

Satan's Traps

Sowing Your Wild Oats... Is it really worth it?

Personal Story: I want to share with you a showdown that I had with my parents when I was in high school. Many of my friends started coming to school on Tuesday mornings and discussing what they did on Monday night. I grew up in a small farming town. The closest big city was about 45 minutes away. One of the night clubs in that city began hosting high school students on Monday night for dancing and mingling. Kids at school began talking about how fun it was and how they were meeting lots of people.

After a few weeks of hearing about it, I decided to talk with my dad about going down to this club in Jackson, TN. I told him that the club did not serve alcohol on that night. I explained that other people my age were going to be there. I reasoned with him that all people did was dance. I had quite an elaborate justification for the reasons why I should be able to go and hang out with my friends. Many of my teammates on the basketball team were going. I went on and on. My dad said, "No!" All of my attempts to persuade my dad failed.

I was so angry at him. I could not believe that he would not allow me to do the things that my friends were doing. It bothered me that I would have to wait until Tuesday morning to get the scoop on who went to the club on Monday night. I was furious that my dad would tell me "no" to something I really wanted to do. I felt like my dad was not being fair. I felt like he did not understand what it was like being a teenager. I felt like something good was being withheld from me. I wanted the social interaction.

My dad explained, "Son, the Bible says, *Abstain from all appearance of evil* (1 Thessalonians 5:22). The club is a club whether they are not selling alcohol on that night or not. They sell alcohol there on all the other nights, are known as a wild place, and seen as a place of darkness. I do not want you to go and be in an environment like this." He shared the Word of God and gave his reasonable response, but I was still mad at him and didn't really want to listen to the Bible. I wanted what I wanted no matter what. Various forms of lusts filled my heart.

Years later, I went to college in the same town where that club was located. One night, the girls and guys basketball teams were going. Curiosity and peer pressure got the best of me. I went. It was dark. People were drinking. They were dancing. I did not have a relationship with God at the time. I was still lost. It was enjoyable for a little while, but I did not stay long. I realized my dad was right, and he was doing what was right for his son. Although I was mad at the time, now I really love him for standing up for the truth and protecting me from a harmful situation.

Scripture Memory: 2 Timothy 2:22 Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

Theological Backdrop: God is Holy

Scripture Text: 2 Samuel 11-12 The Story of David and Bathsheba

A Practical Lesson in Sexual Temptation

Throughout this lesson, I want us to look at an Old Testament narrative that we are familiar with. This passage of Scripture has been preached and taught many times. Often, it is easy to overlook passages of Scripture and forget the importance of their meaning in our lives. Both the Old Testament and New Testament are vital to knowing God and growing spiritually. In the first two lessons on Relationships and Sexuality, we looked at God's design in being "Single and Happy" and "Safe Sex: Naked and Unashamed." My aim in this lesson is to provide vision for your life and to have the goal of glorifying God in your sexuality. I want us to look at a time in King David's life which should startle us by the reality of temptations.

1. David was not where he was supposed to be (1).
 - a. Kings typically went off to war with their men in those days. David stayed back in Jerusalem.
2. David was subject to a moment of weakness.
3. David was looking at something he should not have been looking.
4. David was captured by Bathsheba's beauty (2).
5. David pursued the lusts of his eyes and asked questions about Bathsheba (3).
 - a. She was another man's daughter.
 - b. She was another man's wife.
6. David continued to pursue his lustful desires (4).
 - a. He sent messengers and took her.
 - b. She came to him.
7. David committed adultery with Bathsheba (4).
 - a. He lay with her one time.
8. David got another man's wife pregnant by having sex with her one time (5).
9. David attempted to cover up his sin (6-26).
 - a. David brought Uriah home from war and wanted him to sleep with his wife.
 - b. Uriah, a noble soldier, would not enjoy this time with his wife while his fellow soldiers were fighting on the battle field for Israel (11).
 - c. David invited Uriah to a feast in the king's house and got him drunk hoping he would go home to his wife (12-13).
 - d. David sent his general a command to put Uriah in the hottest part of the battle then draw back so he would be killed (14-17).
 - e. Joab, David's general, sent a hidden message to David about the death of Uriah (18-21).
 - i. David's sin got other people involved.
 - ii. David's lust enabled another woman to sin.
 - iii. David had a sinful and murderous heart.
 - iv. David had a deceitful heart.
 - v. David abused his position and power.
10. David's sin displeased the Lord (27)
 - a. God sees everything.
 - i. Hebrews 4:13 Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

11. David hears a story from a prophet of the LORD (12:1-7)
 - a. David was angered by the sin in Nathan's story.
 - i. This man deserves to die (5).
 1. Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.
 - ii. This man must pay restitution (6).
 1. He should pay 4 times more than what he took.
 - iii. This man had no compassion on others (6).
 1. Sin is an absence of love for God and for others.
12. David's sin is found out. (12:7-10)
 - a. God knew exactly what David had done.
 - b. God sent someone to David to expose the truth to his heart.
13. David had despised the Word of God and committed evil in his sight (12:9).
 - a. 2 Samuel 12:9 Wherefore hast thou despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in his sight? thou hast killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and hast taken his wife to be thy wife, and hast slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon.
14. David's sin had consequences (12:10-15)
 - a. Our sin will have specific consequences.
 - b. Our sin often hurts more than one person.
 - c. Our sin can impact the present and future.
 - d. Our sin always causes heartache.
 - e. Our sin hinders our witness to the world.
15. David confessed his sin to the LORD (12:13)
 - a. The Lord showed mercy to David. He would not die.

The Problem is in the Heart

If you read these passages carefully, you could easily look at David's scenario and think, "Man, he made quite a mistake, and he made it fast!" We often look at our sins in light of the consequences. Your parents may ask, "Will you please clean your room?" Some common responses might be:

- "It's not that dirty; I don't think it needs cleaning."
- "I don't want to right now. I'll do it later."
- After a sigh, a stomp down the hall, and the thought, "I wish mom would get off my back," Aloud, the response might be, "I'm going to do it." Then, in the room, things are being thrown around. Frustrated, the teenager gets the job done and returns to the kitchen to tell mom, "I cleaned the room."

Do you see anything wrong with these responses? What I want you to notice are the attitudes or desires behind the responses. Jesus said, Matthew 15:19-20 *"For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: 20 These are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man."* This means

that our sin comes from within. Let's think about these responses and then think about what happened in the story of David.

- "It's not that dirty; I don't think it needs cleaning."
 - This attitude doesn't seem that bad. However, it manifests an attitude of rebellion by putting the teenager in the place of authority instead of the parent. This happens all the time when people think they know better than to obey God's Word.
- "I don't want to right now. I'll do it later."
 - This attitude displays a heart of defiance and selfishness. The parent has asked for the room to be cleaned; however, the responder feels as if there is something more important to do. There is a possibility that the room might get cleaned later, yet this attitude disobeys the authority of a loving parent and places the love of pleasure over being obedient to your parent. The Apostle Paul describes this attitude in 2 Timothy 3:1-4 *"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. 2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, 4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God."* This is a sign of self-centeredness and reveals the god who is worshipped - self.
- After a sigh, a stomp down the hall, and the thought, "I wish mom would get off my back." Aloud, the response might be, "I'm going to do it." Then, in the room, things are being thrown around. Frustrated, the teenager gets the job done and returns to the kitchen to tell mom, "I cleaned the room."
 - In this scenario, the job is completed—the room is cleaned. Is the goal just to do the right thing? Has your parent ever mentioned anything like, "I don't think that is the right attitude." Obedience is not true obedience unless it comes from having a right heart and right thinking. In this case, the teenager thinks the world revolves around him/her self. When the proper authority gives a command, the teenager's routine is interrupted. Who should be the center of our lives? If you said, "Jesus Christ," then you are correct. God has placed at least three maybe four areas of authority in a teenager's life - Parents, School Teachers/Administration, Government (Police), and possibly an employer. These are areas in which God teaches us to have submissive and serving hearts. In this case, the teenager displays an outburst of anger by sighing, stomping down the hall, and throwing things around in the room. The steam pot of smoldering anger comes out through the boiling of internal frustration.

In this case, God's Word says in Ephesians 6:1 "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right." God looks on the heart and wants righteousness coming from the heart. Now, since we have laid a foundation of where all sin originates, let's return to the story of David. What are some of the problems we see with David's heart?

1. He was not where he was supposed to be.
 - a. David was not where he was supposed to be (1).
2. He faced a sexual temptation.
 - a. How can we consider David's initial temptation as a sexual temptation?
 - b. Matthew 5:28 But I (Jesus) say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.
 - c. He saw a woman bathing.
 - i. He saw something he should not have seen. He could have taken his thoughts captive and ended the problem at that moment. He could have confessed his sinful thinking and displayed the fruit of self-control.
 1. 2 Corinthians 10:5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;
 - d. He kept looking.
 - i. She was very beautiful. The desires of his heart began to develop an idol. He wished to get closer to her.
 - ii. Notice, he began playing out the thoughts and ideas of his heart. The consequence of the sin was increasing.
 - e. He sent someone to ask questions about the woman.
 - i. Have you heard the saying, "Curiosity killed the cat?" David's curiosity led him to go down the wrong path quickly. This woman was another man's daughter and another man's wife. If you can get a vision that the young girls and young boys around you are someone's children and someone's future spouse, you might think twice about giving in to sexual temptation.
 - f. He sent someone to get her and bring her to him.
 - i. She came. David could have stopped there. Bathsheba was in his presence. Throughout this process, there have been multiple ways of escape. David did not listen to the voice of his conscience. Bathsheba could have said, "No!" She may have been afraid of the king. Please, never be afraid to do the right thing. Regardless of what she thought, she consented.
 - g. He committed the act of adultery.
 - i. He slept with Bathsheba, another man's wife. Now, I realize, as a teenager, you are not married. However, the Bible speaks about premarital sex. The term is fornication. David had many chances to practice self-control, but in the moment, he drowned out the truth with his desires. He got what he wanted, but it cost him more than he could have ever imagined. Sin will always cost more than you think.
 - h. He got another woman pregnant by having sex with her one time.
 - i. In 2010, a total of 367,752 infants were born to women aged 15–19 years.¹ That is almost 1,100 teenage girls giving birth each day.

¹Accessed [online] October 4, 2012, <http://www.cdc.gov/teenpregnancy/aboutteenpreg.htm>

- ii. Although only 13% of U.S. teens have had sex by age 15, most initiate sex in their late teen years. By their 19th birthday, seven in 10 teen men and teen women have had intercourse.²
- iii. An estimated 8,300 young people aged 13–24 years in the 40 states reporting to CDC had HIV infection in 2009.³
- iv. Nearly half of the 19 million new STDs each year are among young people aged 15–24 years.⁴
- v. These stats are startling, but they represent the consequences of experimenting outside of God’s will. This does not include the costs associated with trying to raise a child as a teenager. God’s will is for you to wait until you are married to have sex.
- i. He sinned more by trying to cover up his sin.
 - i. His problem was compounded by trying to hide what he had done in the eyes of the Lord.

Before we go further, I do not want you to think that if you have not had sex then this lesson is not for you. What I want you to see is that David’s lustful heart is what got him in trouble. It is not whether or not you get caught; it is about the purity of your heart.

The Promises of God Give Hope⁵

Every person faces temptation. I thought I was beyond it when my dad used to remind me of the following verse. 1 Corinthians 10:13 says, *“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.”* During my high school and college years, a whole new world of temptations began to open up. When I found myself in those moments, I would be reminded of the Scripture my dad mentioned. Let’s look at the following chart to see the outstanding promises of God in comparison to Satan’s lies.

God’s Promises	Satan’s Lies
Your trial is not unique- ‘such as is common to man.’	No one else has ever gone through anything like this.
Your God is faithful- ‘but God is faithful.’	God’s not there for you; He’s left you on your own for this one.
It’s not more than you can handle.	This is too much; no one can endure this.
There is a way out of this.	There’s no way out; you are stuck.

² Accessed [online] October 4, 2012, <http://www.gutmacher.org/pubs/FB-Teen-Sex-Ed.html>

³ Accessed [online] October 4, 2012, <http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/sexualbehaviors/>

⁴ Accessed [online] October 4, 2012, <http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/sexualbehaviors/>

⁵ This idea was taken from Brad Bigney during a Counseling Worship about “Helpful Diagrams in Counseling” at the NANC Annual Conference on October 3, 2012.

I wish I could say that I passed every test in the face of peer pressure. There were times when I remained strong and listened to the advice of God and my parents. However, there were other times when I refused to listen. When that happened, I sinned and the consequences led to guilt and shame. Proverbs 6:27 says, *“Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned?”* If you play with fire, you will eventually get burned. If you sow wild oats, they will come up and you will reap the consequences of your actions.

The Place of Healing is the Cross

If you have already been experimenting with your sexuality, you can find grace, mercy, and forgiveness at the foot of the cross. If you are loaded down with guilt and shame because you have sinned against God and your future spouse, then bring your burden to the Lord. Proverbs 28:13 says, *“He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.”* Also, 1 John 1:9 says, *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”* Hiding your sin will leave you hard hearted and hurting. Through confession, you can find grace and healing. Although some of the consequences for your actions may remain, God will forgive you. After this episode in David’s life, he wrote Psalm 51. It is a heart wrenching psalm where David realizes that all sin is first and foremost against a holy, good, and loving God. He prays for mercy and grace, cleansing and forgiveness, a clean heart and right spirit, joy and strength, and deliverance. He desires to teach others from his mistakes and offer a pure offering unto the Lord.

Please remember:

- Sexual temptations are real.
- The problem is with our hearts.
- The promises of God bring hope.
 - Temptations are common to man.
 - God is faithful.
 - It is not more than you can handle.
 - There is a way out.
- The place of healing is the cross.
 - Isaiah 57:15 For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.
 - 1 John 4:4 Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.