

## Rooftop Dangers

God wants a heart that continues to turn towards him, no matter the circumstances or situation.

Christianity is not a set of moral codes or a set of standards. (It will result in a certain lifestyle, but not “behaves well”) But the heart of it, the goal is to walk and be in relationship with God; Satan the enemy of your soul hates that and will go after this.

We make decisions every day. Although all decisions are important, the one’s we need to consider carefully are decisions that will have catastrophic consequences in many areas. David will make one of those decisions; he didn’t think through what those consequences would be.

Things are going very well for David he is peaking. Of course he was struggling with things we all struggle with, but he was on an upward projector, then...

*“In the spring, at the time when **kings go off to war**, David sent Joab out with the king’s men and the whole Israelite army. They destroyed the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained in Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup> One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. “From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful, <sup>3</sup> and David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, “She is Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite.” <sup>4</sup> Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her. Then she went back home.” <sup>5</sup> The woman conceived and sent word to David, saying, “I am pregnant.”*

*“...<sup>26</sup> When Uriah’s wife heard that her husband was dead, she mourned for him.<sup>27</sup> After the time of mourning was over, David had her brought to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing David had done displeased the LORD.” **(2 Samuel 11:1-5, 26-27)***

### Verse 1

David’s army was fighting against evil. The Ammonites worshipped a god named “Molech”; this idol had a human body and the head of an ox. This religion was more than just a false god but part of that worship was child sacrifices, which were burnt alive in worship to this god.

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Our battles today are not against “flesh and blood”, but we are called to battle darkness and evil that is found in the kingdom of darkness. This evil can be seen in various areas of our fallen world including systems, institutions, governments, families and more.

It is in these times and in the course of our lives that we pass the little test that will prepare us for more significant “divine intersections”. For David, the test we’ve already read about were the lion and bear and then Goliath and several small moments of heart choices and integrity.

David was at his best when he was on the battlefield fighting for a higher purpose and for a cause. Unfortunately he checked out, he stayed home, stepped out of what he was called to; it was his purpose but he made a choice not to go and he ran into trouble.

What are you fighting for? It could be an unsaved person, your family, a child, your community or a million other things. The victory has been one now we enforce that victory through sharing his love, his life his healing, his reconciliation, etc. But we are at our best when we’re on this battlefield with a clear purpose and cause.

It was on the battlefield his character was revealed. The David on the battlefield wouldn’t usurp Saul’s authority and kill him, but the David on the rooftop would sleep with another mans wife and even have her husband killed. On the battlefield David hung with other warriors, on the rooftop he hung out with other losers. On the battlefield there was greatness but the rooftop corrupted that greatness.

The regret of most men is that they didn’t engage in the battle and this is based in fear. This can be manifest in many different ways but many fear that they won’t be successful, so they don’t engage.

David for whatever reason did not engage in an important battle and ended up on the “*Rooftop*”.

## **Verse 2**

David’s palace was elevated above the rest of the city. It’s important to see that David is in the middle stage of his life. All was going so well, the military was advancing, the economy was good, but this can be a dangerous stage. In this middle stage (for all of us) there is a danger of destroying the positives gained in the first stage of his life.

We need to understand that isn’t a temptation problem, this is a “*location problem*”; he shouldn’t have been there. His place was with his men in battle, he shouldn’t have been on the roof “surfing” the city rooftops. (Maybe he had been there before) The answer to this and similar situations we may find ourselves in is very simple, “go”, “get out now”.

We read that David “saw” this beautiful woman bathing on the rooftop. The Hebrew word of “saw” carries with it the idea of “kept seeing her”, he continued seeing or looking and focused on her, he wouldn’t turn away

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### **Verse 3**

A key word in this chapter is "sent". David first *sent* someone to inquire about this woman. God used this messenger to send a warning to David, she is a daughter, she is your friend's wife...she is a human being...with a name! Bathsheba's husband Uriah was a loyal soldier to David. He was in that original group of men who gathered around David in the cave hiding and on the run. Uriah will continue to show his loyalty to his men later in the story.

Lust will de-humanize people today pornography does this with precision. She becomes a thing, body part/s, an object to be abused, reflected in comments like: "I'm going to get me some of that".

Sadly in our culture children are exposed to pornography at a very young age and in great amounts. But this de-humanizing perspective is just the opposite of how God sees things and us.

Instead of seeing the opposite sex as God intended and sees them we begin to attribute male tendencies, attributes to females..."she should act like this". This can work the other way also, "he should act like this".

### **Verse 4**

Next David *sent* messengers to get her and bring her to his palace. David was given warnings; "yellow lights" and he just accelerated right through them. They had sex and we're not told how Bathsheba felt about this. But we do know that we are all called to honor our bodies and we are responsible how we influence one another. We protect and honor one another.

"Men where your eyes go says a lot about you"

"Women the kind of look you want to draw says a lot about you"

We as men are called to not lust on a female that we're not married to. Just as important is the other side of the coin as a female she shouldn't intentionally draw that lust of a man that's not her husband. This of course applies to males and females who are God's kids. Probably the most difficult thing for a female to understand is the power of the visual pull that males experience in the sexual area.

### **Verse 5**

Bathsheba is now the one who *sent* word to David that she was pregnant. He thought that he had gotten away with the sin, but he now makes it worse by trying to cover it up. This would result in the murder of an honorable man who served King David.

### **Verses 26-27**

David may have been thinking, okay that was wrong and the cover up was disastrous but it's over. I'll take her into my house and people will think I'm a great guy for doing this, but: *"But the thing David had done*

David may have been thinking, okay that was wrong and the cover up was disastrous but it's over. I'll take her into my house and people will think I'm a great guy for doing this, but; *"But the thing David had done displeased the LORD."* David is feeling like the crisis has passed, then: *"The LORD sent Nathan to David."* **(2 Samuel 12:1)** That will be a study in a couple of weeks.

Our current culture would have you believe that our sexuality is our primary identity. This is a lie; our primary identity is that we are children of the Most High God. The greatest fulfillment is not found in sex.

Sexual sin is unique, not because God hates it more than other sin, but it affects us differently than other sin.

*"Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body. <sup>19</sup> Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; <sup>20</sup> you were bought at a price. Therefore **honor** God with your bodies." **(I Corinthians 6:18-20)***

**Proverbs 7** is written by David and Bathsheba's second child and he will write this proverb on a rooftop. This is an excellent chapter to give instruction to young people in this very important area as Solomon did for his son.

## **Five Illusions that Lead to an Affair: (Proverbs 7)**

**Illusion #1: *That which seems harmless is actually dangerous***

- **What seems harmless?** -- *Flirting, gazing, sharing*
- **Reality:** *You fell in love because you dated each other*

These "harmless" acts and gestures are the beginning point for pursuing. When we date we're pursuing one another by sharing, dreaming growing together, etc.

**Illusion #2: *That which seems perfect is deeply flawed***

- **What seems perfect?** -- *The other woman/man, of course.*
- **Reality:** *Marriage is the school of character*

In these situations the other man/woman is "perfect", but it's not real, it's an illusion. Marriage is indeed the school of character and is very hard on selfish, self-centered people.

**Illusion #3: *That which excites you actually deadens you***

- **What excites you?** -- *Your fantasies (possibilities)*

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- **Reality: *Sex is the “mirror” of your relationship***

Through over 30 years of being a pastor, Randy has heard this phrase many times: “in that moment I never felt more alive”. Of course this is an illusion also, it’s more deadened than alive. Afterwards people would say, “what was I thinking”.

The reality is that sex is a mirror or reflection of your relationship. If you are caring for and loving and serving one another, the sexual part will take care of itself.

**Illusion #4: *That which seems to justify your actions actually condemns you***

- **What seems to justify your actions? -- *A laundry list of rationalizations***

- **Reality: *You have to work to stay connected***

“My wife just doesn’t understand me”

“I’ve tried for years to love him”

You have to work to stay connected and will become harder as life becomes busy.

**Illusion #5: *That which seems easy is hard***

- **What seems easy? — *Quitting***
- **Reality: *It’s easier to avoid temptation than to resist sin.***

“I can quit anytime I want”.

David just sent her home thinking “okay that’s it”.

“Its easier to avoid temptation than resist sin” Flee!!

***“Run from sexual sin!” (1 Corinthians 6:18)***

***“It is God’s will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality.” (I Thessalonians 4:1-3)***

**Recommended Book: [Seven Levels of Intimacy by Matthew Kelly](#)**

### **Discussion Questions:**

- 1) On page 2 (Verse 1) of your notes we learn several things from David’s story. Please discuss these two areas and how it applies in

- 1) On page 2 (Verse 1) of your notes we learn several things from David's story. Please discuss these two areas and how it applies in your life. First we see that David passed smaller tests in his life that prepared him for the more significant "*divine intersections*". Also please discuss the fact that David was at his best when he was on the battlefield fighting for a higher purpose and for a cause. But he checked out this time and disaster struck. The most important question for us is "what are you fighting for"? And are you engaged in the battle, if not what is keeping you off the battlefield?
- 2) Referring to pages 2 and 3 of your notes, discuss what is meant by "Rooftop" both literally in David's life and for us today.
- 3) In verse 2 Randy pointed out that David was in a very good place in all areas of his life. He was in the "*middle stage*" of his life and that was a danger of destroying the positives gained in the first stage of his life. We are all in different stages of our walk and in life, I happen to be in a later stage where God is saying "finish well". But looking at David's life what were the dangers for him and in whatever stage you happen to be in?
- 4) Verses 3 and 4 shows us a confident David who is still in battlefield command mode *sending* people. Looking at pages 3 and 4 what were the *warning signs* that God spoke to David through his own messenger? Also discuss how pornography and our current culture de-humanizes people into objects as opposed to how God see's us, especially women.
- 5) From our passage and from Proverbs 7, Randy gave us 5 illusions to an affair. Please discuss each:
  - a) *That which seems harmless is actually dangerous*
  - b) *That which seems perfect is deeply flawed*
  - c) *That which excites you actually deadens you*
  - d) *That which seems to justify your actions actually condemns you*
  - e) *That which seems easy is hard*