

# Run From Sexual Temptation!

## 2 Samuel 11:1-5; Song of Solomon

**Intro.** – You don't have to be quoted statistics to know that we live in a culture and time that is obsessed with sex. It is way too easy to find one's self listening to, staring at, and engaging in activities that destroy the very purpose God intended behind sexual intimacy. That purpose is two fold – procreation... and to promote closeness and intimacy between husband and wife. The temptation to abuse and misuse this God given gift is pronounced. No one is immune. One of our texts was chosen to show just how serious of a matter this really is.

The 2 Samuel text shows how sexual temptation works. David, one whom the Bible called *a man after God's won heart* (1 Samuel 13:14) got a peek at someone pleasing to the eye and he wanted her. Since he saw no one else around that night, including Bathsheba's husband – the king resolved to get what he wanted. Who would know? Bathsheba and he alone would know and besides, who would dare challenge the king? So David had his way with Bathsheba, but this one-night-stand turned out to be a "for the rest of your life" effect. Bathsheba conceived which prompted a tragic chain of decisions by David. He tried to cover his sin by having Uriah, Bathsheba's husband come home from war. Uriah's loyalty and integrity shot David's plan to pieces; so, plan "B" was instigated. Uriah was placed at the front of the fighting with the intent of getting him killed. When messengers brought word that Uriah had in fact been "killed," David married Bathsheba.

But the sins of David did not go unnoticed by God. The Lord sent Nathan to confront David. Nathan told David the story of a powerful, wealthy man who forcibly took from a poor man all that he had. David immediately expressed outrage and said to Nathan, "That man should die for what he has done!" Nathan replied, "You are the man!" David was assured God knew everything. David had gotten away with nothing.

The N.T. also addresses this matter of running from sexual temptation. In 1 Corinthians the Holy Spirit inspired writer calls our bodies *temples of the Holy Spirit*. Every other sin, he writes, is against God, but sexual immorality is sin against God and our bodies. Because of this, Paul instructed you and me not to just walk from it but to *flee* from it (1 Corinthians 6:18). Paul repeated this command to a young preacher named Timothy. Like most young men, Timothy struggled with lust. So Paul instructed him to "*Now flee from your youthful lusts and pursue righteousness...*" (2 Timothy 2:22). Here then is my point. The Bible never encourages you and me to face the temptation of sexual perversion head on; instead, we are to make a bee line away from it!

*Purpose: to see why it is necessary to run from sexual temptation to have wedded bliss*

God knows us. He "wired" us knowing that sexual temptation has a powerful pull on us. That's why He instructs you/me to run, not walk from it. 1<sup>st</sup>, look at from what we are to run. 2<sup>nd</sup>, look at what we're to run:

## I RUN FROM THE FOLLOWING

### A. Culture's Take on Sex

1. God gave intimacy as a sacred gift to married couples (man and woman)
2. Culture has taken this sacred gift and cheapened it to nothing more than a recreational activity, fun diversion, or animalistic expression.
3. "Alternative lifestyles" George Gallup surveyed trends impacting marriages:
  - a. 1960-1997 American marriage rate decreased 33% -- reason people are living together rather than entering husband/wife relationship or marriage.
  - b. 1960-1998 tenfold increase in men and women living together with an even higher increase in the 21<sup>st</sup> century... Gallup went on to report only 1/6 of such relationships lasted 3 yrs and a mere 1/10<sup>th</sup> lasted 10 yrs.
  - c. also have to include same-sex cohabitation – Gallup and other research groups find the views of Americans moderating regarding the acceptance of homosexuality...
4. World's idea of "sex" or intimacy is cheap, dirty/meaningless compared to God's intent behind it.

### B. Sex and Immorality

1. Think in the past five years of a movie or TV drama that depicts a husband and wife showing affection... Chances are the couple (man and woman) sleeping together on the BIG and small screens are NOT husband and wife...
2. Unfaithfulness in marriage leads to divorce. Fractured homes devastate kids. The statistics of homes without two parents (mom and dad) are shocking:
  - 72% nation's teen murderers come from fatherless homes
  - 70% of long-term prison inmates grew up in homes without dads
  - 60% people who commit rape were raised in homes where dad was absent.
 (info from 2001 *Index of Leading Cultural Indicators* by William Bennett)
3. Clearly America and the rest of the world needs to return to God when it comes to sex. God created this such for procreation, pleasure and our own protection!

We all need to run not walk from sexual temptation and immorality!

#### C. The World's Roof Tops

1. If one really sees the need to flee sexual temptation they then will stay off the rooftops of world...
2. David set himself up for a fall when he allowed himself to prolong his lustful stares – i.e. the longer he stared at the bathing Bathsheba the deeper his heart fell prey to lust and desire.
3. Today, men and women alike, face their own roof tops – e.g. work environment... or neighborhood may be the source for your roof top...
5. Men only need drive to nearest town for a “men's club” featuring bodies on display. There is also an increasing number of clubs for women where male dancers leave nothing to the imagination.
6. Don't forget the internet – which for all the good it can offer, a whole new avenue of temptation has been opened
  - a. those who say “I'm just looking...” whenever we allow our minds to go somewhere sexually other than where God wants our focus (on our mates) then it's only a matter of time before our bodies will follow... Illus. – gateway drug marijuana leads to harder drug use...
  - b. 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 lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.*”
  - c. should tell us our Lord knows more than something about how the mind and heart eventually lead the body to engage in destructive actions.

Therefore, with our minds, eyes, hearts, and bodies may we run NOT walk from sexual temptation!

## II RUN TO THE FOLLOWING

#### A. Designer Intimacy

1. Sex between a man and a woman was designed by God for marriage alone.
2. Note: sex is God's idea . Humans did not invent, improve or tweak sex no matter what Hugh Hefner, Dr. Ruth or Madonna say...
3. God designed sex to be an act by which husband and wife bond physically, emotionally and spiritually – i.e. they really do *become one*!
4. Human sexuality is unique (i.e. not animalistic) because it involves every aspect of one's being. This is why God put boundaries = sacred act between man and woman committed to one another in a covenant relationship called marriage.

#### B. A Symbol of God

1. God treated His covenant with Israel as a marriage... Church is the Bride of Christ...
2. Intimacy between husband and wife symbolizes God's great intimate love He has for His people.
3. Therefore, sex outside of marriage (premarital, extramarital, same sex etc.) is equal to idolatry.

#### C. Intimacy is About Time

1. Song of Solomon highlights this very point – more than an allegorical look at God's love for His people, of Christ's love for His Bride, the Church...

2. Book provides a black and white proof that God designed and created within marriage alone sexual intimacy... Gives account of passionate love between Solomon and wife, the Shulammitte.
3. Chap. 1 under God's inspiration Solomon gives us a glimpse of the love between him and the Shulammitte when they're engaged. By Chap 4 they have been married for a while and the description of matters becomes far more intimate and detailed.
4. By chap 7 they are an "old married couple" – they've weathered crises, pain and challenges; yet, their love not only survived, it thrived
  - the point = they've spent much time together and have grown in intimacy... Only through time can a couple achieve closeness like this!

**Conclusion:** We began this message with the thought that no one is immune from sexual temptation. We used King David, a man after God's own heart to illustrate this point, how he lingered at the sight of Bathsheba bathing. No man, no woman is immune from sexual temptation.

With this in mind, I want to summarize and conclude this message with another Biblical character. His name is Joseph. His story is much shorter than David's and far less complicated. Why? Because Joseph did what he should have done when temptation presented herself. He didn't stand in place and try to deal with it; he ran!

Potiphar, a powerful man served on Pharaoh's personal staff. Joseph was a servant to Potiphar. In Joseph, Potiphar saw a man gifted and full of integrity. He placed Joseph in charge of his business dealings/house.

The Bible goes on to tell us that Joseph impressed many other observers. Handsome Joseph caught the eye of Potiphar's wife. She was used to getting what she wanted, and the Bible tells us that she wanted Joseph in the worst way. Day after day she persisted in pressuring Joseph to sleep with her. His response? "Your husband trusts me with everything in this household, including you. How can I betray your husband's by doing such a thing and sin against God!"

Genesis 39:12-13 tells of the day Mrs. Potiphar literally threw herself at Joseph. Instead of succumbing... or trying to reason, he ran from her. He got away so fast he literally ran out of his cloak, leaving it behind. Mrs. Potiphar responded to this humiliation by falsely accusing Joseph of attempted rape...

Here's my point! When we run, not walk from sexual temptation, ultimately the blessings of God will triumph! This is especially true in our marriages. May God help each of us choose wisely when confronted with sexual temptation. May we run, not walk from it!