



Woe to the Oppressor

Various Scriptures

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As we near the end of our series on *Redeeming Sex and Sexuality*, we will consider some of what the Bible says about abuse.

1. The Reality of Abuse (Ecclesiastes 4:1; Micah 2:1; Malachi 2:14; James 4:1-3)

2. The Results of Abuse (2 Samuel 13:19)

3. The Response to Abuse (Psalm 82:1-4; 1 John 4:10; Jeremiah 17:14)

Questions to Consider

1. Beyond physical violence and sexual assault, what could be some other forms that abuse may take? What verses can you find that might be applicable to some of those other forms?
2. What are some verses that show God's attitude toward those who use their power or position or strength to oppress other people (For example, Micah 2:1)?
3. Malachi 2:14 speaks of God's judgement against husbands who treat their wives treacherously. What does it mean to treat someone treacherously? Have you ever dealt with someone that way, or been treated that way by another person?
4. What is the role of the abuser's heart when it comes to domestic abuse or sexual assault? What does the Bible say about what's happening in his or her heart?
5. What do we learn from Tamar (2 Samuel 13:19) about the suffering that a victim of sexual assault may endure?
6. If a victim discloses abuse or there is reason to suspect abuse, especially of a child, what should be the priority of your response?
7. How would you counsel an abuse victim from Scripture who believes that she may have deserved the abuse or brought it on by something she did?

For Further Reading:

The Heart of Domestic Abuse: Gospel Solutions for Men... (2015) by Chris Moles
Is It Abuse? A Biblical Guide to Identifying Domestic Abuse... (2020) by Darby Strickland
Rid of My Disgrace: Hope and Healing for Victims... (2011) Justin & Lindsey Holcomb
When It Comes to Abuse, It Takes a Village blogpost by Glen Scrivner (Posted 7/6/21 at thegospelcoalition.org)