

# Flee the Lusts of the Flesh - Escape for Your Life

by Erlo Stegen

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*The sermon emphasizes the importance of escaping from sin and directing one's energies towards God and good works, in order to live a healthy and pure life and to propagate the gospel.*

**Duration:** 1:01:45

**Scripture:** Genesis 19:26, Exodus 14:13, Matthew 2:13, John 10:10, 1 Corinthians 10:13, 1 Peter 2:11

**Topics:** "Lusts Of The Flesh"

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## Description

In this sermon, the preacher emphasizes the importance of living a righteous and pure life. He encourages listeners to flee from bad talk, foul mouthing, and stealing, and instead, to be helpful and beneficial to others. The preacher also highlights the negative consequences of promiscuity and sexual immorality, stating that it is self-evident in a person's appearance and demeanor. He laments the high number of illegitimate children being born and questions why society has become so morally degraded. The sermon concludes with a reminder to always focus on moving forward in faith and not looking back.

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## Transcript

Siabonga nukbonga mkosi, lelitubo sipelona, Uguba sishtale nga sezi nyaweni zake, Zako zitule njengo maria, Laputa tewabo esha enyuga, Ekata zwa izi denigi, Kotwa umaria waketo pambili, Watale nyaweni zako, wangapasa nyeswaluto, Moga ababe ilelo nalelo kama. We thank you for such a wonderful opportunity to sit quietly at your feet like Mary, Not to be hot and bothered like Martha, But rather to sit, not allowing anything to disturb us, That we receive each and every word you have to say. Amen.

Istobo setu, balega usinde. Our theme is, escape for your life. Onga balegi, gega sinde, Udokineshokweni nakanjani.

The one who hasn't escaped, will never escape finally, for he will land in hell. Seswage ngolot, God umgake, Nomi ngenozu asezulwini ngenoze imbili, Zbaba mbabonge, Ulot, nongake, Namatotaga zomabili, Babajwe nasistombe, God umgaloti, Wasalem ufutesuat, Kumbulan umgaloti, Wapenduga waba intrigara saot, Unkulu unkulu amenzu, Guba usauti, Uguba uena, Usizakale ngaye, Ungabi umgaloti. Despite the fantastic opportunity to escape, And that the angels were literally dragging them out, Nevertheless, Lot's wife, as we see depicted in this picture here, She decided to turn around, And God changed her into a pillar of salt.

It was only Lot and his daughters who escaped. God made that to happen so that you might escape. Guba indaba, Enzimale, Unkulu kula gasveze, Akalazemuva, Gani, Guba uena uyazi, Umakalazemuva, Uguti ukutuaini.

And Jesus made a point of it when he said, Don't be like Lot's wife. Now, God knows what it is that inspires you to turn back or to look back. We don't know why she looked back.

But you know why you look back. Uenu yasazi, Uyayazi into yako, Ekale sisayemu. Leontove, Yokaeta, Bubukjesutu, Obegisan lekejeni, Akalazemuva, Agafanelu musoezulu.

You know what that thing is. And Jesus had said, Whoever puts his hand to the plow and glances back is not worthy of me. I was so pleased to hear about the testimonies yesterday.

I was delighted to hear of what was said and the boy who mentioned that it's just become the norm of girlfriends, boyfriends, that which really smells of the world. In this experience that Lot underwent, he was able to be a true man in that. He just kept his eyes set to the front.

And you too, whether it's your wife, your husband, or whoever it may be, only forward, never backwards. He didn't look back, neither did he talk back to her to check on where she was because his eyes were set to the front and had he asked about her, she was already a pillar of salt. Today, now looking, escape and be saved.

Let's look at what this escape and fleeing means. And we read 2 Timothy chapter 2. Many people start with escaping but they don't finish it and that's why I say to you young people, what you've begun, you've finished. In particular, those who made that decision yesterday, even in King Chaka's time, he was a man who would deal with any soldier who was wounded in the back.

They were only allowed to have wounds from battle in the front, otherwise they were seen as cowards and they were put to death. If you have got a wound on your back, cry to God and see whether He shows grace. If you do get wounds, then they should only be on the front, on the forehead.

2 Timothy chapter 2 verse 22. Flee also youthful lusts, but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. Flee youthful lusts.

Oh, the troublesomeness of youthful lusts. Many are absolutely destroyed through it. There is no text saying, fight against the youthful lusts.

Neither does it say, wrestle and conquer. There is only one way, and that is to flee, run away from it. It doesn't help.

If you have got a viper, a deadly snake, that you lock yourself in the room and then you think you are going to escape harm, it will kill you. But this... With the lusts of the flesh, some fall into that pit every day. It's on a daily basis and they just never escape it.

How troublesome, some even married, nevertheless still troubled by the lusts of the flesh. Troubled by youthful lusts where one says, oh, Satan has infiltrated with this deadly snake. Where a person is old already or growing old but they are still troubled by youthful lusts.

Maybe they are at school or college but they are still troubled by the lusts of youth. Or maybe they are a child but they are already troubled by lusts. And the Bible says, flee from that.

Now, the Greek meaning does not imply that you intellectually run away from it or that in your thoughts you try and fight and escape from it. It means literally removing yourself out of it. You flee bodily.

It means it in the very literal sense. You watch out for those men who touch and fondle. They are another sort.

Let them flee bodily. It means in the very literal sense that there always be a distance between you and him. Although yesterday we also pointed out that there are those who are flirtatious boys among boys, the homosexual side of it.

So you flee from every aspect of it. Run from it. Escape.

When the wife of Potiphar was tempting Joseph and then even handled him and grabbed hold of his jacket he escaped out of that coat. He said, how can I sin against God? Yes, we do live in the body and there are the natural inclinations but the Bible says, flee from the lusts. For if you do not run from it you will die.

You will not be healed. You will not escape. And through your fleeing many others will escape.

Joseph. Joseph. Joseph.

Joseph. Joseph was woken up by the Lord at night through a dream and he said, now, take your wife. Take the baby and flee to Egypt right now.

He got up and he said, Mary, wake up. Take the child. Let us escape right now and take up the little that we have.

And they took that gold, frankincense and myrrh and off they went immediately to Egypt. Peace. If it works out and it is in the Lord's way that we can once we get to heaven and the trumpet sounds and we are met by the saints that we can talk and listen to other stories I'd love to go to Joseph and shake his hand, congratulate him and say, thank you for being obedient to God when he woke up that night with a dream that you immediately obeyed through that eye of the Lord and I have the Savior.

Had he been disobedient then it means that he would have come up with an excuse by saying, no, I don't, it's not convenient that's not suitable, Mary is weak. What would we have done without the Savior? Generation after generation has escaped because of him and you too, by your escaping from sin and fleeing others have escaped others will flee with you and that God should say specifically flee youthful lusts, why so? because youthful lusts will hurt you wound you they will wound you both bodily and spiritually that your body should be healthy and well and you've got that energy it's wonderful channel that energy into the preaching and the propagation of the gospel look at the what healthy cattle healthy bulls are like oxen are weaker than cattle if they are normal and with that full health that is what you need to do as well that you are healthy and well and escape from sin ... .. and the bible declares that you should not give your strength to women in other words use that health and that energy, direct it into the right thing, otherwise you end up being wounded and destroyed because of the sin and you girls you allow men just to wipe their filth off you and you get destroyed with it ... .. you destroy your own health your own energy your own fitness if you are giving your ... .. if you are giving your energy ... .. and the person who directs his energies in the right direction that person is not worthy you can see this person doesn't wake up late they are not lazy having lost all their energy in this sin but instead they have preserve that energy for God. Don't take your energies and distribute it for evil but take it for God.

And such a person has a health about them in every way in their words or something that come with honesty and integrity instead of the opposite where it's the the awful stench of promiscuity and of whoredom that comes out of a person's mouth. And that's why I say it comes and it is despicable. It's just an abomination to those who hear that person and that sin destroys people's energies and nations.

I've for a long time told you how civilizations are totally destroyed like the Roman one. Your spiritual life can never survive if you're wasting your thoughts and you're all about you that you're thinking always and you're on that topic and I told you yesterday about that man who even ended up committing suicide. The body cannot survive the attack of lust.

Have a look at those who walk in purity. Note their face. Note even their step.

There's just something different about them. On the other hand the one who's promiscuous, even 12 years of age, they look worn out and tired and they just it's self-evident. My own mother, the one who gave me birth once many years ago, I remember we were sitting in a tent and it was visible just from the flap down that you could see these girls walking by and you could just see them from the lower half and she would say that one just in her step she's a Even the way a person gives themselves over as in making a statement about their clothing and their swing or their strut you can see this person is promiscuous, they're sexually loose.

Girls, why don't you invest in the right thing instead of being picked up by any old body who comes by on wheels or the lorry or a bicycle or tractor and you don't know where they come from, where they're going to and you allow yourself to be abused in that way. Instead rather turn your attention to Jesus and speak to that person about the Lord otherwise it's just a pit for you. But just look at the huge amount of babies being born out of wedlock, just illegitimate children at homes and these are children born in the image of God.

Why should it be like this? It's never been as bad as now. And you behave worse than cattle, worse than animals. At least a cow has a sense of duty towards its calf.

It'll rear it, it'll look after it. Animals will do anything to protect their young but you are worse than animals. In fact you should be making an apology to the animals because you desert the baby.

The father has no sense of duty, he deserts the baby, denies that it's his and one becomes lower than animals. I think of first Corinthians chapter 10. Let me read it for you.

From verse 1 to 5, that despite them being delivered and drinking of the same spiritual food, with most of them God was not pleased and their bodies were scattered in the wilderness. And verse 6, now these things became our examples to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted. And not become idolaters as some of them were, as it is written, the people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.

Nor let us commit sexual immorality as some of them did, and in one day 23,000 fell. It says it's written as an example for us. In recent years, you heard about the tsunami that happened with these huge waves that happened there in the east? Many drowned because the waves grew into an enormous size, up to 10 meters high and more, reaching heights like this auditorium.

Now there's a certain island in the Indonesian direction, it's called Simulu Islands. Just on that island, or those islands, there were 75,000 people. Just 7,000 died.

How did so many escape while most perished? How did so many escape while most perished? The tsunami, the tsunami. 75,000 people died. They had been taught, how many of those 7,000 that did perish, whether they were just old people or what? Seven.

75,000. Only seven. Only seven, sorry, not 7,000, but seven people only perished.

All the others remembered what they had been told, and they escaped to the mountains. Out of 75,000, only seven perished. They had felt that earthquaking, they had seen the sea retracting, and they knew the message, and they fled to the mountains.

Only seven of them died. They all escaped, because they were obedient to that escape for your life. If you listen to the Bible, then you will escape. If you heed the Bible message, you will escape.

You will also escape disease and dying prematurely because you have listened to the words of the Bible. And child desertion, previously I mentioned as well, how can you behave like that, deserting a child made in the image of God, where cattle and animals have that instinct to protect their young, but you just desert them and maybe those illegitimate children also grow up. I've seen many people with grey hairs because of the awful things that happen in those circumstances.

But how wonderful it is when we see the father with the child, the mother with the child, they're propagating the gospel, we want to bless such a child, we say this is part of heaven and we identify with that child. I also had children, six children, they've now grown up and they've got married, my youngest one is here and we rejoice that they have gone in this direction. What an awful... What a disgrace on the other hand it would have been to me had there been illegitimate children brought, some calling me grandfather and they've just been brought there and the children hadn't been married, just illegitimate children.

Don't take the flesh lightly because if you just ignore and you don't take seriously this it will cause you destruction. Where you'll have to apologise to the cattle and the animals and dogs because even a female dog will look after its young. So, escape youthful lusts, that means don't try and wrestle with it or try and just resist it and fight against it, no, escape, flee, remove yourself.

Now, the lusts of the flesh are not only sexual lusts, some are bound by the lust for drink, they are bound to alcohol, they lust after it, they destroy themselves and their families because of it. And it causes you to be destroyed in every way that you become dumb, even little children laugh at you, you can't even bring bread to the table because you spend your last penny on alcohol. Physically you are devastated, you think that you're putting this into you with no consequences but it's not like fuel which makes a car go, like petrol, instead it gets into you and it starts to destroy you, your liver after a while is corrupted, you vomit blood, you are destroyed.

The lusts of the flesh are destructive that even little children can recognize it and you as an older person, you have no control over your bodily functions anymore, the children have to wash your clothing and it is just utter devastation. And then that woman, as she gets older, she can't control herself anymore, she can't control herself because she has to have her alcohol, she drinks not only at home but she goes to these pubs and shebeens, she can't control herself, she wets herself, what a terrible thing so that it brings destruction even upon your children. I am not going to say anything, I am not going to say anything.

And the lust for alcohol causes that you cannot live normally, you can't hold a job, you can't wake up in the morning, instead you wake up with a headache, with bubblers, with a hangover, and you need a rec market to try and get you on the way again, and it's just absolute destruction. And it brings poverty, you might complain that others have taken away your wealth, but it brings poverty in your family, despite that you maybe still have a TV, and that brings the whole world and wickedness into your heart. And you complain as a woman now that your husband has deserted you and doesn't send back money for your children, your children don't help you, well if you fed them on the things of the devil, what do you expect to reap? And if you make your children hungry, how can you expect that child that through your habit of alcohol you've made hungry to respect you, instead they go out to steal, and you have pushed them into the sin of stealing.

They cannot work, they can jump around and dance, but that's it. They don't have brains in their head. And instead of brains in their head, you see that they're bound just by habits and instinct, if they hear just a bit of a beat, their body starts to jerk in different directions, they can't hold a job, they're unemployable, and instead that's the type of thing you have brought it about.

And we should... Those who bring dancing, the dancing of the world into the church, that's what we've repented of, we shouldn't be dancing in the church, that comes with a completely different spirit. Now, it says that we should escape, but it's not just stressing the negative, it means while doing good. Look at what Peter has to say.

Verse Peter 2 from verse 11. Beloved, I beg you, as sojourners and pilgrims abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul. Having your conduct honourable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.

There will never be a shortage of mockers, there will always be the wicked who will laugh and be arrogant against the gospel, but you are told to live differently, you should be the one escaping from evil while doing good. There will always be the seven who refuse to climb the mountain and to escape, there will always be those who refuse to climb the mountain of Calvary to go up that hill, but as for you, you escape, you escape for your life and you've heard how there are many different types of lusts from which we should flee. For instance, flee from bad talk, foul mouthing, and tell that person that's not the way to talk.

Instead of stealing, you do the opposite, now you're working, you're beneficial to others, if you've got extra clothing you can help others, instead of depriving others, you're assisting them now. And when there's bad music around, you need to know how to correct it, and you tell them what is wrong about it, you speak to them. Now your life becomes different, and you are now beneficial to society, instead of messing around, you're busy helping.

I'm so glad about our school children who can go to other school children and proclaim the gospel, that's what we need, otherwise Africa is dying, the world is dying of starvation for the gospel. I'm so glad about our school children who can go to other school children and proclaim Even as we are here this week, there are others who are not here, other young people who are busy preaching the gospel down in Cape Town, Smithfield, up north in Pumulanga and different places, they say it's a pity we're still at school, that we can't be full time in preaching the gospel. The Lord willing, in a month's time or so, next month, there's a man who wants to come, and that I should host him and take him around to primitive areas where you cannot walk, where rather by helicopter you can take people, so that people can hear the gospel.

That person said, I've heard how you are so desperate to get the gospel out, and how the I've asked Uncle Joe to assist in finding landing areas, there are some places where it is absolutely cut off from civilization, some places I've never seen a white man before. And there are some people who have just never heard, I've been told by different people, I remember Reverend Mabizela telling me a while back that there are some places that they are totally uncivilized, even cannibalistic. Our energies need to be directed towards what is good, propagating the gospel, spreading the gospel, not giving it out to sexual lust, but instead towards the kingdom.

Satan's intention has been to swallow the world, but God has come with his gospel. Jesus Christ. I've got many people There are many people, and even sick people, who are so in my heart, so dear to me, and remember, the Lord said he hasn't come to bring the gospel for the healthy, but for the sick.

And even though it is said that these people are terminally ill and that they must die, but the Lord works mightily. We have a place called Mseni, and that we see as a place for life. We're not reckoning with death, but we see how the Lord works.

Others asked, well, where's the graveyard, before we had even built it? I said, we're not reckoning with funerals, we're reckoning with life. By the Lord's grace, no lady has died there yet, and we are busy with the matters of life. And even in the worst of conditions, the Lord is able to touch.

Despite open sores, as they confess their sin, the Lord is even able to, and he does close sores. This is the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. You may stay with your lusts of sexual lusts, or the lusts of the drinking and other narcotics, and that you will be destroyed, but we want to be busy with matters of life, propagating the gospel.

We thank you, Lord Jesus, that you've come with your gospel into this wicked and corrupted world. That you've opened the way of escape, so that we can escape to Golgotha. So that we would not be destroyed, body and soul.

But instead have life, and that abundantly. Work Lord, continue with your working. Amen.

The day before yesterday, I phoned somebody who's down there, in Cape Town, and who has access to Parliament, who said, get the Minister of Health to come and see what the Lord is doing. She said, what mootie do you have there, what medicine? I said, the medicine we have is the gospel, and good nutrition. Thank you.

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