

OCTOBER 4, 2020

Beginning in September we started taking “A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments.” First came: place God first; then Honor God; followed by Honor Parents, Honor Life, and this week, Honor Marriage.

In today’s lesson we will be looking at two scriptures: Exodus 20:14 and 2 Samuel 11:1-5. There are several more places in the Old Testament in which we find instructions from God: Genesis 2:24, Leviticus 14:29, Leviticus 20:13 and 18:22, Numbers 25:1, and Ezekiel 23:37. A great many people in our society have a different view of marriage. They no longer value the traditional, biblical views, which is a life-long covenant between a man and a woman. This marriage, that is instituted by God, provides the most joy, unity, and security. It also creates the ideal environment for raising children.

Our text starts with Exodus 20:14: *Do not commit adultery.* Marriage began with Adam and Eve. It wasn’t long before sin changed the world’s understanding of the meaning of marriage. God had created a bond between man and woman. One of the ways to show this was through sexual intimacy: one man and one woman becoming one flesh.

By the time the Israelites arrived at Mt. Sinai, they had departed from God’s original design for relationships, especially marriage. We can read how committing adultery brings about suffering and disastrous results in the life of King David--a man after God’s own heart. No one is exempt. The seventh commandment states “You shall not commit adultery.” These words leave no wiggle room for interpretation or misunderstanding. God said NO and that means NO!

Adultery violates the trust between wife and husband. When this trust is destroyed, society suffers. Before the commandment specifically prohibited adultery, it was understood to be wrong by people who practiced moral law. There are several examples of this in scripture. One example is of Joseph in Genesis 39:9. The Book of Proverbs speaks of adultery, calling it stupid and self-destructive. In Leviticus 20:10 and Deuteronomy 22:22, we see that Israel considered adultery so serious that they called for the death penalty for both the man and woman.

## 2 Samuel 11:1-5

As we look at a glaring example of the consequences of adultery, most people would not think it would happen to them. That would, probably, include King David. (But) this starts with temptation: allowing the thought to fester in our mind, thinking we are strong enough to handle it.

David was a great king and very successful. He had succeeded in strengthening and expanding the kingdom. He had led his men in many battles with great success.

After the winter months, the army was preparing to march out to war. Only this time, David remained in Jerusalem. It is not stated why David did not go. Maybe it was because the army had been able to defeat all of their enemies, so the soldiers insisted that David remain home for his own safety and the stability of Israel. Whatever the reason, it would have disastrous consequences for, not only David, but others as well.

Our mistakes often affect others. So, we are familiar with the beginning of this disaster. David was not able to sleep, so he got up and took a walk on the roof of the palace. That is where he spotted a beautiful woman taking a bath. Now David has a choice to make. He could look and leave, but his desires took control. So, he sent someone to inquire about her. It was more than an innocent inquiry.

When the person returned to let him know who she was, he sent the messenger back to get her. David knew who she was and that she was married to one of his mighty men. She was the daughter of Eliaim, and the wife of Uriah, both away at war.

So, the scripture says that David slept with her and she returned home. After a certain amount of time, Bathsheba sent word to David that she was pregnant. David knew that her pregnancy could not have come from her husband because he was away at war.

So, David set in motion a series of events to try and cover up one sin with another, including the murder of her husband.

We know that God forgave David's sin, but consequences would affect David's family and nation severely. As we look at the life of this God-fearing man, we realize that no one is exempt from temptation. Our only answer is to put our faith and trust in God and follow his leading for our life.