

Message #108 of *Scripture Beneath The Surface*

"God Is A Jealous God"

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Hello! Thanks for being with us. Today I'd like to just talk about a concept which the Bible very clearly describes. The concept is that God is a jealous God. Let me read some verses to you. They are found in Exodus, chapter 34. I'm going to read verses 12 through 14. It says, "Take heed to yourself, lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land where you go, lest it be for a snare in the midst of you: 13 But you shall destroy their altars, break their images, and cut down their groves: 14 For you shall worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God:"

Notice that these verses state very plainly that the name of the Lord is, Jealous. God is a jealous God. He is jealous. He doesn't like his wife flirting around with someone else. He's a jealous husband. He gets angry when his bride is unfaithful. He doesn't like it when she flirts. He's a jealous God. He doesn't like it when his woman plays around with anyone else. He doesn't like it when his betrothed damsel spends too much time with someone else. He's a jealous God. He has set boundaries for what his wife should be, and he has set boundaries for how she should act, and he has set boundaries for her actions and for her words. He has set boundaries concerning what she wears and how she displays herself. He's a jealous God. He's a jealous husband.

God is the husband who hates being stood up, and hates being set aside for someone else. God is jealous of his bride. He is jealous of who she spends her time with, and in the way she spends that time. He has set boundaries which instruct her as to how she should behave herself, and how she should dress, and how she should act in the presence of others. God is a jealous God. He has

set standards for his woman. He has set standards for her to follow. He doesn't like it when she flirts, when she flutters her eyelashes, and when she sways her hips around anyone but him. He doesn't like it when she paints her face so that others will take notice. He's a jealous God, and he has set boundaries of how she is to look and how she is to dress and how she is to talk to anyone else.

Do you hear what I'm saying? Can you comprehend that God is a jealous God? Does this mean anything to you? Whether you understand this or not, God is still a jealous God. No, his bride doesn't always understand his jealousy. His woman thinks she can flirt with anyone, and flutter her eyelashes, and giggle, and dress provocatively and sensationally, but God is a jealous God and he doesn't like his wife trying to get attention from others.

Deuteronomy 4:23-24 says, "Take heed to yourselves, lest you forget the covenant of the LORD your God, which he made with you, and you make an engraved image, or the likeness of anything, which the LORD your God has forbidden you to do. 24 For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, even a jealous God."

Do you know that God has made a covenant with you? Do you know that he has instructed you how to act as the bride of Christ? Do you know that he has instructed you to be discreet and quiet and to be caring and considerate? Do you know that he has instructed you to be humble and obedient to him? God is a jealous God, and he will not put up with loose moral behavior. He is a jealous God, and he will not allow his wife to be the object of desire for anyone but him. I don't know if you understand what I'm saying, but I hope you do, for God is a very jealous God, and he will pour out his anger on the head of those who reject his love, and on those who go after strange gods. He doesn't like other gods. He doesn't like his woman looking at other gods and looking at what they offer her. God is a jealous God, and he wants his woman to be content with the things that he gives her. God is a jealous God, and he's not happy when his wife complains that she has to drive an older vehicle, and live in an older house, and wear plain clothing.

Sometimes God's bride complains that God doesn't give her what she really wants. Sometimes she isn't happy with heavenly things and wants more of the earthly things. Sometimes she forgets to set her eyes on things above rather than on things of the earth. But she should remember what her husband desires her to have, for her husband is the God of the universe, and she's in a very delicate position. Sometimes God's bride seems to think that she should already be decked out in heavenly splendor instead of like holy women of old.

1 Peter 3:1-5 says, "Likewise, you wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; so that if any do not obey the word, they also, who are outside the word, may be won by the wife's manner of life; 2 While they behold your chaste manner of lives coupled with godly fear. 3 Whose adorning, do not let it be that outward adorning of styling the hair, wearing gold, or of adornment of apparel; 4 But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. 5 For in this

manner in times past the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection to their own husbands:"

And no, if you're listening today, don't make the mistake that we're talking about females. We're not talking about females. We're talking about the bride of Christ. You men and you ladies, you're both the bride of Christ, and you're the woman of God. In Christ there is no male and no female. God is a jealous God, and if you're supposed to be the bride of Christ, than God is jealous of you. He doesn't like it if you don't know how to subject yourself to your own husband. He doesn't like it when you forget how to be a chaste woman. He doesn't like it when you have no Godly fear, and he doesn't like it when you adorn yourself with styled hair, or deck yourself with gold, silver, and jewels. He doesn't like it when you adorn yourself with apparel which is specifically designed to draw attention to you rather than to exhibit a meek and quiet spirit. He doesn't like it when you set your hair in a fancy style. God is a jealous God, and he doesn't like it when you draw the attention of other gods to you.

Isaiah 3:16-26 says, "And the LORD says, Because the daughters of Zion are proud, and have walked with stretched out necks and wanton eyes, walking and mincing as they go, and making a tinkling with their feet; 17 therefore the LORD will strike with a scab the crown of the head of the daughters of Zion, and the LORD will make their secret parts naked. 18 In that day the Lord will take away the beauty of ankle-bracelets, and the headbands, and the crescents, 19 the pendants, and the bracelets, and the veils; 20 the headdresses, and the leg ornaments, and the sashes, and the dwelling places of the soul, and the amulets; 21 the rings and nose jewels; 22 the festal apparel and the outer garments; and the mantles, and the purses; 23 the mirrors and the fine linen; and the turbans and the veils. 24 And it shall be, instead of sweet smell, there shall be an odor of decay; and instead of a sash, a rope; and instead of well-set hair, baldness; and instead of a rich robe, a wrapping of sackcloth; burning instead of beauty. 25 Your men shall fall by the sword, and your mighty in the war. 26 And her gates shall lament and mourn; and she shall sit deserted on the ground."

I don't know if you can understand this or not, but I want you to think about this and consider it. God is a jealous God. He doesn't like the same things that people of earth like. God likes heavenly things. And he wants his bride to like the things that he likes. He wants to live with her forever, and therefore he doesn't want to be married to someone who doesn't like the same things he likes. Oh sure, we women of God, we who are the bride of Christ, we have our likes and our dislikes, but it is only those who have set aside the niceties of this world that will please a jealous God. God says, in Colossians 3:2 to set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. This is God's word. He said it for a reason. But sometimes the bride of Christ acts like she likes to look around and see what the other gods might offer her. And in fact, sometimes she gets downright bad, sinful. Sometimes, well, we don't want to think about how far away from God she goes sometimes.

Serving God can only take place in a state of humility and obedience to his will. It is not the will of God's bride that is foremost and superior. It is the will of God that comes first. And this

doesn't mean that God and his woman take turns being the leader. That's modern church doctrinal error. The only game that God plays is follow the leader, and he is always the leader, because it is his game. He's a jealous God, and he doesn't like it when his woman tries to usurp authority over him and begin to tell him how to run his church and how to run his world, and when to save someone and when to heal someone and when to bless someone. God knows what he's doing, and God's will is still the best game in town. He is God, and he's jealous.

Nahum 1:2, says, "God is jealous, and the LORD revenges; the LORD revenges, and is furious; the LORD will take vengeance on his adversaries, and he reserves wrath for his enemies." Do you hear what the Bible is saying? God is a jealous God. He won't put up with all the vanity that his bride tries to get away with. He's a lot smarter God than his woman sometimes gives him credit for. He's the almighty God. There is nothing he doesn't know, and there is nothing he can't do, and there are no gods beside him. He alone is the only game in town. And, he alone is to be served in humility and obedience. A lowly heart will please him, but a haughty look will anger him.

Exodus 20:3-6 says, "You shall have no other gods before me. 4 You shall not make unto you any engraved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: 5 You shall not bow down yourself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of those who hate me; 6 And showing mercy unto thousands of those who love me, and keep my commandments."

And you might say, "we don't serve idols. We don't serve other gods. That's an antiquated concept. Nobody worships gods of wood and metal anymore." Hmmm! You might not think so, but worshiping idols is more common than you might imagine. The worshiping of idols is nothing other than going after other gods. They don't have to be in the form of an animal or a man or a sun or a moon or stars, but they can be in different forms. To go after other gods is just simply to step outside of the boundaries that God has set for you. When he says to dress modestly, and you don't, then you are no longer trying to please your God. You're trying to please a god of some sort, but it isn't the God of heaven that you're trying to please. If God tells you to be content with such things you have, but you fret and worry about how to get more nice things, then you have ceased being a pleasing woman to your husband, and it is another husband which you are trying to please.

You see, God is God of all things. And there is only one adversary that comes against God. There is only one other enemy of God that can draw the attention of God's bride away from him. The adversary of God is the devil. It is Satan who is God's adversary, and it is Satan who represents everything which is in opposition to God and to his will. If you are in opposition to God's will, then you have automatically gone over to worship the false god of the devil himself. There is no middle ground in the warfare between good and evil. Everything, and I do mean everything, that you do in this world is either on the side of good, or it is on the side of evil. There is no middle ground. If you're the wife of God, if you're the bride of Christ, if you're the

woman that God loves, then you better think twice concerning whether you are pleasing in God's sight, or if maybe you've developed a whore's forehead, and have a most significant mark right in the middle of it.

God is a jealous God. He makes no bones about it. He doesn't try to pretend that he isn't jealous. He makes it very clear right from the beginning. God is a jealous God, and he wants everyone on earth to know it. And especially, he wants his bride to know it. If she knows it, then there is a much better chance that she won't take the relationship too lightly. Maybe she'll settle down and look behind her and take back the simple styles of yesteryear's Christianity, the simple styles of dress, the simple style of hair, and all the simple styles that existed before eye paint and nose jewels become popular. But then again, probably not. God's woman will probably go right along, continuing to paint the face, style the hair gloriously, and pierce through the lobes of her ears, and maybe her nose too.

God is a jealous God. The only way the whole church can be charged with adultery is by going to another god. It works that way you know. If your husband is a man, your adultery will be with another man. But if your husband is the God of heaven, your adultery will be with another god. And the most important traits that gods have are what moves their hearts and what establishes their will. The God of heaven is moved with righteousness, and his will is to bring righteousness to all the people of earth who will receive him. However, there is another god on the scene in this great battle between good and evil, and it is the devil himself who has his own agenda. He is not moved by righteousness. No, no way. He is moved by wickedness. He is moved by every wicked thing imaginable. In fact, maybe this is something you should consider, especially if you're been flirting around with him. He has such a wicked heart that he doesn't even care if you die the most horrible death possible. He wouldn't even bat an eye. You can flirt with him all you want, but in the end he'll treat you like dirt, and he'll beat your children, and maybe even offer them to himself as a sacrifice. In one way or another he will do that if you give him a chance.

Oh, you may think that the gifts Satan promises you and that the trinkets of earth which he gives you are wonderful, but you will wake up one day and find that all your flashy changes of clothing will be turned into rags, and you yourself will be turned into a beggar instead of a son of the most high God.

God is a jealous God. He doesn't want you panting after the delightful things of earth. He doesn't want you to pretend to love him, but secretly make plans to get gifts from Satan at the same time. What? You say you don't understand? Oh, well, you're probably right. You probably don't understand. You probably think that everything is going along just fine and that you're going to be in fine form until Jesus returns. You may be partly right, but maybe you're not all right. You may be doing just fine up until the day Jesus returns, but what will happen to you after that?

Revelation 18:11-19 says, “And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buys their merchandise any more. 12 The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thyine wood, and all manner of vessels of ivory, and all manner of vessels of most precious wood, and of bronze, and iron, and marble, 13 And cinnamon, and odors, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls of men. 14 And the fruits that your soul lusted after have departed from you, and all things which were dainty and sumptuous are departed from you, and you shall not find them anymore at all. 15 The merchants of these things, who were made rich by her, shall stand far off for the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing, 16 And saying, Alas, alas, that great city, that was clothed in fine linen, purple, and scarlet, and decked with gold, and precious stones, and pearls! 17 For in one hour such great wealth has come to nothing. And every ship master, and all the company in ships, and sailors, and as many as traded by sea, stood far off, 18 And cried when they saw the smoke from her burning, saying, What city is like this great city! 19 And they cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and wailing, saying, Alas, alas, that great city, in which were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness! For in one hour she is made desolate.

You know, it's an interesting thing, but humans have a very difficult time comprehending that we are just flesh and blood people for a very short time. This earth is only a temporary place, and we're supposed to be just passing through it. We were never meant to remain as flesh and blood beings, and the Bible is very clear in explaining that flesh and blood will not inherit the kingdom of heaven. Jesus told us that we must be born again. To be born again means to be born again as spirit beings instead of human beings. We will exist on this earth in our present flesh form until such time as Jesus returns for us. At that time we will be changed, and will no longer be imprisoned in these bodies of flesh.

Now, God is a Spirit. That much is very plain. And as a spirit, God is not subject to the whims of the flesh. In fact, he even lives in a heavenly spiritual realm, and the idea of God finding happiness by focusing earthly things is quite silly. Yet, isn't it interesting that some Christians have such dim eyesight that they can't realize that all their earthly delights of the flesh are not pleasing to God. It is the flesh that Satan wants us to concentrate on. It is the delights of this physical world that he tempts us with. But God is a spirit. Why then, if we are called to be born again in spirit, would Christians want to expend so much effort in stimulating the flesh? Why would Christians want to pamper the flesh, dressing it up in flashy clothes and going to such great lengths to entertain it. Do you suppose God finds our earthly clothing beautiful. Do you think he enjoys our obsession with trinkets? I rather think that God loves the beauty of a righteous soul.

It is the soul that God is interested in, and it is the flesh that Satan wants you to be delighted in. In every sense Satan encourages preoccupation with the flesh. He doesn't want you to realize that you are just temporarily living under the sun. He doesn't want you to realize that the sun, the moon, and the stars are just a temporary canopy over our flesh and blood world which allows our

understanding of the mystery of God to be covered over, as if a cloud covered our view of heaven. God wants us to be born again in spirit, not to spend our time on earth with our minds concentrated on our outward appearance and our enjoyment of earthly things. We were not meant to spend our strength and to spend our time on outward appearances and earthly pleasures. The name of God's game is not eat, drink, and be merry. The name of God's game is, righteousness and joy, in the Holy Spirit. In the Holy Spirit is a long way from being in the flesh.

Thanks for being with us.