

2nd Samuel Series Slide

Justin Timberlake released a new album earlier this year...and is currently traveling the globe on the "Forget Tomorrow" World Tour

The name comes from one of songs on the album called "No Angels"

Here's some of the lyrics:

**All we need is one moment, or two
Got fun on my mind, and I've chosen you**

**Don't stop, it's your world
Go ahead and tuck all your wings away**

**Full throttle, pilot on auto
Forget tomorrow, move like you wanna
There ain't no angels here on the dance floor**

Alright- quick translation of these lyrics.

This is a man who is talking a woman into dancing..but actually talking her into a lot more than dancing.

"Lets live in the moment, Lets just have fun... how we feel right now should dictate what we do next...Aren't you flattered?...out of all these women in this club...I've chosen you. And listen- whatever you do...don't stop yourself from doing whatever you want...Act like you are the boss of the world.

Oh...and in case you're worried about a guilty conscience...don't let tomorrow ruin the present. I know you're usually an angel- but just tuck those wings away...be somebody different right here in the moment. What happens in Vegas stays in Vegas.

Now we're moving...Full speed ahead...Don't think- just put it on auto-pilot- Forget Tomorrow- there won't be any consequences to worry about...just live in the RIGHT NOW and do what feels good.

Because- everybody here is doing it...there is no presence of good or morality...there is no transcendence here...nothing Spiritual...just us and the desire of our flesh... Forget TOMORROW"

Now- if you only heard the lyrics of this song- you might think that its message is contradictory to the Biblical sexual ethic...or in a broader sense- the entire way of life that Jesus calls us into. And- you would be right.

But then- there's the music video to this song- specifically the directors cut.

Which- I'm not recommending for children.

In the video- JT walks into a club- and stands up above everyone- and makes his choice. He points to one woman... and then he dances with her. Over the course of the dance- she changes...and it becomes clear that she is a demon...and that indeed all the people on the dance floor are demons. They swarm JT, hold him down, and eventually turn him into a demon.

(Please do not develop your theology of spiritual beings from this...or any other music video)

ANYWAY- in the directors cut... in a sort of META behind the scenes shot- JT is the DIRECTOR of the video and says- "And thats a wrap". Then all the demons are shown to just be actors...they all cheer and then he walks out of the video shoot to his car with the woman he danced with. But he needs to put his coat in the trunk. When he opens the trunk- there is the REAL Justin...covered in demonic ooze...and being choked by octopus like tentacles...the Demon JT throws his coat over the real JT...and drives off with the demon lady he danced with.

And that video with that ending— completely changes the meaning of the song.

It goes from an anthem of free sexual expression...to a warning... "What you think is freedom and living in the moment...turns into enslavement...and losing your tomorrow."

Title Slide- "Remember Tomorrow: How Believing You're Invincible Keeps You from Becoming Invincible"- 2 Samuel 11-12

Today you're gonna see Israel's King David join the Forget Tomorrow World Tour. And then- you're gonna see him get locked in a trunk.

There are 2 parts to this story- The Action- the dance floor....and the Aftermath..the trunk.

The first part is going to show you the moral failure of a man, a leader...and how he got there.

The second part is going to show you the pain of that failure...but unlike the "No Angels" music video- this passage is also showing you a way to come back from that failure.

2 Samuel 11:1-17

In the spring when kings march out to war, David sent Joab with his officers and all Israel. They destroyed the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah, but David remained in Jerusalem.

2 One evening David got up from his bed and strolled around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing — a very beautiful woman. 3 So David sent someone to inquire about her, and he said, “Isn’t this Bathsheba, daughter of Eliam and wife of Uriah the Hethite? ”

4 David sent messengers to get her, and when she came to him, he slept with her. Now she had just been purifying herself from her uncleanness. Afterward, she returned home. 5 The woman conceived and sent word to inform David, “I am pregnant.”

6 David sent orders to Joab: “Send me Uriah the Hethite.” So Joab sent Uriah to David. 7 When Uriah came to him, David asked how Joab and the troops were doing and how the war was going. 8 Then he said to Uriah, “Go down to your house and wash your feet.” So Uriah left the palace, and a gift from the king followed him. 9 But Uriah slept at the door of the palace with all his master’s servants; he did not go down to his house.

10 When it was reported to David, “Uriah didn’t go home,” David questioned Uriah, “Haven’t you just come from a journey? Why didn’t you go home? ”

11 Uriah answered David, “The ark, Israel, and Judah are dwelling in tents, and my master Joab and his soldiers are camping in the open field. How can I enter my house to eat and drink and sleep with my wife? As surely as you live and by your life, I will not do this! ”

12 “Stay here today also,” David said to Uriah, “and tomorrow I will send you back.” So Uriah stayed in Jerusalem that day and the next. 13 Then David invited Uriah to eat and drink with him, and David got him drunk. He went out in the evening to lie down on his cot with his master’s servants, but he did not go home.

14 The next morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it with Uriah. 15 In the letter he wrote:

Put Uriah at the front of the fiercest fighting, then withdraw from him so that he is struck down and dies.

16 When Joab was besieging the city, he put Uriah in the place where he knew the best enemy soldiers were. 17 Then the men of the city came out and attacked Joab, and some of the men from David's soldiers fell in battle; Uriah the Hethite also died.

Transition: Ok- first- David hits the dance floor...and turns into something demonic.

1) When you forget tomorrow, you'll forget God & you'll believe you're HIM: Entitled & Invincible.

I hear this phrase a lot from the young folk. "I'm HIM" it just means I'm a man among boys. I'm THAT GUY. Better than the rest.

Its a declaration that you deserve honor, praise, accolades for who you are and what you have done. In other words- Entitlement.

And- its also a declaration that you're unstoppable. In a video game...on football field or basketball court...or pickle ball court...although- if you're yelling "I'm Him" When you win at pickle ball...well- you need to realize you're playing a game called "Pickle Ball". (not that there's anything wrong with that)

The whole premise of "No Angels" on the dance floor- is "disconnect yourself from the idea that something transcendent is here. There is no God...at least right now in this moment- YOU ARE HIM! Entitled to do what you want.

There's no God here- You ARE HIM! you can't be stopped.

This is exactly what David is thinking in this story.

11:1

This passage comes just after David has some major victories. He was kind to Mephibosheth in chapter 9- and then he won a major battle with the Arameans, where he led all his troops into battle and fought valiantly.

In other words- at the beginning of this chapter- David is feeling morally good about himself, and he's feeling pretty good about his qualifications as a leader.

In a word- invincible.- Years later- Davids eventual son Solomon would write these words...

Proverbs 16:18

**18 Pride comes before destruction,
and an arrogant spirit before a fall.**

I wonder if his Dad taught him this- reflecting back on the events of this chapter.

11:1

The first thing to notice here is that the author is highlighting that its the time when King's march out to war...but David isn't going out. Not like he did in the last chapter.

He stayed back. That's the first sign of entitlement. What applies to others...doesn't apply to you...because you've earned your exception to the rule.

Literally the word here is "sit". David was "Sitting" in Jerusalem. In Hebrew it is the antonym of "go out". Its giving us a picture of David's settledness. He's not ready for action...he's ready for leisure.- like JT in the No Angels song- "Got Fun on my Mind"

11:2

A siesta for King David would have begun in the early afternoon- in other words- David has been inactive...just lying around.

This is a dangerous combination for anyone. You feel entitled, invincible...and have nothing to do.

11:3

Now we start getting another clue. Notice that the messenger that David sends rhetorically responds to him "Isn't this someone's DAUGHTER- SOMEONES WIFE?"

David has dehumanized her. Objectified her. And Uriah is not just some inconsequential man. Uriah is one of David's mighty men- who was loyal to him- protected him- fought for him when he was on the run from Saul- he stayed with David when so many others had turned against him.

But in this moment where David points at Bathsheba- he has erased God's presence from the moment- He has forgotten tomorrow and the consequences of his action- and he's even forgotten yesterday. He's forgotten that it was God's choice of him out in a pasture to raise him up as king. he's forgotten the people, like Uriah who helped him get there.

He's

"Got fun on his mind, and I've chosen you Bathsheba.

You can't stop him, it's his world.

Go ahead and tuck all your wings away

Full throttle, pilot on auto

Forget tomorrow, move like you wanna

There ain't no angels here...and there's no God either.

Back to 1)

David points at Bathsheba and says “Go get her for me”

At this point he breaks 4 of the 10 commandments.

He covets his neighbors wife.

He commits adultery.

He lies about it.

and eventually- he murders Uriah.

We’ve seen this building in David. It didn’t come from out of the blue.

We saw it in Chapter 3, when David started marrying multiple wives...after he had left his first wife Michal...he came back and demanding that she leave her current husband and come re-marry him.

We saw it when David ignored the LORDs instructions about moving the Ark in chapter 6. He did it in the most expedient way...in a way that resembled the way the pagan Philistines treated the Ark. Instead of the way God commanded it- and it cost a man his life.

Then we saw it in Chapter 7- When David thought that God needed his help in building a temple. He had put himself in the place of helping God out. As if God needed Davids’ help.

See the sense of Entitlement and Invincibility was building all along in David...and in this episode where he uses his power and position to sleep with Bathsheba...and then conspire to murder her husband...it all comes to a head...a nuclear explosion...whose fallout echoes through generations.

Generations that in a moment David didn’t even consider- because he Forgot about tomorrow.

I think especially with sexual sin- you’re going to experience something like this in the way you think.

First= you become convinced “there’s no angels here”. Nothing spiritual is happening. There is no God- and none of what God says about what sex is and what sex is for- all that will be tossed out the window.

I hear this ALL THE TIME. “Why are Xians so obsessed with sex. Like God cares what i do with my body parts.” That statement is pretending like it makes sense for God to just disappear and leave you alone in when it comes to what you want to do with your body.

See- actually the Scripture says God cares about what you do with EVERY PART of your body. He cares about what you do with every second of your day. NOT ONLY sexually...but definitely sexually.

TO be clear- God's purpose for sex is that it happen between one man and one woman in a marriage covenant for life. It is intended by God to create children, bring pleasure, and bond a husband and wife together in such a way that they stay together, raise children and turn them loose into the world to do the same thing.

When used properly- Sex reinforces covenant love- and helps a husband and wife display the covenant love God has for his people through Jesus- to the world.

When you're in the habit of taking God's place- you'll tell yourself that you make the rules. Don't think about tomorrow. Don't think about the consequences of your action. Just go on auto pilot and do what you want.

Listen- sometimes the God-ignoring entitlement comes through winning- like David. And we tell ourselves that we deserve to rewrite the rules on sex- because we've worked hard and got the promotion, provided for our family, finished the degree, served the community.

Sometimes the entitlement comes through losing. I've suffered so much, and so uniquely most other people don't deserve this pleasure- but they aren't in my circumstance— I am OWED this pleasure.

But all of it rests on the idea that you are invincible. That whatever God has said about sex- about objectifying a human being- well- it doesn't apply to you and it can never really hurt you.

And the scary thing is- the lengths we'll go through to prove that to ourselves.

When David finds out Bathsheba is pregnant-He tries to clean up the mess.

David works the channels in a good- ole boy network to set Uriah up die after Uriah refuses to go home and sleep with his wife while there is a war going on.

11:11

Ironically- Uriah does what David should have done. And because Uriah is choosing to do the right thing- David will have to kill him to cover up his sin. So that he can quickly marry Bathsheba in enough time that people believe that the child was conceived after they were married.

11:16

And not only does Uriah pay with his life, but in order for David to cover his sin- so a lot of people have to die- So David doesn't have to be shamed. All of those families have to mourn their husbands and fathers- because David cannot be shamed.

11:26-27

Finally, David thinks he is in the clear. Uriah is dead. Soldiers are dead. But David- he doesn't have anything to worry about. He's cleaned himself up. Covered his sin...time to move on.

But- the thing is. No matter how much in a moment of passion or lust you try to pretend God is not that there...he is.

Chapter 11 ends with this eerie declaration- the Lord considered what David had done to be evil.

Back to 1)

There is nowhere you can go that God isn't there. There is no delusion you can believe that will unhinge you from the future consequences of your present actions.

...but there is a way to come back. There is a way to actually become invincible. Its not easy...but the truth is...its the easy way that got you where you are now.

Now to the second act- the pain and the comeback.

2 Samuel 12:1-6

So the Lord sent Nathan to David. When he arrived, he said to him:

There were two men in a certain city, one rich and the other poor.

2 The rich man had very large flocks and herds, 3 but the poor man had nothing except one small ewe lamb that he had bought. He raised her, and she grew up with him and with his children. From his meager food she would eat, from his cup she would drink, and in his arms she would sleep. She was like a daughter to him. 4 Now a traveler came to the rich man, but the rich man could not bring himself to take one of his own sheep or cattle to prepare for the traveler who had come to him. Instead, he took the poor man's lamb and prepared it for his guest.

5 David was infuriated with the man and said to Nathan, "As the Lord lives, the man who did this deserves to die! 6 Because he has done this thing and shown no pity, he must pay four lambs for that lamb."

Its important to understand that God had entrusted David with a lot of power. To be king was to be Judge, Jury, and Executioner. That means David holds all the cards.

So Nathan can't just walk in and say, "I know what you did" and expect David to be contrite.

First of all- Lots of people know what David did. I mean his whole network of servants knew. David was just trying to keep this a matter that you weren't really allowed to talk about. He was saving face. Keeping it a subject that could only be whispered about.

If Nathan just comes in and says "DAVID- you've done something wrong!" David would likely say- "I'm the one that makes the rules- I have a right to do what I want!"

So Nathan has to use moral Judo. He tells a story.

"Tell all the truth, but tell it slant...the truth must dazzle gradually or every man be blind."- Emily Dickinson

Jesus did this all the time. short 3 sentence stories, longer stories. Jesus was always telling the truth, but telling it slant.

Here Nathan uses David's sense of Justice towards someone else...this rich man that stole from a poor man.

12:5-6

Often those who are trying to cover up their own sin, judge others more severely for their sin.

Politicians that rail against abortion while they take their daughters across states lines to get an abortion in order to save face.

Pastors that rail against sexual sin while they're meeting someone in a hotel room across town.

Here- it seems David's sense of justice is ignited towards others, because he is overcompensating for his own sin.

Stealing a sheep for a Hebrew law is not punishable by death...but adultery is. David is turning what he knows he deserves OUTWARD toward someone else.

12:7 & 10

7 Nathan replied to David, "You are the man! This is what the Lord God of Israel says: 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I rescued you from Saul. Now therefore, the sword will never leave your house because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hethite to be your own wife.'

David is a different kind of HIM. You thought you were God and could act like an animal... BUT NOT- YOU ARE THE MAN.

Now like waking up from a drunken overnight binger...the tomorrow that he forgot comes crashing down on him. Its the prodigal waking up in the pigsty. Its the person who has always pointed his finger out blaming others for his own sin, looking around to find he's all alone.

The tomorrow he forgot- his consequences are coming back to him. Because he also forgot his God. through Nathan, God reminds David that he has nothing without God.

And he tells him that the wages of his sin- is death.

But not death for David. Death for Davids family. For his sons.

The next chapters will prove this to be true...as Davids sons are dying or trying to kill him. In fact, in chapter 13, his son Amnon uses his power and position to sexually assault his sister. and then is killed by his brother.

2 Samuel 12:11-12

11 "This is what the Lord says, 'I am going to bring disaster on you from your own family: I will take your wives and give them to another before your very eyes, and he will sleep with them in broad daylight. 12 You acted in secret, but I will do this before all Israel and in broad daylight.' "

What David's secret sin- is going to be exposed...the shame he tried to avoid will be put on display for all to see.

13 David responded to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord."

Then Nathan replied to David, "And the Lord has taken away your sin; you will not die. 14 However, because you treated the Lord with such contempt in this matter, the son born to you will die."

Quick aside: while there are things in this story that are generally true about the way sin...and sexual sin works...death of a child..or any disease or sickness cannot ever be directly connected to one person's sin. Only God can know that.

In this case- heartbreakingly its true.

And now we see David- locked in the trunk. The fun he thought he would have in a moment...in one night on auto-Pilot- forgetting tomorrow...has not ended up so fun.

Now- the sons of David are overcome by his sin. In their own sin which we'll see particularly in Amnon and Absalom. And then in this son's death.

Just like in Genesis 4-11. Things are spiraling downward.

Yet...finally David has room to terms with what he has done. His own sin.

12:18

18 On the seventh day the baby died. But David's servants were afraid to tell him the baby was dead. They said, "Look, while the baby was alive, we spoke to him, and he wouldn't listen to us. So how can we tell him the baby is dead? He may do something desperate."

But they tell David- and remarkably- he doesn't crash. He doesn't descend into depression.

12:20-23

20 Then David got up from the ground. He washed, anointed himself, changed his clothes, went to the Lord's house, and worshiped. Then he went home and requested something to eat. So they served him food, and he ate.

21 His servants asked him, "Why have you done this? While the baby was alive, you fasted and wept, but when he died, you got up and ate food."

22 He answered, "While the baby was alive, I fasted and wept because I thought, 'Who knows? The Lord may be gracious to me and let him live.' 23 But now that he is dead, why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I'll go to him, but he will never return to me."

David remembers death when he looks at his son and he mourns but then he remembers tomorrow...and notice...even though a curse has been pronounced...you can see in David's actions and his words.

He worships the Lord- not blaming him for his sons death...because he has been humbled by his own sin. He has seen the destruction of forgetting tomorrow and forgetting God...and at the end...look at the hope!

I will see my son again. I will go to him.

You know what this reminds me of?

In Gen 3 a curse...but Adam names his wife EVE- "Mother of the Living".

Why? Because he believes God's promise in the middle of that curse that a son will come. And he will overcome sin and death...and will remove the curse from humanity. He has faith again in God's promise.

And he knows that means he will be reunited with his son.

See...

2) Confrontation brings humility. Humility brings repentance. Repentance makes you invincible!

Do you have a Nathan? Someone speaking truth to you.

Someone to humble you. Do you have space for that in your life?

Defensive?

I'm going to tell you...if all you ever do is bat away the things people try and confront you with- you'll think you're invincible...but all you'll be is alone...left to your own delusion.

But if you will actually take stock in your life...and let confrontation...maybe happening today...expose you...and confess humbly...you have a God...that is ready and willing to receive you back.

No matter who you are or what you've done.

Jesus is the true Uriah- faithful to the faithless
and the True Son of David that reverses the curse with his death.

Jesus was in a spot just before the desert...where he is affirmed by God...lasts through a desert time...but when the devil tempts him after 40 days...he appeals to the word of his Father...not the rules he made for himself. He limits himself. And eventually- there are angels all over that Dance floor!

EVEN THOUGH HE DESERVED TO BE ENTITLED AND INVINCIBLE...he limited himself and became vulnerable.

Goes to a cross....publicly shamed not for his sin...but for yours...for mine.

Our hope for forgiveness...is in him.

And when you trust him...when you die to yourself and follow him in faith...making him the LORD and KING of your life- you become invincible. Sin doesn't own you and death cant stop you!

Invincible. Eternal. With nothing but a beautiful bright tomorrow to REMEMBER forever.

Repent. Take his hand. Get out of the trunk. The tentacles of your sin don't have to hold you anymore. Bring your sin to him...bring it to light...and you'll find life again.