

JEWELRY..EARRINGS..VANITY

Gen. 35:4 *So they gave to Jacob all the foreign gods which they had, and the rings which were in their ears; and Jacob hid them under the oak which was near Shechem."*

Exod. 33:4-6 *When the people heard this sad word, they went into mourning, and none of them put on his ornaments. 5 For the LORD had said to Moses, "Say to the sons of Israel, 'You are an obstinate people; should I go up in your midst for one moment, I would destroy you. Now therefore, put off your ornaments from you, that I may know what I will do with you.'" 6 So the sons of Israel stripped themselves of their ornaments from Mount Horeb onward."*



What we see in these verses are biblical examples of how people were forced to humble themselves by the Patriarch's. In the first example we see Jacob did this to humble the people. He wanted them to seriously think about their vanity and get pure and right with Adonai. In the second example we see Moses being told to do the exact same thing.

Spiritual vanity is directly connected to idolatry. The pocket idols, or idols (objects) that are called gods, or associated directly with gods, or lifted up as a form of deity, are in fact the person's expressions of what they believe or have achieved. It would be similar to a person winning a first prize ribbon in a race, parading the ribbon around tied to their neck. They are proud of what they have achieved and the objects involved are proof of their vanity. Removing all jewelry was the sign in those days of a person going through a humbling process. It showed their humility.

Jewelry is a form of vanity, that's reality. Few will ever admit it, but it is the truth. People wear jewelry to promote themselves as special, that is vanity (excessive pride in

or admiration of one's own appearance or achievements). This pride, vanity, if gone unchecked, can quickly turn to narcissism.

If a woman wants to put on tasteful jewelry for her husband in private, or for a family occasion, it can be seen as something that uplifts the beauty of a woman, but when overdone, vanity.

The wedding ring and the earring given to slaves (servants) who had served their master for seven years, would probably be the only exceptions to jewelry that would not be considered vanity. We know in biblical times that a slave that had been with his master for seven years was given an earring so that he would be recognized in public as someone who has proven his commitment to his master. This was not based on vanity, but simply for identification purposes.

Tattoos, unless hidden where no one else can see them, are also vanity in most cases. People who wear a lot of jewelry or have tattoos showing are simply vain. They are looking for attention. In many cases they are doing so because they feel left out, unwanted, rejected from society, so they over compensate by doing outrageous things to get attention. Because of their own feelings of rejection, their need for attention is something they can't get enough of. They advertise their need by whatever means works for them. In many cases they will, and do, sell their soul just to fit in with others, even though they claim to be different and independent from everyone else. They are in a sense crying out to the world: "look at me", "pay attention", "I'm special", "I need to be noticed", "I am insecure", "please notice me", etc. In a biblical sense, you might say they are like a voice crying out in the wilderness, even though the wilderness is mainstream society.

We have all been around women who put on perfume so over-whelming it almost knocks you out. This is another example of someone so desperate they will make all those around them suffer the consequences of their terrible use of perfume, just to get noticed in a crowd.



This idea also manifests commonly with hair-styles and colors, absurd clothing, sculptured beards and moustaches, low cut blouses, skin tight pants, exotic cars, homes, boats, strange pronunciations and accents, etc. A man with a beard is one thing, but a man with a sculptured type goatee, fu Manchu, or other prideful facial hair sculpture, is usually vain. These people just want to be noticed, and are so desperate they will do almost anything to be noticed, even if it makes them look like fools. Look at the movie-stars, musicians, politicians, and various others out there that look gross just to get attention. These are vain people, and in many cases narcissists. The world is full of them.

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