **Gen. 1:27 – So, God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.**
- **Job 31:15 – Did not he that made me in the womb make him? And did not one fashion us in the womb**
- **Gal. 3:28 – There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither male or female for ye are all or in Christ Jesus.**

If the biblical truth had been embraced and obeyed by Christians in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the African slave trade across Europe and America would have not existed as it did. Scripture views any form of slavery that diminishes a person's value or dignity as an act of rebellion against God. However, many cultures do not share the belief that God created all people with equal dignity.

Considering equal dignity shared by all people, God denounces physical abuse specifically as it related to slavery. In addition, God condemns any type of human trafficking. Paul decries the sin of trafficking in the same breath in which he speaks about murder and sexual immorality.

Many cultures do not believe **God Created All People** with dignity; a variety of cultures and atheistic cultures around the world deny the values of women in a diverse array of ways. Once a woman is seen as less important, less dignified, or less worthy than a man, she is more easily discarded as an object to be used or abused, and plight or dilemma is more practically disregarded by a country’s officials.

MAY 18, 2025

LESSON THREE:

SLAVERY AND PORNOGRAPHY

(Ps 82:4; Matt. 5:28)

INTRODUCTION: Our culture is not immune to the worldview that devalues women. Instead of countering culture, Christians are imitating culture. Surveys indicate that over half of men and an increasing number of women in churches actively view pornography. Research also demonstrates a clear link between sex trafficking and the production of pornography. Men and women who indulge in pornography are creating the demand for more prostitutes, and in turn fuel the sex-trafficking industry, pornography feeds prostitution, again increasing the demand for sex trafficking. It's a vicious cycle, and we are fueling an industry that enslaves people for sex in order to satisfy selfish pleasures.

- **Ex 21:16 – Anyone who kidnaps someone is to be put to death, whether the victim has been sold or is still in the kidnapper's possession.**
- **Gal. 5:1: – It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.**
- **1 Cor 6:18: – Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body."**
- **Eph. 5:3 – But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people.**

Every time we indulge in pornography, we deny the precious gospel truth that every man and woman possesses inherent dignity to not be solicited and sold for sex, but to be valued and treasured as excellent in the eyes of God.

Some people may believe that the porn they watch online is two consenting adults performing consensual sexual activities, but that's less true than most people believe. The porn industry and the sex trafficking industry are very intertwined. Human trafficking is defined as "force, fraud, or coercion." So, when someone is tricked or manipulated into the production or porn, that legally qualifies as sex trafficking.

The Bible has a lot to say about human trafficking. Verses about slavery and how we should treat others clearly show how deeply God values justice, equality, and freedom. After all, the central mission of God's only Son, Jesus, was to give His life as a ransom and bring together all who would turn to Him.

Other References:

Isa. 1:17; Ps 82:3-4; Deut. 24:7

MAY 25, 2025

LESSON FOUR: FIGHTING WITH THE GOSPEL AND HOPE AND HEALING

(Luke 15:4-7; Luke 15:8-9; Luke 15:11-20)

INTRODUCTION: Fighting slavery begins with believing the gospel, applying the gospel, and proclaiming the gospel. The very center of the gospel is the person of Jesus Christ who though He is fully divine, “emptied Himself by assuming the form of a slave, taking on the likeness of men, **(Phil, 2:7.)** The Bible says, Jesus became a slave of humanity to save humanity. The Bible depicts God as meeting you where you are in the depth of your sin. Maliha, Hannah and other women in sex-trafficking situations need a Savior who comes to them, like a shepherd who leaves the ninety-nine sheep to locate the one who is lost. A Savior who will say, “I will make you clean.” **(Luke 5:12-14.)**

This is the same Savior traffickers need as well. They need a Savior who will forgive their sins and transform their lives, that they may no longer take advantage of these young girls, but instead advocate for them. When it comes down to it, we all need a Savior. When the gospel changes our lives, it changes the way we encounter our culture.

- **Mark 10:45 – For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.**
- **Ps 147:3 – He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.**
- **Eph 6:12-13 – For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.**

The war against sex trafficking is extremely complex and overwhelmingly difficult, but it is undoubtedly worth it for the sake of seemingly countless Maliha’s and Hannah’s in need of gospel hope. For these and others who find themselves in these situations, we are compelled to pray, to give, and to work to see sex slaves released from their captors and restored to new life.

The church must become informed. We cannot be silent, and we must not be still. We must fight with the Truth of the Gospel on our minds, the Power of the Gospel in our hearts, and the love of the Gospel in our hands.

Other References:

Luke 25-37; 15:4; 19:10; Heb. 10:24-25