

VIDEO 1: Bart sells soul.

Brings up good question: Can a soul be sold? Even if we wanted to? I doubt it.

- Soul: Essential part of us. The thing that makes us the human being we are. Personality, emotions, heart, spirit... all that makes me me is contained in soul. Not sure you can sell that.
- But, can a soul be stolen? Taken away from someone?
- I'm not sure it can, but I do believe it can be mishandled or damaged in such a way as to be forever changed.

How?

- Not by theft. Not by bullying. Not even by oppression...
- What then can forever damage or change the human soul so that its never the same?

VIDEO 2: Goat

- That soul is forever changed.
- That little girl will never be the same person again. Her soul, character, personality, way of seeing and responding to life has been changed forever.

BTW... Changing a soul in this way doesn't require the level of violence.

- Alternate video—nice old uncle—told he loved her—believed mutual—she flunked out—anorexic--cuts self. She's just as damaged as the other little girl.
- So make no mistake. Sexual abuse is something that if it doesn't steal the soul... at least damages it in such a way that its never the same again.

This is something I really didn't understand until just lately. We've had amazing number of rape and sex abuse victims step forward. There are some things most of them have in common.

- They believe they are at least partly to blame... that it's in some way their fault... they did something to trigger it... feeling is compounded by physiological response of the body... aroused=must be complicit.
- Because they feel they were complicit in the abuse... Feel Dirty... Sure God feels the same way... Many have a hard time believing God loves them at all... Even if he does... still hard to connect because in many cases, someone they trusted violated them... and now they can trust NO ONE, not even God.

All of this has helped me make a little more sense out of (Lev 18) (Laws for sexuality)

Very specific about appropriate and inappropriate relationships. (Lev 18: 1-11... on it goes) Lev 20 lays out some of the punishments. They're really harsh. I wondered... Why does God come down so hard sexual sin? What I've figured out.

- Hard on it because of the damage it does to the soul. Sexual abuse damages like nothing else.
- Hard on it because its contagious. Boys repeat. Girls find their way into abusive relts.

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So, there was ZERO TOLERANCE for crossing certain sexual boundaries. Remb: No therapists. No psychologists. Lev law set forth a way to seriously deter the damage of sexual abuse in an ancient community.

I want to talk about sexual abuse in our context.

Definition: The forcing of unwanted sexual activity by one person on another... whether by threat, coercion, or manipulation... Any sexual activity deemed improper, as between an adult and a minor.

Effects:

- Guilt and Shame: Victim often feels responsible for what happened.
- Hopelessness: Since they feel responsible for what has happened... colors their relationship with God.
- Isolation: Because they may still fear attacker... or fear being rejected by family... they feel as though there's no one to turn to... so they are often in a physical, emotional, spiritual prison unable to see a way of escape.

How do we deal with sexual abuse? (I want to talk to VICTIM, ABUSER, BYSTANDER)

Scripture: 1John 1:5-7... John 3:16-21

Victim:

Not your fault EVER.

- Person in charge... of trust, authority, power is ALWAYS to blame. (Me, office)
- Doubly true of minors. (10K 89.68%... Ram Charger... Reason minors can't sign contracts. Must have parents or guardians) ALWAYS THE PERSON IN CHARGE.

The damage inflicted on you will NEVER go away. Can get better. (Soldier, artificial legs)

Two things required. Light and forgiveness.

- Must bring it out into the open. TURN THE LIGHT ON.
- It will be hell on earth. It will feel worse than the original abuse.
- Your abuser, family will accuse you, threaten... do everything they can to keep you from disclosing.
- You are not... nor will you ever be responsible for the damage to the family... the person who destroyed the family was the person who committed the abuse.
- Now everyone living in secret hell, dark place. Gotten comfortable with the darkness.
- UNLESS THERE IS DISCLOSURE, THERE IS NO HOPE FOR HEALING. Abuse is like a germ that can only live in darkness. Without light, no one heals, abuse likely to be repeated.

Don't expect an apology.

- Sandusky calls. He is baffled. In a darkness of his own making.

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Abuser

- Remb def of abuse? Forcing unwanted sexual activity. Forcing also means persuasion. Just because the victim cooperated does not mean you have not abused them.
- If you have abused, what do you do?
- Answer the same: Turn on the light. Seek professional guidance immediately.
- Terrifying. You don't know what will happen.... That's true. But you lost control of your life when you chose to abuse.
- Don't want to. But let me read (1Tim 5:24)
- What you need to know is that the light will come on. Always better when YOU TURN IT ON. (Sandusky—could have been better... at least there would have been some hope... now there is none.

Bystander

- To know about something and do nothing is to become an accomplice to the crime.
- Once I know something, I'm responsible. (Unibomber—family would have had blood on hands.)
- You will be sorely tempted to leave it alone... For good of family.
- Remind you of Joe Paterno and what he covered up for good of Penn State.
- This past week, tore statue down. Legacy gone.
- It will be the same for you. Because the light WILL come on.
- If you're the one who turns it on, there is at least the hope of healing. Otherwise only darkness.

Hard.

I wish I had a magic answer. A little formula or prayer to make it go away.

But like any wound, there is a painful process to go through.

It will be hard, painful.

But choosing anything else is darkness. If choose light, opens up at least the possibility of healing for everyone involved.

FILM 3

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