

Hey guys, how's it going? This isand today, let's talk about getting attention.

Do you feel like a crazy woman sometimes? Like, you know something has changed in your marriage and it's so very obvious to you but he swears he doesn't see it. Like, I don't know, maybe you have gained much more weight and you remember a time when your slim figure was so important to him and he complimented you often but now, he never says those sweet things.

Or maybe you have lost your youthful beauty, a thing that you were convinced gained your husbands heart and tenderness but since you have been scarred on the face or have gotten older and more wrinkled, you know for a fact that you no longer get the same favor bestowed upon you as you once did.

Or maybe you had a spontaneity about yourself that your husband loved so much but now that you have 5 kids and tons of housework, you've lost that same spark that used to garner his approval and his excitement but now, you know for a fact that he finds you monotonous and too strict.

Maybe since coming to faith in Christ, you've been giving over your special affection to the Lord God and you definitely know that your husband doesn't like you anymore because you don't run in the same sins you used to and aren't "fun" anymore.

Any or all of these changes in your marriage might create a ton of anxiety and worry because you know something has changed but he won't admit it or even discuss the possibility of it having a measure of truth to it and this frustrates you and next thing you know, you are yelling and crying and discouraged and upset and filled with more anxiety. You look like a crazy woman and you feel like a crazy woman and you struggle to get your point across or you feel unheard and misunderstood and you become convinced he's a narcissist who is doing this on purpose to make you look unstable and on and on this goes.

Well what is a wife to do? All of the studying of the word and the practice of righteousness seems to fly out the window in this stressful time because how can I practice being discreet, chaste, and good right now? In fact, you've already crossed the threshold of being a good girl and are on full destructive mode right now. The train to crazy town has left the station and you are driving the locomotive full speed ahead and what's most distressing is that your husband didn't jump aboard to go berserk with you this time. He looks like he's unaffected by your distress, which means this is another thing to add to your list of grievances, right? Or is this just me?

I find that things are going well, I am being discreet, quiet, kind, just a good girl overall but then he hits my sore spot, that part of me that yearns for approval or coddling by maybe asking why have I changed so much or whatever my sensitive spot is about, and then the shouting match begins and I am angry, mostly at myself for having changed so much or abandoned ways that no longer are sustainable given my current situation. Doesn't he see? Doesn't he see that he made me this way by withholding affection or overlooking me or being gone so much or not being sweet like he used to? Doesn't he get it?

Let's look at some of the sore spots of the wife. I'll start with one that was most important to me. I started wearing floor length skirts full time I guess about 6 years ago, partly because he encouraged me to do so and partly because I kept getting stung by bees under my shorter skirts and I didn't want to find cute shoes all the time and long skirts killed 5 birds with one stone. Anyway, I wore them at home for a year before I ventured out. You see, I was nervous that people would think I was weird or old & frumpy and I also knew that my curves would be camouflaged so I wouldn't be able to compete with other women who showed off their body. This feeling of fear was verified when one day while shopping with my husband, a young, curvy woman with bodycon clothing on stepped between Brandon and I to get something. I felt like she was dismissing me completely to get my husband's attention and I was extremely embarrassed about how I was dressed. Women are trophies (according to the world) or crowns (according

to the bible) of their husbands and this woman, I felt, was telling me that I looked stupid and could potentially lose my man because of it. Maybe my imagination was running wild, but I felt that she was right, and so I decided right then that I was done with this stupid way of dressing. However, my husband completely ignored her and reached past her to grab my arm saying something like “come on honey let's go down the aisle”. Now regardless of what he did or if he did nothing at all, I had to come to terms with the fact that my treasure was in my body and the bible says that where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. The shape and attractiveness of my body to estimate my worth or my value was the real issue here. This took me down a path of understanding the miniature idols I had erected in my heart. My body, what little beauty I possessed, my smarts, all of these things had thrones in my heart and were competing with the new nature. How can I be chaste in dress when every fiber of my being wants to display my goods before men? How can I be a good woman when I fly in a rage if my husband fails to compliment my looks? How can I be discreet when I walk around spouting all of my so-called wisdom? This old life, my old ways of doing things had to change-has to change- because I still struggle with this. Yeah, I know the scriptures say beauty is vain but I liked being pretty and I am having a hard time accepting that my beauty is fading away. I know charm is deceitful but I am struggling to avoid using it to gain favor with my husband or the youtube algorithm. One of my favorite verses in Proverbs 2 says When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul;

11 Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee:

I had to learn what the Lord wants, let that knowledge become pleasant to my soul so that discretion would preserve me and understanding keep me...keep me from looking like a godless woman who is without knowledge of the holy ways of the Lord God. keep me from throwing off my modesty in order to gain looks of attraction from men and envy from women. Keep me from laying up my treasure in this earthly body that is disintegrating daily, beauty that fades with time and charm that is seductive and deceptive. I needed to invite wisdom, my sister, into my heart and mind to be transformed into more Christlikeness.

Maybe your sore spot is your beauty. You see wrinkles, your lashes are thin, your face is dry and cracked and your husband gives 75% less compliments about your beauty. You usually have to ask him if you are pretty and of course, he agrees immediately but you know he's just being agreeable because you used to never have to ask. He talked about how beautiful your eyes were and how much he loved your smile but he never says these things on his own anymore. And at this point, this place of desperation, you don't give a flying flip about beauty being vain, you just want to feel beautiful and desired and so you fish for compliments and attention while he accuses you of just wanting attention and compliments and yes he's right but so what, i deserve to hear these things from my own husband. At some point, it's important for you to take this whole scenario to the throne of grace, confessing your obsession with your beauty, agreeing with scripture that it is indeed in vain and leave the idol there at the mercy seat, refusing to give in to its demand to be made much of.

Or maybe you struggle with a lack of romance as the years have gone by. Romantic, sweet, tender, thoughtful love has been replaced with a lack of appreciation, distant kisses and meaningless embraces and you are consumed with nostalgia from the days of old when your husband was so thrilled to be the man you loved. He made much of you, much of your relationship and you fell in love with his attentions and now they have ceased and you feel just terrible about it all. You are filled with anxiety because you don't feel adequate or you aren't able to put forth all of the effort you gladly did when you were more youthful. And sometimes you indulge in your pity and fly off the rails, hurling accusations that he doesn't love you, behaving not as becometh holiness but as becometh derangement. This fascination with romance has ballooned into full fledged idolatry and you ask and don't receive because you ask with wrong motives. Selfish ambition for satisfaction in the exact way you desire causes bitter jealousy and all sorts of evil to manifest.

Life and all of its ups and downs tends to supersede what ought be our primary fixation, the glory of God in the face of Christ. All of these idols, the little foxes, are stumbling blocks that trip us up and cause us to see only what is earthly and fleshly and the pursuit of satisfying our earthly and fleshly desires.

While on one hand, I love to talk to women about marriage and motherhood and womanhood but on the other hand, I hate to be seen as magnifying the earthly at the expense of the spiritual reality that mankind exists to glorify God and that all of life is about him, marriage especially as it pictures Christ and the church. It won't do to have lovers on the side who seek to dominate our attention and affection, right? And by lovers I mean romance and our bodies and beauty and favor, these loves we like to have near and enjoy for ourselves but will never be satisfied and aren't so easily killed for a greater affection, which should be to desire that Christ be formed in us. Your husband doesn't exist to ruin your life, he's a pretty powerful tool used by our almighty God to prune and refine his bride that he might present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy. This is what we live for, to be made into Christlikeness. So look upon these loves as ways the Lord is beckoning you to mortify your flesh to rid you of your shame and seek to search deep in your heart to find new seeds popping up before they root down and become powerful.

What about you? What little idols existed in you that caused you to stumble over before you hunted them down with extreme prejudice? I'd love to hear about it down below in the comments section.

That's it for today guys....