



The Recovery Covenant:

Visual Self-Control is Job 1

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Job 31:1-12 (NIV)

*"I made a **covenant** with my eyes not to look lustfully at a young woman.
2 For what is our lot from God above, our heritage from the Almighty on high?
3 Is it not ruin for the wicked, disaster for those who do wrong?
4 Does he not see my ways and count my every step?
5 "If I have walked with falsehood or my foot has hurried after deceit—
6 let God weigh me in honest scales and he will know that I am blameless—
7 if my steps have turned from the path, if my heart has been led by my eyes, or if my hands have been defiled,
8 then may others eat what I have sown, and may my crops be uprooted.
9 "If my heart has been enticed by a woman, or if I have lurked at my neighbor's door,
10 then may my wife grind another man's grain, and may other men sleep with her.
11 For that would have been wicked, a sin to be judged.
12 It is a fire that burns to Destruction, it would have uprooted my harvest.*

Job 31:1-12 (NLT)

*"I made a **covenant** with my eyes not to look with lust at a young woman.
2 For what has God above chosen for us? What is our inheritance from the Almighty on high?
3 Isn't it calamity for the wicked and misfortune for those who do evil?
4 Doesn't he see everything I do and every step I take?
5 "Have I lied to anyone or deceived anyone?
6 Let God weigh me on the scales of justice, for he knows my integrity.
7 If I have strayed from his pathway, or if my heart has lusted for what my eyes have seen, or if I am guilty of any other sin,
8 then let someone else eat the crops I have planted. Let all that I have planted be uprooted.
9 "If my heart has been seduced by a woman, or if I have lusted for my neighbor's wife,
10 then let my wife serve^a another man; let other men sleep with her.
11 For lust is a shameful sin, a crime that should be punished.
12 It is a fire that burns all the way to hell. It would wipe out everything I own.*

Job 31:1-12 (TLB)

*"I made a **covenant** with my eyes not to look with lust upon a girl. 2-3 I know full well that Almighty God above sends calamity on those who do. 4 He sees everything I do and every step I take.
5 "If I have lied and deceived— 6 but God knows that I am innocent— 7-8 or if I have stepped off God's pathway, or if my heart has lusted for what my eyes have seen, or if I am guilty of any other sin, then let someone else reap the crops I have sown and let all that I have planted be rooted out.*

⁹ “Or if I have longed for another man’s wife, ¹⁰ then may I die, and may my wife be in another man’s home and someone else become her husband. ¹¹ For lust is a shameful sin, a crime that should be punished. ¹² It is a devastating fire that destroys to hell and would root out all I have planted.

Note: The exact date of the Book of Job is unknown, but there is strong evidence that Job lived in the 2nd Millennium BC and that the Book was written around that time as well. This would make the Book of Job the oldest book in the Bible. The date of the book leans toward a patriarchal age (Abraham, Isaac & Jacob time-frame). The Date of the events are likely pre-Mosaic, even patriarchal.

The Recovery Covenant: Verse by Verse Breakdown

1. *“I made a covenant with my eyes not to look lustfully at a young woman.*

- agreement/commitment/contract/my word
- with the visual gift God gave me – My Eyes are MY Responsibility.
- What I take in through my eyes feeds my mind, heart and spirit just like what I eat – my mouth is my responsibility – feeds my body.
- An unhealthy diet will KILL ME!
- It’s a CHOICE: Not to LOOK! Don’t LOOK!
- Like the flame of a welder’s torch!! Don’t look at it.
- The Sun – DON’T look at it!
- Lustfully – longingly, sexual desire, undressing her, imagining her frame, that is WRONGFUL.
- She isn’t mine! I have ONE to be captivated by – MY WIFE!
- Young Woman – in their prime, most desirous, most shapely, pre-baby look

2. *For what is our lot from God above, our heritage from the Almighty on high?*

- Our Lot is what we get from GOD – our inheritance, our reward, HIS PAY for us.
- Reap what we sow! Clear understanding of scripture.
- **James 1:12** – *Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.*
- His blessing if we do what is right with our sexual desires.
- Our Heritage – Our History, Our Family Connection, Our tradition.
- Our LEGACY: what is passed
- on to us that we are proud of. WHAT WE STAND FOR!!!
- Currie’s NEVER Quick – What we pass down to our kids...

3. *Is it not ruin for the wicked and disaster for those who do wrong?*

- Let’s be Clear: RUIN and DISASTER! The opposite of VISUAL SELF-CONTROL – Ruin & Disaster
- You get this one wrong and it will destroy your life.
- The reap what you sow is clear.
- When TEMPTED and you don’t turn away, you start your downward spiral
- **James 1:13-15** – *“When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.*
- YOU ARE ACCOUNTABLE BEFORE GOD FOR SEXUAL SELF-CONTROL

4. Does He not see my ways and count my every step?

- Who are you trying to kid??? Do you think that GOD doesn't see what you do in secret?
- He SEES everything you do! Every STEP you take! Every Place you Go! Every Activity you engage in. Every person you meet
- When you think NO ONE KNOWS, NO ONE SEES – GOD DOES!!!
- What happens in VEGAS doesn't stay in VEGAS! It is the instant headline of GOD's Morning Paper on YOU!
- GOD READS YOUR MIND – He knows your every thought, Every Glance, Every Motive,
- He knows your intention – what you are trying to get away with.

5. If I have walked with falsehood or my foot has hurried after deceit.

- Have I lied to anyone or deceived anyone?
- Have I spoke the truth about who I am and how I am really doing?
- Have I lived a lie – pretending to be something that I am not?
- Have I quickly covered for my wrong behavior or thoughts?
- Am I keeping secrets?
- Did I stop volunteering my temptations, my challenges and my relapses?
- Am I conning those I am to be accountable to?

6. Let God weigh me in honest scales and he will know that I am blameless.

- Will you let God examine your heart?
- Psalm 139:23-24 SEARCH ME OH GOD... Heart, thoughts and actions all up for God's Scrutiny
- Do you have the courage to open your life in all regards to Him?
- Are you "ALL CLEAR" to the LORD
- Cleaner than a Polygraph's affirmation of Truth.
- Remember: You can't lie to God.
- If you have stopped lying to yourself and others – You will know when you are telling the truth.
- TRUTH SPEAK RESET takes some time to re-establish.
- BLAMELESS – leads to SHAMELESS.

7. If my steps have turned from the path, if my heart has been led by my eyes, or if my hands have been defiled,

- Have you TURNED OFF the Path of Recovery? From God's Path? They are the SAME!
- Evaluation of your Feet: Your STEPS – where you have gone and what you have been doing.
- Evaluation of your Eyes: What you have seen? How it connects to the Heart. Your motives.
- Has your heart been led by your eyes? REMEMBER verse 1! *"I have made a covenant with..."*
- Evaluation of your Hands: Now isn't THAT interesting? Do you SIN with your Hands?
- Self-stimulation is out of line for the recovering addict – PERIOD.

8. Then may others eat what I have sown, and may my crops be uprooted.

- The context is total agrarian. Almost all were farmers. It was their livelihood and their LIFE!
- Complete loss of your means of feeding yourself and family. Utter catastrophe.
- Like losing your job suddenly during a bad economy. Taking any job to survive.
- For most people, men especially, your identity is in your vocation? What do you do?

9. If my heart has been enticed by a woman, or if I have lurked at my neighbor's door.

- Heart **Enticed** – attracted or tempted by offering something for pleasure or advantage.
- Drawn in, desirous, wanting, sucked in, engrossed, preoccupied, fixated...
- Enticed by what a person looks like and imagining what sex would be like with them.
- Full-on OBJECTIFICATION of the Person: Treating them like an OBJECT, not a person.
- LURKING – going to places that are “SEEDY”. Hanging around with people you shouldn’t be
- Your presence itself as you LURK is a compromise. You should NOT be here!!!
- One of the 10 Commandments: COVET – long for what you don’t have, can’t have rightfully!
- First Illustration given is don’t COVET YOUR NEIGHBOUR’S WIFE...

10. Then may my wife grind another man’s grain, and may other men sleep with her.

- Let my spouse be married to another.
- Grind another man’s grain – is being partnered in life with someone else.
- Sleep with someone else – is being sexually active with someone else.
- Then, it is clear – Your marriage is OVER!
- Some of you may lose your marriage because of your addiction. Some of you have...
- Don’t fool yourself. Your addiction will cost you SO, SO much!

11. For ‘that’ would have been wicked, a sin to be judged.

- What is the ‘That’ here? If my PATH HAS TURNED TO REFLECT ENTICEMENT...
- Go back to where we started – verse 1- That’s the starting point of addiction!
- If I lusted, lurked or longed for what wasn’t mine.
- Unfaithfulness and using people is clearly a SIN.
- Addiction thought and behaviour is WICKED, SINFUL and DESTRUCTIVE!
- We need to confess our waywardness and repent, making the changes needed.

12. It is a fire that burns to Destruction, it would have uprooted my harvest.

- This UNCONTROLLED LUST will destroy you. It is a fire that will kill you!
- With a life of LUST – your addiction in control – you get BURNED!
- Capital “D” for Destruction – means HELL itself.
- You will lose ALL you value. Lose everything you own.
- Loss of closeness to those you love: Spouse, family, grandkids, extended family.
- Remember where the TURNAROUND STARTS – Verse 1! Read it again!!

Will you make the Recovery Covenant?