OPEN

Precious One, know this that with God there’s a new beginning. With God there is hope. With God there is no failure. The failure’s become a thing of the past. No failures only a future. The Word of God says in the Old Testament. And I know that Jesus is saying it to you today, “I know the plans I have for you, plans for good and not for evil. To give you a future and to give you hope.”

PART ONE

We were talking about lies that we have believed as women, lies regarding the Word of God, its veracity, lies regarding, really, our worth as a woman, our stature as a woman, lies regarding our role as a woman and how embracing those lies and believing those lies had impacted our whole society. It had changed the course of America in three short decades. One of the lies that we believed was the lie regarding our sexuality. In 1963 and I
told you this last week, Betty Friedan decided that women were unhappy, unfulfilled and that they were being stifled by men. And in 1970 when the woman’s feminist movement came into full bloom and that came into full bloom and it was a feminist movement that had nothing feminine about it. Well then in 1973 what did we have? We had Roe versus Wade. But with Roe versus Wade we also had the equal rights amendment. “I’m equal to a man.” I don’t know if you remember that old ad. I don’t know if you’re old enough to remember that old commercial that would come on television. It was the Enjoli. It was a perfume ad. And it says, “I can bring home the bacon, fry it up in a pan, and never let you forget that you’re a man. I’m an Enjoli woman.” Well, we are bringing home the bacon. We are frying it up in a pan. But I’m telling you honestly; we are too tired to let him know that he’s a man. I mean we’re just absolutely worn out. And that’s because we believe, we’ve embraced a lie about our sexuality. And I embraced that lie. I walked away from my husband. I wanted somebody that was going to love me unconditionally. I was tired of being a charm on a charm bracelet. I was tired of being a piece to show off. I was unfulfilled. I was unhappy. The dreams that I had for marriage were just all shattered. I would come home and find my husband sitting in great depression. Now all I did was to get out of my depression from sleeping in every morning. I just said, “Let me go to work.” I wanted to escape. And instead of finding out what the Word of God had to say, because I professed to be a Christian, I went by the philosophies of the day. And I decided that I needed to do something. Could I go back to nursing? Tom said no. Could I study to be a doctor? Tom said no. Could I get a job doing part time modeling? And Tom said yes. And one night when I came home from modeling, my husband was sitting there on the couch. He was sitting there in his shorts. I walked in. You know, I had been successful. He was battling depression. I was married to a man that very very talented, very very capable, an outstanding athlete, rated a genius, voted “Most Likely to Succeed” by his prep school. And yet here was this man battling with
depression. He didn’t know it and I didn’t know it and later we would find out when it was really too late that he was manic-depressive, that he was bipolar. But I came in that night and I had been successful you know, and I had been out at this restaurant and I was doing all this modeling and everything and he had been home with the kids. And when I came in he was so depressed and he said something and I just turned around and let him have it with my mouth. That was my weapon. I went up the stairs. He followed me up the stairs and I said it again. And it was cutting words. They were destructive words. And when I said it, he just, in anger, took his hand, back handed me. I went back on the bed. I was laying there and all of a sudden I felt something salty on my lips and it was blood. And I said, “Tom that is it. You have had it.” And I went down stairs. I grabbed my pillow. I grabbed my blanket. I was going to spend the night down there. And he followed me, absolutely panicked. From there we went to counseling. And when we went to that counseling, no one ever opened the Word of God. And I went to two different ministers. They didn’t open the Word of God. They didn’t tell me what truth was. They didn’t explain to me what the Bible had to say about marriage. I felt like I was a failure. I felt like I couldn’t help him. I felt like I couldn’t do anything to turn our marriage around. So I believed a lie and that lie came from a man wearing a clerical collar, when he said, “You just need to separate.” That was not the answer. But I believed that lie. And I believed a lie regarding my sexuality. I believed that I as a woman had to have a man to make me happy. And so I stood in the living room of my home, I shook my fist in the face of God and I said, “To hell with you God. I’m going to find someone to love me.” And I went out to look for a man. And I went from one man to another man to another man. You know, this is one of the lies that we have believed as women. We believe that a man, so many times, is necessary for our happiness that we’ve got to have that relationship. And in going after and pursuing that relationship, we’ve believed another lie. What is that lie? That lie is that if
I’m going to have a man, I’m going to have to give myself to a man, and that there’s nothing wrong with sex outside of marriage. And yet there is. Do you know what God says in Hebrews? He says, “Marriage is honorable in all and the bed undefiled, but, fornicators and adulterers God will judge.” You say, “Neither one of us is married but we’re sleeping together.” That’s called fornication. “Well she used be married, she needs that.” That’s called adultery. And one of the things I discovered after I became a child of God, and listen that was after the husband that I left committed suicide. One of the things that I discovered was that the Bible talks about strange women and dumb men. And when I read that passage, I thought, hey, that’s what I’ve become. And so many women are feeling like failures, especially when they’ve been immoral and they move into marriage. Then they feel unclean. Then they feel guilty. And that’s because there’s a God shaped vacuum inside each one of us and really in our heart of hearts, no matter what society says, we know, we know, you know that sleeping around is wrong, that sex outside of marriage is wrong. You can rationalize it. You can excuse it, but I’m telling you, if you think that you can have sex outside of marriage, you have believed a lie. In the book of Proverbs, God talks about strange women and dumb men. A strange woman is a woman that is immoral. A dumb man is a man that goes after her. And this is what he says, he says, “On account of a harlot, one is reduced to a loaf of bread. And an adulteress hunts for the precious life. Can a man take fire in his bosom and his clothes not be burned? Or can a man walk on hot coals and his feet not be scorched?” He says, “So is the one who goes into his neighbor’s wife. Whoever touches her will not go unpunished.” He says, “Men do not despise a thief if he steals because he’s hungry, but when he’s found he must repay sevenfold. The one who commits adultery with a woman is lacking sense. He who would destroy himself does it.” What is the way to hell? Well listen carefully to what he says in Proverbs, chapter 7. It says, “Don’t let your heart turn aside to her ways…,” to the ways of a harlot, to the ways of a strange woman.
“…Do not stray into her paths, for many are the victims that she has cast down and numerous are all her slain. Her house is the way to hell, descending to the chambers of death.” You know, with that feminism, with that equal rights amendment, with the fact that we were moving out of the home, we were told, hey you don’t need men. Listen, they’re only there to sleep with, only to satisfy your desires. And when you do, just remember this, that sex is power. Listen, sex outside of marriage is destructive. Her bed is the way to hell. And Proverbs says, “He reduces himself to nothing of any greater worth than the price of a loaf of bread.” Women have deceived themselves. They have believed a lie regarding their sexuality. You look at the ads on television. You look at the movies. You look at the sitcoms. Everything is sex, sex, sex, sex, sex. And we think that that’s the answer. And, Precious One, it is not. God says, “Don’t be deceived. Don’t be deceived…fornicators and adulterers God will judge.” And believing that lie regarding our sexuality and following that feminist movement to whatever degree that you were influenced, you also believed a lie regarding your relationship to your husband, your relationship to marriage. And we forgot that if we’re married our husbands are our priority. That’s the primary priority. The woman was given as a helpmate to the husband.

PART TWO
The husband is to be the provider. The woman is to be the keeper of the home. We talked about it last week. Did it irritate you? You know what I want to do is I want to hear from you. I want your feedback. I want it to be as if you are sitting right here in this room with me and you and I are sharing together face to face. I want you to be honest. I want you to share. I’m not afraid of your honesty. I’m not afraid of your questions and I’m not afraid of your disagreements. And that’s because I know the Word of God. Now God placed a sanctity upon marriage and that’s why He said in Malachi, “I hate divorce. I hate men putting away their wives.” In Matthew, chapter 19, the
Pharisees came to Jesus Christ and they were trying to trap Him. And they said, “Can a man put away his wife for any cause? Can he divorce his wife for any cause?” And He says, “Listen, Moses, because of the hardness of your heart said that you could give her a bill of divorcement. But this is what God says from the beginning, ‘For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife and the two shall become one flesh.’” God hates divorce. He hates divorce because it breaks a picture of His total and absolute and complete commitment to you and to me once we believe in Jesus Christ. Because then we take on the picture of the bride of Christ and He’s never going to cast us away if we are truly His. So He hates divorce. But we’ve believed a lie regarding that. We’ve believed a lie thinking that, if the husband is the head and the wife is there under the husband, submitting to the husband and coming along as a helpmate instead of as one that is able to rule over him. Yes, we are equal. We are equal. And there’s equality as God looks at us. But our roles are different. Our roles are different because He created them male and female. He made us. He made us different. He designed us. He designed us for success. That’s what He did. And when you and I know His precepts and His commandments and we live by them and we believe His Word and we meditated on it day and night and we’re strong and we’re courageous and we hold to it, no matter what society says and we don’t turn to the right and we don’t turn to the left, then He promises us in Joshua, chapter 1, “Then we will have success. Then we will prosper in our role as a human being.” But we’ve believed a lie. We’ve believed a lie regarding our position. And we listened to that feminist lie and we said “Okay, nobody is going to rule over me.” But listen. Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, who is one with the Father, who is equal with the Father is under the authority of His Father. And that doesn’t make Him any less. You see it in organizations. We don’t complain because there’s a president. We don’t complain because there’s a vice-president. We don’t complain in our country. We may complain about what they do. But in our country, in this
democracy, we have leaders and we have laws and we are to listen to them. And we are to follow those statutes and regulations so that we have a good society. So have you believed a lie regarding your sexuality? Have you believed a lie regarding your position as a woman, as a wife, as a mother if you’ve taken on those roles? And the last thing I want to ask you is: have you believed a lie regarding your failures? Have you believed that, listen, what was done to you in the past or what you did in the past has set the course of your future and there is no turning it around? Let’s say that you were abused, you will always be a victim for the rest of your life. That is a lie. And that’s a lie because of what the Word of God has to tell us, with God in your life, there can be a change. With God in your life you can become a new creature. Look at me. Here I was. I was married. I was divorced. I became an immoral woman. My husband committed suicide. And I helped him tie the rope around the neck, by the words that I said when he said I’m going to commit suicide. And I would say to him, “Do a good job, so I get your money.” What I was saying to him is “Listen, the worth of your life can be bought just with maybe a hundred thousand dollars. That’s all you’re worth.” How terrible to say that to a person. How terrible to say to a person, “I’d rather have money in my hand or in my bank that I would have you alive.” Isn’t that awful? This is a man that I committed myself to. This is a man that I made vows to. This is a man that I told I would love in sickness and health. You know I don’t know who you are. I don’t know where you are but, Precious One, I know this. I know that there were women in the Bible who were absolute failures. Mary Magdalene, she had seventy demons inside of her, seventy screaming demons that were just tossing her here and there. And Jesus came along and set her free. And she was one of His constant companions along with the disciples. She was the woman that He appeared to after His resurrection. She was the woman that got to share the good news. I think about the woman that came and washed Jesus’ feet and the man at the house said if He knew what kind of woman this was, He
wouldn’t let her touch Him. He knew and He turned and He looked at her and He says, “I want you to know your sins, which are many, are forgiven.” And He turned to that man and He says, “You know, she loves much because she’s been forgiven much.” Precious One, know this, that with God there’s a new beginning. With God, there is hope. With God, there is no failure. The failure’s become a thing of the past. No failures only a future. Jesus says or the Word of God says in the Old Testament. And I know that Jesus is saying it to you today, “I know the plans I have for you: plans for good and not for evil. To give you a future and to give you hope.” And He’s saying that you and He’s saying, “Will you believe me? Will you give Me a chance? Will you give Me a chance to turn you around?” You say, “But I’d always be a second class citizen.” Listen; sometime go through the genealogy of Jesus Christ. You see a harlot in His genealogy. You see Bathsheba, a woman that was used. And David had adultery with her. You see her. You see Tamar, who was “incested”, so to speak. All of those women are in the genealogy of Jesus Christ. Why? Because He wants you to know that as a woman you are precious to Him, that you have worth, that you have value. And no matter what the lies you have believed, you can be set free by the truth. All you have to do is come to him and say, “God, I want to become a brand new woman. I want to put my past totally and completely and absolutely behind me. I want to be Your child. I want to belong to You. You tell me God that Jesus died for my sins, that He was without sins and He took the rap for me. He sat in the chair and suffered the death penalty so that I, who was dead in my sins, could have another chance. God thank You. Thank You for killing Your Son and letting Him take the punishment for my sins and God thank You for raising Him from the dead. I thank You that He’s alive. And I tell you Jesus, today, I want You to live in me.” Precious One, if that’s your prayer, write us immediately. Call us and we’ll help you grow.