



Beautiful – Week 1

May 17, 2009

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Last week we started talking to our women about motherhood and what it means to be a mother and there was too much to do in one week, so we are going to expand it over three weeks. We've titled this part of it "Beautiful". The reason we titled it "Beautiful" because when you look into the heart of women, one of the things that they desire most is to be beautiful. Now that's not something that really crosses men's minds very often. But, that is a desire in their heart. For someone to see them and be captivated by them, that's the way God has created them. They have been brought up and taught that and it's in their DNA to captivate the heart. Now, as a little girl, you begin wanting to captivate your father's heart. I can tell you my two daughters have captivated my heart from the beginning. I remember when my oldest daughter was born; I spent hours staring at her. She was the most beautiful thing in the world. As my two girls grew older, anytime they came into the room, I brightened up because they captivated my heart. When they would come in wearing their little dresses and spin around and want me to see them and pick them up and love on them, it was very natural for me because they captivated my heart and if you're a father here today you know exactly what I'm talking about. The little boy comes in, you punch him in the gut, grab him by the head, throw him down; the girl comes in and you sigh and just think she is the most beautiful thing in the world.

I picked the word beautiful because "cute" is okay, and even the word "pretty" doesn't define it, but beautiful is the perfect word. The problem is most of you ladies don't feel beautiful at all. When I use that word and say you're a beautiful woman, you think...not me. Not that you didn't try...I mean, this morning you worked on it. It's amazing what women do. It boggles a man's mind. You get up in the morning, you try to pick out the right clothes, try to do your hair just right, put on your makeup. Guys; really, how did we get dressed this morning? *Is it clean or does it skink too bad?* On Sunday morning I have one other criteria...is it ironed. That's it! That's all that matters for guys, but *not* girls. You spend your time taking care of yourself; making yourself as beautiful as you can possibly be, because it is in your nature to want to be seen as a beautiful person. The problem is a lot of us wrap up our identities; especially women, in things we don't need to. One of those things is our appearance. We decided if we are of worth or value if someone thinks that we are beautiful; if someone looks at us and is captivated by us. I want you to see this morning more than anything else if you wrap your identity up in the wrong thing, it will leave you empty and depressed. If you wrap your identity and your value in the wrong thing, it can destroy you.

So we are going to look at six things this morning that women seem to wrap themselves up in. Perry Noble put this list together and I think it fits very well in the life of most women that I have met and known. You may be the exception this morning and if you are; okay, but I can guarantee you somewhere in your heart, one of these six things are where you are placing some value that it more high than it needs to be.

One of the biggest lessons I learned with this watching my youngest daughter as she grew up. She was involved in gymnastics and she became highly competitive. She ended up going to Plano at World Olympic and her coach was the gold medalist's dad. We started noticing at twelve years old she starting having a physical and mental breakdown because of the pressure. She was working out 35 hours a week, driving back and forth to Plano six days a week actually. She was homeschooling and she started getting migraines and almost having seizures when she was having the migraines. We looked at all this and realized it was all the stress around this competitive gymnastics. I remember the night I went into her room and I began to speak with her and I said, *"Baby, you don't have to be in gymnastics, you can quit."* That's all she knew, and I will never forget what she said as tears ran down her face, *"But then I won't be your little gymnast."* That broke my heart so I looked at her and said, *"Baby, you don't have to be a gymnast for us to be proud of you. Your value is not in the fact that you're a gymnast; your value is in the fact that you're my daughter. And I value that above all else. I don't care what you do."* I think she caught that at twelve, but I don't think that a lot of ladies in here have caught that yet. You're still wrapping your value in things that will leave you empty. You're wrapping your value in things that will leave you depressed. So at the end of the day I want you to see where your value truly comes from. I want you to see that you are truly beautiful.

The first place we find ourselves getting wrapped up in is our appearance. I know that happens and I understand that. You work on it; everything has to be just right. Women and their hair...oh my gosh! That is the most frustrating thing for a man by the way...women's hair. You grow it out so you can cut it; then you can layer it; you grow it back out so you can have bangs, and then you don't want bangs and you need the right color and if you can find the right color then everything's going to be wonderful and I will be beautiful because...oh my gosh! It drives us out of our minds! Men have two styles...cut and needs cutting. That's it! We're done, but women; you can spend hours and hours working on your hair. Some of you have a bad day because you have a...bad hair day! I have a bad hair day every day of my life and it doesn't affect me at all. For women it is so important that their hair is just right and their makeup has to be right and then they walk into the grocery store and on every page of every magazine is this perfect women and you just don't measure up. They are airbrushed, perfectly done; professional makeup and you look at that and all of a sudden you feel ugly. You don't feel valued or worthy and we can see it in our day and time when we watch movie stars. Have you seen some of the older women and men that were movie stars and were very attractive to the eye when they were young? Do you see what they are doing now? They're scary! Their faces frighten me. I saw Kate Jackson; she was in Charlie's Angels. I saw her on an interview with Farrah Fawcett; I literally jumped it scared me so bad. Her belly button is now a cleft in her chin. It's an amazing thing to see them all stretched and pulled and trying to hold on to

something because that's where they found their value. And listen...there are always going to be somebody prettier. You may have the right hair, the right clothes, and the right hair color. You may have dieted for twenty years and are in perfect shape but there's always someone prettier. You can't find your value in your appearance because if you find your value in your appearance, you will try to hang on to it longer than you should. Now some of our younger girls are getting caught up in this. They're thinking they are valued if they get attention and they found out to get attention they have to wear more makeup and less clothes and so we have our girls running around in clothes that are not decent and are showing way too much because they crave that attention and if a guy will look at them they will feel valued for their beauty instead of seeing what's on the inside. They're powdering up the outside and they are revealing way too much because value is found in the way you look. If you follow that course then you are going to be empty. You will be depressed.

Some women find value in their house. That's shocking too, because guys...if women hadn't of taken over, we'd still be in caves. Honestly, caves with a digital TV. That's really all that we need...big screen; the whole cave covered. But women took over and now we're in these houses and for some reason, many, many placing value in their home. Their home has to be just right; their home has to look a certain way; their home has to be decorated and has to be kept up with styles. Guys, really do you even know what's in on the walls in your house? I've got no idea except where the TV is and then the remote. Those are the only two items in the house that I am concerned with. But apparently, other women come into your house and make notes. I had no idea. Women come into the house, they make a mental note, they check your baseboards to see if they're clean; they check for dust; they check to see the way its decorated. Apparently, and you women can help me with this, when they leave your house they judge you based on how well you did and then they must tell everybody else... *"You should have seen her house! It's so eighty's!"* What does that even mean...the decorations are from the eighty's! What?! But for women, it's important. I'm telling you, there are women in here that if their house isn't right, their heads not right. I'm serious, I'm just telling the truth the way it is. You can't leave the house unless everything is put in place. I could go to your house right now and give you a heart attack just by moving stuff because your value is found in that house and if the house is right, then you're right. Guys, I'm going to give you a little bit today because you need to know this. If your women's house is dirty and your clothes are on the floor and there are dirty dishes in the sink and you go into the bedroom tonight and try to make your move...it isn't going to happen! Because when the house is messed up her head isn't in the right place. The sexiest thing you can do for your wife is to clean the kitchen. You wash a dish, you vacuum...your wife comes in and says *"You're so hot right now!"* I'm telling you...you should do that because the house is important to them. I understand wanting a nice house but when it becomes a priority, when you find your value in your home, well then you will find yourself empty and depressed.

Some of you find your value in your kids. You live through your kids. You don't want to but you do, you're living through your kids. Especially you women, a lot of women are living through their daughters. They want their daughter to be the belle of the ball. They want their daughter to be the homecoming princess. You are watching them grow up and your reliving

everything through them and I want you to understand something...it's going to mess you up. Because your kids are going to grow up and they are going to make some bad choices. They're going to make mistakes and if you're living through your children; when your children make mistakes that are not your fault you are going to punish yourself and you're going to devalue yourself and you will feel like you've failed as a parent. For some of you in Ellis County, raising kids is like a competitive sport. How many things can my child be involved in...how many awards can my child win...how many trophies can my child collect...Is my child the best athlete...is my child the best cheerleader? It doesn't matter. If you are so busy in life taking your kid from place to place that you don't have time to sit down and have a meal with them...you're not doing them any favors. When they grow up they're not going to remember second place in the soccer tournament; they're not going to remember that their cheerleading squad won a trophy. They're going to remember the family times. That's where you invest in their lives. That's where they find value. We did a video for this wedding and we asked Bonham and Misty, who are about to get married in June, what are your favorite memories. Bonham has been an athlete his entire life, he was quarterback in Waxahachie, he played baseball and he is playing baseball in college now. He is a great athlete. Misty was a great gymnast and cheerleader and she goes all over the world doing cheerleading and coaching. She's won a lot of championships. So, here we have two kids who have succeeded by the world's standards. I asked them, *"What are your favorite memories?"* Bonham never mentioned hitting a home run. Misty never mentioned winning a competition of any kind. Do you know what they said? *"The time that our families were on vacation together; the times that are families spend doing...The time we were together in our backyard doing back hand springs."* I want you to understand folks when you're raising children...if you're raising these children to be the stars; you are going to fall flat and it's going to be empty and you're going to be depressed. I want you to spend time with your kids but I want you to spend quality time with your children and yelling at them at the baseball field is not quality time. For some of you who find value in your kids, I can tell you as an older father who has been through it; they're going to hurt you. You better not find your value in them. You better find it in what we are going to talk about in a few minutes.

Then ladies, a lot of you find your value in relationships. You have to be with a man. Especially for these young girls when it starts in junior high. You value yourself by if you have a guy. A lot of you are not looking for Mr. Right; you're looking for Mr. Right Now. Because you feel like you have to be with someone and if you're not with someone then you're not of value. If you haven't catch somebody's eye; if you don't have a man's attention; if there is not a man in your life, you don't feel complete, you don't feel valued, and you don't feel beautiful. I want you to understand something...some of you have lowered your standards so much that you are going to be depressed and empty. Some of you have lowered your standards to the point that you just ended up with scuds. You just found any guy that would take you and you regret that now. And you will regret it and you made choice growing up just so you could be with someone. So someone could think your were beautiful. And I want you to know that if you find yourself in a relationship and you think your husband makes you of value, if you think your boyfriend makes you of value, they're going to hurt you and you're going to find yourself empty.

Some women find themselves in their career; their job; how it goes at work. See men and women are so different when it comes to this stuff. Men, we have the wonderful ability to compartmentalize things. We can put things in little compartments and we're fine. We can go to work, hate our boss, and can have all kinds of problems there. We can leave work, turn on the football game and work is over. Women can't do that. Women; if they have a bad job and they are upset in their job then they're upset in their house and their relationships. They can't compartmentalize. Everything is involved. Listen you're never going to find the perfect working environment. For ladies, if you're finding your worth in the job that you're doing outside the home, you are not going to find yourself of value; you're not going to feel beautiful; you're not going to make it because it's going to leave you empty and depressed.

One other area, and this may shock you, a lot of women try to find their value in religion. You try to be that spiritual person and you get involved in all these bible studies and you go to every bible study that you could possibly go to and I want you to know something. More women have destroyed themselves by being around godly women. Because you show up at bible studies and they're not bible studies. They're gossip sessions. Oh, they start out reading the bible. *"In the beginning God created man...you should have seen the man He created my husband to be! He's horrible! Let me tell you about my husband!"* You may have started in the bible but pretty soon it turns in to a group of women complaining about their lives and other times these godly women seem to make women feel inferior; like they don't measure up. I've seen a trend a lot of times; it's not in our church I don't think right now...I hope not...but I had some women who felt inferior because they didn't home school their kids. If you're really godly you're going to have your kids in home school and those are the real good moms and the rest of you...huh! I've seen a lot of women drop out of church because a group of ladies made them feel unworthy. I am not telling you not to be around godly women who love Jesus, because that is the one of greatest thing you can do. But don't get around a bunch of women who love rules and regulations and love to look down their noses at each other and love the gossip and love to talk bad about their husbands. That is not the place that you need to be. That will destroy you and if you try to find your value in following the right rules and being with the right group and going to enough bible studies and being godly enough...you're going to be destroyed.

All of these things are never going to line up and you're going to spend your time trying to get them to line up and you're going to be miserable. I can describe every woman in here that are trying to line all these things up; I can describe her in one word...TIRED. A lot of you are just tired. You're tired of trying to be the perfect wife, the perfect mom, the perfect employee, the perfect godly woman. You're tired. So today I want you today to open the scripture and I want you to see what God says. In Psalms 45:10-12 it says, *"Listen, O daughter, consider and give ear: Forget your people and your father's house. The king is enthralled by your beauty; honor him, for he is your lord. The Daughter of Tyre will come with a gift; men of wealth will seek your favor."* So I want you to ask yourself three questions today about where you find value; where you can find yourself beautiful. This is it...first of all who do you listen to? Do you listen to what the world says? Who do you listen to? Do you listen to the media? This

bible right here in Psalms 45 is saying I want you to listen to God. I want you to listen to the creator. The father God is talking to you and he says *listen O daughter, consider and give ear.* Let me tell you something ladies, if you're listening to the wrong people, you're going to make the wrong decision every time. If you're listening to the wrong things, you're going to do wrong things every time. If you're trying to find your value in other people telling you, it's going to fail. So where do you find your value? Listen daughter...listen. Listen to who; listen to God, to the creator of all things. LISTEN. God is saying *I am your dad. I want to be your father; listen to me. Don't worry about everything else, listen to me.* When I say that God wants to be your father; for some of you women in here that's not a great picture. Some of you women were failed by your fathers. That was the first man that disappointed you and let you down and it's been a continuing cycle. For some of you, your father in your life was abusive or emotionally distant. For some of you, your father was not captivated by you and that started you off on the wrong road. God is saying today, *I know what is going on; forget your father's house I want you to listen to me. I want to be that dad to you. I want to be that father to you, I will never disappoint you, I will never abandon you, I will never let you down. I am captivated by you...listen to me daughter. I want to be the dad you always wished you had. I want to be the dad that you deserve; I want you to hear me.* A lot of us don't want to listen today because we're afraid of what God is going to say. If you grew up in church, you're the one who is afraid of what God's going to say because the church has beat you down all these years about how you're unworthy and not good enough and how you're not living the way God wants you to so and when I say I want you to listen to what God says, you shrink and want to cover up. But I want you to hear this verse; this is what God thinks about you. It says in verse 11, *"The king is enthralled by your beauty."* Here it is...the creator of the world; he is looking at every woman that he has created and the word enthralled means He is captivated; He is overwhelmed; He is overcome by your beauty and when God looks at women; every woman in this room, it says the King; the creator is caught up in you. Just like when I told you I wanted to stare at my daughters when they were born, how I couldn't take my eyes off of them...my daughters are 24 and 25 and when they walk down the stairs in my house, I am still captivated. I look at my daughters and they still take my breath away. I want you to know when God looks at you...you take his breath away. I know a lot of you don't believe that because you're not listening to what He says. In Psalms 139:13-14 it says: *"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well"* Let's go back even further. Genesis Chapter 2 says *"Everything has been created in the earth, God has created man."* It says basically how He created man was He made a mud pie and breathed life into it. So everything that was created came from the earth, came from mud and dirt; except one thing...you. It says He took a rib from Adam and He crafted and this is the only creation that He crafted and He made women. He's enthralled by your beauty. He put you down on this earth and the first time Adam saw her he just said wow. From the first time Adam saw woman he was captivated. He'd seen all of God's creations, he'd named all the animals, but when he saw what was formed in you...it blew him away. Women, you were made beautiful in the creators' eyes. Beautiful, everyone of you and if you will find your worth in Him; if you will listen to what He says about you, you will find yourself to be the beautiful creation that He has made. Now, I know there are some of you out there today thinking that *"I'm the exception. I'm divorced; I can't be beautiful to God. I've*

learned all my life that if I'm divorce that I'm a second class citizen." You think that if you're divorced God doesn't see you the same way. I want you to hear me...God thinks you're beautiful; He doesn't care that you're divorced. Maybe you're a single mom, you had a baby out of wedlock and think you've tainted yourself somewhat and God doesn't look at you like he looks at others. Or maybe some of you have done some bad things; you've made some big mistakes. You've done these things and you've given yourself away, you've not treated yourself the way God would want you to and you look at that and say..."*Not me.*" I want you to hear so clearly today, God is not concerned with any of those things; He loves you just as you are. That's why Jesus came to forgive those sins and throw them away and to cast them out. So I want you to hear today that God thinks you are beautiful. I want you to listen to Him, I want you to hear what He thinks about you and I want you to live for Him. That's what it says; Honor Him for He is Lord. Look at this verse; this is for single ladies that are here. "*The daughter of Tyre, men of wealth will seek your favor.*" Teenage girls...you want a man of worth, then love God...listen to God and wait for God to bring that person to you. It says God will bring them to you and I love the part...men of wealth. I mean you can fall in love with poor guys but it's great when you fall in love with the rich guy! Men of wealth will come to your door, the problem is that some of you are so insecure that you go out there and you turn over rocks looking for guys because you just want to be with a guy. Somehow, you want someone to validate you and you're going out there getting guys that are not men. You are getting guys that aren't worthy of the gift. And you panic because you don't want to be alone. Well, you know what? God says you'll never be alone. Live for me, listen to me and let me be captivated by your beauty and I will bring the right man into your life. It's lucky for some of you guys that your wife was slumming, because they probably deserve better. I want you to understand, God is captivated by you.

One last thing I want you to do. I want you to think of the person in your life you admire the most. Who is the one person in your life that you admire more than anybody else? What quality do you admire? I want you to write it down somewhere. If you didn't write it down, do you have it in your head? Did it have anything to do with their appearance? Did it have anything to do with their house, their kids, and their career, with their relationships or with their religion? Did anything to do with that or was it a different quality? Strive to live like the person you admire and let go of all this other stuff. Try to have that quality whether it's honesty, compassion, mercy, love, whatever that quality was, live for that and find your value there. Will you bow with me? *Father God, we thank you for the privilege of being able to see the beauty of your masterpiece creation; of your beauty of women. Father, help women in this church today find their value in you and know that they're beautiful in your sight and then help them to live accordingly. Not out there throwing themselves at men, trying to be beautiful, trying to make everything line up. But just let them rest in you. Thank you Father.*