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**Theme:** Just a Gigolo

**Scripture:** Proverbs 5:18-19 NIV “May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth. A loving doe, a graceful deer - may her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be captivated by her love.”

**A Thought:** The genesis for this essay came from my car radio. I was listening to the zany and raspy voice of Louis Prima and his rendition of Just a Gigolo. The verses describe a forlorn man whose life is based on dating and romancing women. ‘Won’t some sweet mama come and take a chance with me cause I ain’t so bad.’ Sadly, the lyrics describe many married Christian husbands who delve in adulterous affairs. The men come from all walks of life and sit next to their respective spouses and children in church pews every Sunday. Or they are missing in action. Their sinful obsession is destructive and tragic. Christian women bear the brunt of their transgressions. A fly on the wall of any woman’s bible study or prayer meeting will hear the gut-wrenching prayers, crying out and pleading to the Lord to bring back their husbands into the spiritual fold. For many, to no avail....men may feel guilty but the sexual lust and the excitement of an adulterous affair take precedence... Matthew 5:27-28 (NIV) “You have heard that it was said, ‘Do not commit adultery.’ But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.” Billy Graham, Evangelist and Author, *The Journey*, “Don’t ever think that sin is only a minor misdeed or an occasional outburst of wrongdoing. Sin is far deeper than that. It is a spiritual disease that leaves us weak and powerless. Its hold over us is so strong, that only God can overcome it.” In that vein there are many Christian outreach groups for men ready and willing to assist in confronting the lustful desires of the heart. Check out the name of groups and locations with your pastor.

Now....what are your thoughts? Write them down.

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**Talk to yourself:**

- Are you currently struggling with lustful and sexual thoughts?
- Are you currently or have been involved in an adulterous affair?
- How is your relationship with your spouse and or girl friend?
- What are you doing spiritually to combat the world's temptations?
- Have you taken steps to conquer the feelings and or actions?
- Have you sought help from a pastor or Christian counselor?

**Scriptures to read:** Romans 7:24-25; 1 Peter 1:13-16; James 4:6-7; Proverbs 5: 2-23, 10:19-21, 23,27-29; Proverbs 12:13,16, 22; Leviticus 20:10; Matthew 5:27-32; Romans 7:7-25; 2 Samuel 11:1-12; Hebrews 2:18; 1 Peter 5:8-10

**Quote:** Aurelius Augustine (354-430) "I am utterly depraved," he thought, and "the mind alone is no match for the seduction of evil pleasure."

**Bottom Line:** If you question the Lord's exhortation as spoken by one who knows of sin King Solomon...the wealthy sage who had everything within reach of his fingers, you are mighty, mighty, mistaken. Gents, there is a prize to pay. Rest your ears on Proverbs 5:21-23 (NIV) "For a man's way are in full view of the Lord, and he examines all his paths. The evil deeds of a wicked man ensnare him; the cords of his sin hold him fast. He will die for lack of discipline, led astray by his own great folly." The crooked path of sin is a fast road to a dark tunnel with no light in sight. A sinful continuum at best. All we have to do is look at ourselves in a mirror of introspection and memories of the harden heart, our lustfulness, our corrupt morality, our excuses and our endless apologies come to play. Our integrity and compassion to love unconditionally nowhere to be seen except by God. Our Lord knows us well..."for a man's way are in full view of the Lord." There is hope at the end of the tunnel... the sinful chain is very strong but our Lord can break it with his love and holiness. Paul's tells us so in Romans 7:24-25 (NIV) "What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord! "The end result for many husbands is not unlike the song's refrain..."When the end comes I know they'll say just a gigolo as life goes on without me."

**NOW.....THAT'S THE BOTTOM LINE.**

Spiritual Dabbler,

Your bro, Ray