

Bible Study

The Landmine of Sexual Immorality

How can we avoid the landmine of sexual immorality? The world around us bombards us with sensual images. Movies and novels depict pre-marital sex and adulterous affairs as acceptable and even romantic. Although we might not physically violate God's laws about sexual purity, few of us could say we never entertain thoughts that displease Him. Begin your study of this landmine by reading the story of David and Bathsheba in 2 Samuel 11-12.

A. Avoiding Sexual Sin

1. Focus on your God-given roles and responsibilities.

Like King David, we can fall into sexual sin when we have too much free time, too much power, or too much money.

- Why should believers avoid sexual immorality (1 Cor. 6:12-20)?
- In your life, what form does sexual temptation usually take? Is this a major area of temptation for you or something more subtle?

King David got into trouble when he excused himself from his kingly role of leading his army into battle (2 Sam. 11:1). Take a moment to prayerfully consider if you are excusing yourself from what God wants you to do with your life or simply your free time.

- Name at least one step you can take this week to help you avoid unnecessary sexual temptation.

2. Stop sexual sin before it progresses.

According to the *Ryrie Study Bible* (1995), David could see Bathsheba taking a bath in the enclosed courtyard of her home because his palace was located on Mount Zion. He chose to dwell on her beauty instead of turning away (2 Sam. 11:2).

- What did he do once he saw how attractive she was (2 Sam. 11:3)?
- What *should* he have done at that point?

The temptation to sin sexually becomes wrong when we entertain those thoughts or take action on them. Even wrestling with temptation can cause it to gain a stronger hold on our minds. This is especially true for sexual temptation.

- What does Philippians 4:8 say about what we should focus on?

- How does Romans 12:1 relate to this discussion on temptation?

When you feel tempted, don't try to battle the thoughts on your own. Instead, turn from thinking about the sin and focus on God. Ask Him for help to renew your mind.

B. Recovering from Sexual Sin

1. Be prepared for God's discipline.

- Why do you think Nathan spoke to David using a parable (2 Sam. 12:1-9)?
- What was David's response (2 Sam.12:13; Psalm 51)?
- Why does God discipline us when we begin to fall into temptation (Heb. 12: 4-8)?

If sexual temptation becomes an area of bondage to you, admit to God that you are weak and unable to escape it without His help. Don't fall prey to the lie that sexual sin is human nature and there is no way out.

- What does God say He will do on behalf of those who want to escape temptation (1 Cor. 10:13)?

2. Be ready to face the consequences of sexual sin.

The nature of sin is that it leads to further sin. Sexual sin is no different.

- Once David realized Bathsheba was pregnant, what other sins did he commit (2 Sam. 11:6-24)?
- What did Nathan say the consequences of David's adultery would be (2 Sam. 12:10-14)?
- Why did the son of their adultery have to die, according to 2 Samuel 12:14?

Jesus said, "Everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart" (Matt. 5:28). In other words, we must be careful to guard against impure thoughts, not just impure actions.

- What are the consequences of sexual immorality or sexual sin?
- Keeping your own situation in mind, list a few benefits of choosing to obey God in this area.

3. Be willing to receive God's forgiveness.

- Why did David trust that God would forgive him (Ps. 51:1, 17)?
- What did David believe would result from his confession (Ps. 51:7-15)?
- How did David believe God would use him once he was clean again (Ps. 51:10-14)?

Once you have confessed your sin, let it go. Don't hold onto your guilt. God can use your experience to help others who have been crippled by this landmine.

Closing: Those who commit to sexual purity save themselves from many heartaches. If you've fallen victim to the landmine of sexual sin, admit it to God. Ask the Lord for help in overcoming any bad habit you've fallen into. He's waiting to forgive and receive you.

Prayer: Lord, you never intended for sexual desires to control us. Forgive me for entertaining thoughts that haven't been righteous and for sometimes acting on them. Please teach me and help me live a life that is pure in thought and deed. I pray this in Jesus' name. Amen