

A Recipe For Disaster – 2 Sam 11:1-15

(Or, How (NOT) To Live For One When Temptation Knocks)

2 Sam 11 – this is the account of David and Bathsheba, and it’s going to be a hard message for some of you

It’s about adultery, seduction, and sexual sin – and some of you have been there

You’ve been guilty of it, or devastated by it, or seen your parents divorce b/c of it . . .

And when you consider that for the vast majority of those who seek marriage counseling, there’s someone else involved, either real or imaginary – it’s a problem

This is *not* intended to make those of you who have committed adultery feel bad, if you’ve confessed and repented of your sin to God and those affected by it

If that’s you, you’re forgiven; It’s under the blood; Your guilt is relieved

That doesn’t mean that all the *consequences* are eliminated, but the *condemnation* is

Nor is this message intended to re-open old wounds that have been *healed* by God’s grace

Rather, it’s intended to be a warning – for all of us; guilty or not

To open our eyes to the dangers of flirting with disaster

To alert u to the path of destruction u may be on, and don’t even know it or won’t admit

To put the fear of God in you when it comes to adultery

And I’m going to speak very explicitly and very straightforward . . .

B/c I’ve seen the devastation it causes, and it’s **A Recipe For Disaster**

The very thing we find in 2 Sam 11

So if your thoughts and actions these days line up with some or all of these ingredients – you better get out of the kitchen, fast

That said, let’s work our way through this passage together, and learn all we can about this recipe for disaster

And by God’s grace we’ll avoid it in our own lives – 2 Sam 11:1-15

- V1 – there’s a mistake; instead doing what he should have been doing (going out to battle), he sent someone else
There’s nothing like a little leisure to lower your guard
Idle eyes, like idle hands are truly the work of the devil

V2 – Anyone think he was just admiring God’s creation like you do a sunset? Me either

Given the fact that she was *very beautiful* (2b), and he was very male . . .

And given what transpires, and the boldness with which he acted . . .

I guarantee you, he was soaking up every last curve of her dark, wet skin

And making mental notes so as not to forget a single, sensuous detail

David was entertaining the thought of having sex with her

If you want to fail at living for One when temptation knocks . . .

If you want to cook up some disaster in your life . . .

Just entertain the thought of sex, when you shouldn’t; That’s . . .

Ingredient #1 – Entertain the thought (v2)

The thought of sin – sexual sin in this case

Just think of him/her as eye candy

You know – “look as much as you want, just don’t touch”

“It’s not going to hurt anything; They’ll never know”

“Let your imagination run wild; Feast away”

Except the Bible calls that *lust* – the sexual desire for someone you shouldn’t have

And Jesus said it was wrong; sin

Matthew 5:27-28 – “*You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.*”

Eye candy is wrong

And you know as well as I that it leads to masturbation – which is nothing short unbiblical self-gratification . . .

And then to more and more extreme forms of pornography

And then who knows what else

All in order to satisfy your sexual desires that are enflamed by the thoughts u entertain

If u want to make a disaster of your life, just entertain the thought of sin – It’s ingred. #1

- V3 – David wanted to know if there was even a remote possibility of bringing to fruition the thoughts he had entertained
Was she married? Single? Taken? Available?
If she was married, was her husband around? If so, was she happy or unhappy?

That’s the implication of the inquiry here – was there an *opening* to act on his impulse?

Was there a way to get together without being found out?

Oh, the lengths to which we go when we’ve entertained the thought and are looking for an opening

It’s ingredient #2 in this recipe for disaster; just . . .

Ingredient #2 – Look for an opening (v3)

You know, just a casual question about their marriage; Nothing blatant

Just a little something to gauge their thinking

Or maybe a leading question for their best friend

Anything that might offer the chance of “hooking up”

For David, he found it as soon as he learned that she was Uriah’s wife

B/c Uriah was off fighting the Ammonites 40 miles away

Out of sight and out of mind for at *least* another week, if not more

*Not only that, but Uriah was a Hittite – a foreigner

No doubt a bit *lesser* in David’s mind since he wasn’t an “Israelite” like himself

Not to mention the fact that *he* was king and Uriah wasn’t

If anybody deserved to have Uriah’s wife for a night, it was David

And so the sick, twisted rationalizations must have went

Made all the worse by the fact that both Eliam (Bathsheba’s father) and Uriah (her husband), were two of David’s mighty men

2 of only 37 loyal, valiant warriors who would have given their life for David at the snap of his fingers

Once you've entertained the thought of sex, and started looking for an opening – the rationalizations aren't far behind

It's a dangerous, dangerous place to be

The second ingredient in this recipe for disaster

- V4 – took her doesn't mean against her will

It just means – they got her and brought her back to the place of departure

Purifying . . . fr her uncleanness – refers to the bath she was taking; the one David saw
It was a ritual cleansing required by the Law, at the end of seven days of impurity that followed the completion of a woman's menstrual cycle (Lev 15)

Which placed her right smack dab in the middle of ovulation – the most likely time for conception

Little did David know that he was flirtn' with disaster on *multiple* fronts

He entertained the thought, looked for an opening . . .

And having rationalized his indulgence, seized the opportunity to lay with her

It's ingredient #3 in your recipe for disaster . . .

Ingredient #3 – Seize the opportunity (v4)

If you want to make a mess of your life – seize the opp for sex outside of marriage

And when you do, you'll be up to your ears in a cesspool of garbage before u know it

Don't flee youthful lusts like the Bible says (2 Tim 2:22); Open the door and invite 'em in

Seize the moment – that's what David did

Who knew when the battle would break and the army would come home?

*And what about Bathsheba?

Did she bath in the open on purpose, to get the attention of the king?

Did she know the purpose of the invitation?

Did she buy a new dress and put on her best perfume; Or come as she was?

Was her guard up? Or was she naïve to the dangers of meeting alone with another man?

We don't know

But we *do* know that you said no to an invitation from the king at the risk of your life

And we *do* know that she must have been pretty lonely with her husband gone

Neither of which excuses her actions

But it shows that even if you're not entertaining thoughts of adultery, you're still susceptible; you're still at risk

You still have to guard your heart and protect your marriage

All the more so if you're away fr one another like on business

That's the reason that Becky and I, in our position, will not go away overnight alone

Even if we *haven't* been entertaining thoughts of adultery . . .

Even if we *haven't* been looking for an opening . . .

We have no idea who has; And who is

The risk is too high and we're not immune

And if u ever hear somebody say otherwise, they're either arrogant or ignorant, and probably both

We don't trust others in this respect, and we don't trust ourselves

And we're not about to be the opp that someone tries to seize . . .

And end up as an ingredient in their recipe for disaster

- V5-13

V5 – oops; can you say, “be sure your sin will find you out?” (Nu 32:23)

And notice the generic reference to *the woman*

Not Bathsheba; Not David's soul mate; Not even his lover – Just *the woman*

That's what adultery gets you – a body, a moment, and then nothing; just nothing;

Not bliss – at least not long term; Not love – ever; Not a relationship

Only hollow emptiness and the desensitizing of your soul

V7 – And how his grandma was; And what he thought of the Jerusalem economy

It's shameful on David's part – inviting him in to the palace to butter him up and grease the skids for a manipulative rendezvous with his wife

Don't *ever* let anyone defile your marriage bed that way; Keep it pure and holy

V8 – *wash your feet* is most often a phrase that indicates refreshment and relaxation

Certainly that's intended here

But given this context, and a few other examples in the Bible, it's possible that it's also a euphemism here (i.e. a less offensive word), used here to refer to his genitals

Therefore suggesting that he go and enjoy his wife sexually

V11 – based on 1 Sam 21:5 it was common practice with David's armies to observe battlefield abstinence

Made all the more serious by the ark of the covenant's presence in this case

So Uriah wasn't about to break covenant with his buddies on this

This was one great big effort on David's part to conceal his sin; To . . .

Ingredient #4 – Conceal the truth (v5-15)

It's the 4th ingredient in your recipe for disaster . . .

Entertain thought; Look for opening; Seize the opp; Then try to conceal the truth

If he could just get Uriah to sleep with his wife, then the baby would be thought to have come from him, and all would be well in Hobbitville

But it didn't work, b/c irony or ironies – Uriah was more noble than the king

- So what now?

Uriah won't comply, despite David's *worst* efforts; And time's wasting

The cat's going to be out of the bag 9 months from now if Uriah doesn't sleep w/ Bath.

So David gets desperate

V14-15 – Sin breeds desperation; And kept a secret, all the more

For David, it meant murder; *Conceal the truth* at all costs

That's the clincher in your recipe for disaster

But it only makes the situation worse . . .

B/c concealing the truth . . .

1. Creates a secret – the weight of which you spend the rest of your life carrying
And it gets heavier and heavier as the days go by
That's what the burden of guilt does
2. Creates a bond – between you and the other person
That's what secrets do; They make for an emotional link
A special thing just between the two of you
Something that s/b exclusively reserved for your spouse – your spouse s/b the only person with whom you share secrets
When that's not the case, the bond ends up being bondage – something that traps you instead of frees you
3. Creates a barrier – a barrier to intimacy between you and your spouse
You know something he doesn't; You know something she doesn't
Something you know good and well they would want to know, and deserve to know
Something that prevents you from fully giving yourself to them
Something that prevents the fullness of oneness that God intends for your relationship
Something that cheapens the oneness you do have

Concealing the truth creates a barrier between you and your spouse . . .

And a barrier between you and God

That's what un-confessed sin does – it hinders your fellowship w/ your Father in hvn

- Not a good plan
But sure enough – Uriah was killed, Bathsheba mourned (did she even know?). . . v27
Not a good thing to be said of you
The recipe was complete, and David's life was a disaster b/c of it

His child died; His son raped his daughter; Another son murdered him for it

That same son conspired against David and seized the throne

In so doing, he raped David's concubines in broad daylight

David was forced to flee his own city

And in the course of events was lied to, cursed, grief-stricken, and opposed at every turn

And that's *after* he confessed his sin and repented before the Lord

He was relieved of the condemnation, but not all the consequences

Can you say disaster? Adultery is a recipe for disaster

No wonder **Proverbs 6:32** – *He who commits adultery lacks sense; he who does it destroys himself.*

It starts with your thoughts, and ends with your devastation

And in between, it's a slow fade (**Casting Crowns video – It's A Slow Fade**)

Proverbs 6:27-29 – *Can a man carry fire next to his chest and his clothes not be burned?
Or can one walk on hot coals and his feet not be scorched? So is he who goes in to his neighbor's wife; none who touches her will go unpunished.*

The Lord's Table

Play with fire, burn your flesh; Play with sin, burn your soul

As we go to The Lord's Table in light of this message – I think you know what to do

If Jesus is Lord of your life – join us

You don't have to be a member, just a believer

But if he's not . . .

If you haven't trusted him to save you from your sin – let the bread and cup pass

Take the time to reflect on what's preventing you from doing so

- No matter who you are – examine your heart

B/c if you eat and drink without considering your worthiness to participate . . .

Bible says you will be guilty of showing disrespect and irreverence toward God . . .

And risk bringing judgment on yourself

So examine yourself, and then . . .

Get right with God; Commit to do so with others; Ask him for help . . .

And rest in the grace of his sacrifice for your sins . . .

Anything else is a recipe for disaster

Hang on to your elements and I'll lead us in taking them together (Pray)

- At the last supper Jesus said – *This is my body, which is given for you.*
IOW this broken bread is symbolic of the disaster he endured, to spare us from ours
Eat it as a means of remembering that

After that, he took the cup, saying – *This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.*

The contents of this cup are symbolic of his blood, the life he gave up, to guarantee yours

Do this, as often as you drink it [he said], in remembrance of me

- We sang a song earlier – Mighty to Save

No matter who you are, no matter what you've done in the past . . .

If you've turned to God in humble repentance and surrender . . .

He's faithful to forgive and mighty to save

Let's stand and sing it to the Lord

