

Beware of the Sin of Adultery

2 Samuel 11

Introduction:

1. Read Tiger Wood's admission of adultery
2. A recent article on adultery stated, "There's a whole lot of cheating going on."
3. Sexual immorality is a big problem in America today
 - a. It has always been a problem
 - b. That is why God said, "You shall not commit adultery"
 - c. The marriage commitment is so important that God gave the 7th commandment to protect marriage.
 - d. God hates adultery because...
 1. Adultery defies God
 2. Adultery defiles marriage
 3. Adultery disregards faithfulness
 4. Adultery destroys families
 5. Adultery drains the bank account
 6. Adultery degrades love
 7. Adultery invites disease
4. To many, this commandment is the least popular of God's laws
 - a. They say it is an out-of-date prohibition that restricts our freedom
 - b. It is an irrelevant, quaint vestige of an ancient time
7. Adultery is a bad thing to be avoided because marriage is a good thing worth protecting.
 - a. Adultery makes something ugly that God designed to be beautiful
 - b. Properly kept within the bounds of marriage, sex can be a tremendous positive source of intimacy and security
8. God wants us to be so committed to marriage that we find it unthinkable and horrifying to ever dream of being sexually active outside of marriage.
9. AshleyMadison.com is a website that tries to match up people who want to commit adultery. An advertisement from the company was turned down by ESPN, prompting AshleyMadison's president Noel Biderman to cry foul. He said ESPN had been using a "double standard." ESPN's commercial breaks are "inundated" with drinking ads, despite alcohol being "responsible for health issues and ultimately death." Biderman complained, "Somehow I'm immoral and everything else is OK." The website has more than 2.2 million members, people who have spent \$49 to create personal profiles in hopes of hooking up with others. The website's slogan? "Life is short. Have an affair."

I. The Progression of Adultery – 2 Sam 11

- There is a 5 step progression that is usually seen in adultery

A. David's Neglect of Duty – vs 1

1 And it came to pass, after the year was expired, at the time when kings go forth to battle, that David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the children of Ammon, and besieged Rabbah. But David tarried still at Jerusalem.

1. David remained in Jerusalem instead of going out to battle
2. His view of leadership had changed
3. Fighting with Ammonites stopped for the winter and was to begin in the spring – David did not go out to war
4. Jerusalem was the wrong place for David at that time
5. If he had been in the battlefield, this would not have happened

B. David's Idleness – vs 2

2 And it came to pass in an eveningtide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king's house: and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon.

1. David goes up to the roof and notices Bathsheba
2. It was customary to take a short siesta in the afternoon, but staying in bed until eveningtide was sheer laziness
3. Laziness does not encourage holiness
4. There was immodesty here as Bathsheba was bathing in view
 - a) *She should have been more careful to not be seen by those who were on their rooftops*
 - b) *This does not say much for her feminine modesty*
5. Christian women ... please dress modestly
 - a) *Do not wear short skirts or other revealing clothing*
 - b) *Do not wear tight clothing that lustily reveals your figure*
 - c) *Now that summer is here, don't take all your clothes off in public*
6. David had trouble with his eyes
 - a) *"Look upon" implies a good look*
 - b) *He did more than just glance or glimpse*
 - c) *Job made a covenant with his eyes – 31:1*

1 I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid?
 - d) *Too bad that David had not made a covenant with his eyes*

C. David's Wandering Eye – vs 3

3 And David sent and enquired after the woman. And one said, Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?

1. David began to fixate on the object of his desire
2. After seeing the forbidden sight, he thought on forbidden deeds
3. If we are going to remain pure, then we must guard our thoughts
4. Thoughts are the seeds and roots of our conduct

D. David Yielded to Temptation – vs 4

4 And David sent messengers, and took her; and she came in unto him, and he lay with her; for she was purified from her uncleanness: and she returned unto her house.

1. David had to have this woman – even though she was married
2. Even though he was married
3. He sent messengers and took her

II. The Products of Adultery

A. Deception – vs 5-13

5 And the woman conceived, and sent and told David, and said, I am with child.

1. Bathsheba was pregnant and David was in trouble
2. It all started with attitude – then it was easy to slide all the way down the slope with incredible rapidity
3. David tried to use deception to cover his sin – it didn't work
4. Tiger used deception to cover his adultery
5. He only admitted his wrong, when it was coming out in the press
6. Adulterous affairs cause people to lie and be deceptive

B. Death – vs 14-27

1. David is unable to fool Uriah into believing that he is the father of the Bathsheba's child
2. David arranges for Uriah to die in battle
3. Not only does Uriah die, but the little baby also dies – 12:14-29

C. Dysfunction

1. In chapt 13 David's oldest son Amnon rapes his half-sister Tamar
2. Amnon is then murdered by her full brother – Absalom
3. What a mess.
4. Through it all daddy is strangely and frustratingly silent

D. Division

1. It is bad enough when a family breaks up
2. It is especially difficult on a nation when the royal family breaks up
3. Ambitious Absalom, sensing weakness leads a civil war against David his father
4. This rebellion becomes a model for the civil war led by Adonijah against Solomon and then later the civil war between Jeroboam and Rehoboam which split the nation
5. It all goes back to David's sin

III. The Prevention of Adultery

A. Remember Who It Will Hurt

1. It will do incredible damage to your spouse
2. It will do incredible damage to you yourself
 - a) *Damage your relationship with God*
 - b) *It will heap a load of guilt on you.*
3. It will do incredible damage to your children
 - a) *Shattering their trust in you*
 - b) *Setting the stage for them to repeat your sin later on*
4. It will do incredible damage to your witness and testimony
5. It will do incredible damage to your church

B. Maximize Your Marriage

1. Put the sizzle back in your marriage
 - a) *Sizzle is that initial romantic spark of excitement that brought you together in the first place*
 - b) *Make your grass so green, that everyone else's looks brown by comparison*
2. Renew your commitment to your marriage
 - a) *The devil wants you to become discontented with your marriage*
 - b) *The devil wants you to start looking for greener pastures*
 - c) *Heb 13:4 Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.*
3. Work hard to maintain clear and open communication in your marriage
 - a) *Give your spouse attention, affection and admiration*
 - b) *Beware of miscommunication – The elderly couple was sitting by the fireplace enjoying their evening together. The husband turned to his wife and said, "After 50 years, I found you tried and true." The wife, who had poor hearing, asked "What?" He said again, "After 50 years I've found you tried and true." She replied, "After 50 years I'm tired of you too."*
4. Practice companionship

C. Minimize the Opportunities (Be Constantly on Guard)

1. Guard Your Marriage Relationship
 - a) *Most adultery is not driven by an insatiable sex drive*
 - b) *It is driven by an empty, lonely, and broken sense of emotional intimacy with your spouse*
 - c) *When you feel alone, unloved and unappreciated in your marriage, then be very careful*
 - d) *The devil may bring someone near who is caring and thoughtful and appreciative – you are on the slippery road to disaster*
2. Guard Your Mind – Matt 5:27

27 Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: 28 But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

 - a) *God is interested in a clean mind + heart as well as a clean body*
 - b) *It is possible to commit mental adultery*
 - c) *When lust takes control of your mind, then the seeds of sexual sin begin to take root in your heart*
 - d) *Immoral fantasizing in your mind sows the seeds of discontentment that will erode the level of joy and trust in your marriage relationship*
 - e) *Temptation and lust are not the same thing*
 - (1) *Lust is a matter of dwelling on a temptation, nurturing it, protecting it, hiding it, making plans around it*
 - (2) *You cannot help a temptation, but it will only turn into lust if you allow it*
3. Reinforce your spiritual life so that you will become strong enough to win the battle
4. Guard your circumstances
 - a) *Don't put yourself in a place where you will have to exercise self-control*
 - b) *Don't go near the "adult" section of the video store*
 - c) *Stay away from the "adult" section of the magazine rack*
 - d) *On business make sure that the hotel does not offer free "adult" channels*
 - e) *Disconnect the internet if it becomes an area of compromise*
 - f) *Maintain appropriate relationships with members of the opposite sex*
 - g) *Don't allow yourself to be alone with members of the opposite sex – luncheons, meetings*
5. When tempted ... run
 - a) *2Ti 2:22 Flee also youthful lusts... .*
 - b) *1Co 6:18 Flee fornication.*
 - c) *Joseph got out of the house fast*

Conclusion-

1. If you are thinking about committing adultery, then here is an assignment for you...
 - a. Find a Christian who has committed adultery and ask if it was worth it
 - b. There might have been a momentary thrill, but after the pain and anguish, would they do it again?
2. If you are single – I urge you to say no to physical involvement before marriage
 - a. Guard your moral purity as though it is worth a million dollars
 - b. Don't let anyone steal your purity and don't be a thief stealing someone else's purity
3. If you have committed adultery –
 - a. Own up to it
 - b. Ask God to forgive you
 - c. Begin again
 - d. He can use you
 - e. Remember that King David is the most famous adulterer and from him came the Messiah

I remember some years ago watching Phyllis George interview Dallas Cowboys quarterback Roger Staubach. It was a dull interview until Phyllis asked, "Roger, how do you feel when you compare yourself with Joe Namath, who is so sexually active and has a different woman on his arm every time we see him?"

"Phyllis," Roger answered, "I'm sure I'm just as sexually active as Joe. The difference is that all of mine is with my wife."

Touchdown! Roger hit the end zone with that comeback. Real men don't commit adultery. A real man sticks with one woman. Period.

HBC #72 – Nov 2009 – After Tiger Woods' admission of adultery

Charles Swindoll, in *Growing Deep in the Christian Life*, tells about a man who bought fried chicken dinners for himself and his date late one afternoon. The attendant at the fast food outlet, however, inadvertently gave him the proceeds from the day's business--a bucket of money (much of it cash) instead of fried chicken. Swindoll writes:

"After driving to their picnic site, the two of them sat down to enjoy some chicken. They discovered a whole lot more than chicken--over \$800! But he was unusual. He quickly put the money back in the bag. They got back into the car and drove all the way back. By then, the manager was frantic.

"Mr. Clean got out, walked in, and became an instant hero. 'I want you to know I came by to get a couple of chicken dinners and wound up with all this money here.'

"Well, the manager was thrilled to death. He said, 'Let me call the newspaper. I'm gonna have your picture put in the local paper. You're one of the most honest men I've ever heard of.'

"To which the man quickly responded, 'Oh, no. No, no, don't do that!' Then he leaned closer and whispered, 'You see, the woman I'm with--she's, uh, somebody else's wife.' "

One can be honest and still not have integrity.

2Sa 11:5 And the woman conceived, and sent and told David, and said, I am with child. 6 And David sent to Joab, saying, Send me Uriah the Hittite. And Joab sent Uriah to David. 7 And when Uriah was come unto him, David demanded of him how Joab did, and how the people did, and how the war prospered. 8 And David said to Uriah, Go down to thy house, and wash thy feet. And Uriah departed out of the king's house, and there followed him a mess of meat from the king. 9 But Uriah slept at the door of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and went not down to his house. 10 And when they had told David, saying, Uriah went not down unto his house, David said unto Uriah, Camest thou not from thy journey? why then didst thou not go down unto thine house? 11 And Uriah said unto David, The ark, and Israel, and Judah, abide in tents; and my lord Joab, and the servants of my lord, are encamped in the open fields; shall I then go into mine house, to eat and to drink, and to lie with my wife? as thou livest, and as thy soul liveth, I will not do this thing. 12 And David said to Uriah, Tarry here to day also, and to morrow I will let thee depart. So Uriah abode in Jerusalem that day, and the morrow. 13 And when David had called him, he did eat and drink before him; and he made him drunk: and at even he went out to lie on his bed with the servants of his lord, but went not down to his house.

2Sa 11:14 And it came to pass in the morning, that David wrote a letter to Joab, and sent it by the hand of Uriah. 15 And he wrote in the letter, saying, Set ye Uriah in the forefront of the hottest battle, and retire ye from him, that he may be smitten, and die. 16 And it came to pass, when Joab observed the city, that he assigned Uriah unto a place where he knew that valiant men were. 17 And the men of the city went out, and fought with Joab: and there fell some of the people of the servants of David; and Uriah the Hittite died also. 18 Then Joab sent and told David all the things concerning the war; 19 And charged the messenger, saying, When thou hast made an end of telling the matters of the war unto the king, 20 And if so be that the king's wrath arise, and he say unto thee, Wherefore approached ye so nigh unto the city when ye did fight? knew ye not that they would shoot from the wall? 21 Who smote Abimelech the son of Jerubbesheth? did not a woman cast a piece of a millstone upon him from the wall, that he died in Thebez? why went ye nigh the wall? then say thou, Thy servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also. 22 So the messenger went, and came and shewed David all that Joab had sent him for. 23 And the messenger said unto David, Surely the men prevailed against us, and came out unto us into the field, and we were upon them even unto the entering of the gate. 24 And the shooters shot from off the wall upon thy servants; and some of the king's servants be dead, and thy servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also. 25 Then David said unto the messenger, Thus shalt thou say unto Joab, Let not this thing displease thee, for the sword devoureth one as well as another: make thy battle more strong against the city, and overthrow it: and encourage thou him. 26 And when the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she mourned for her husband. 27 And when the mourning was past, David sent and fetched her to his house, and she became his wife, and bare him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD.

From Tiger Woods.com ...

“I have let my family down and I regret those transgressions with all of my heart. I have not been true to my values and the behavior my family deserves. I am not without faults and I am far short of perfect. I am dealing with my behavior and personal failings behind closed doors with my family. Those feelings should be shared by us alone....

I will strive to be a better person and the husband and father that my family deserves. For all of those who have supported me over the years, I offer my profound apology.”