



Date: _____

Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

God's Top Ten Series, Lesson 39

Lesson Title: Never Commit Adultery

Take Home Point: Never commit adultery.

Warm-Up:

When you were a child, do you remember ever doing something you knew was wrong but you did it anyway? When you got caught and were asked why you did it, you said, "I don't know why." And you really didn't know; you just did it! Well, it happens to adults, too. People are funny. We seem to have an ingrained tendency to try to get as close to something as we can without getting caught or experiencing consequences. Need an example? How about, "Wet Paint! Do Not Touch!" What about going places you know you should not go, or looking at something you know you should not see? It's pretty easy to resist temptation when you aren't being tempted, but when temptation strikes, the real war begins.

Read: Exodus 20:14; 2 Samuel 11; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

Observation (What happened?):

What was David's first mistake? List the rest of them, too. What were the consequences?

According to Paul, what are we to avoid? What are we to learn?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

What is adultery? Why are we commanded not to do it?

Why did David commit other sins as a result of his adultery?

Insight:

Do you think David got up that morning and thought, "I believe I will commit adultery today! And then lie and murder to cover it up!" Probably not! Likely he got out of bed thinking it would be another typical day. What happened? At the moment of temptation, he let down the guard to his heart. That's where all sin starts. Remember what Jesus said in his Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5:27-28: *"You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.' But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart."* (NIV) It's easy to say the first temptation was David's moment of truth, as it is when we are tempted. But he had later moments, too, and at each he had opportunity to confess and repent. It took much sorrow and hurt to himself and others before David turned back to God. But then what? God forgave him and restored his relationship. (Read Psalm 51 for David's restored heart.) That's true for us, too. Anyone can stumble – and God can forgive anyone.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

How do you know how to live a life that pleases God?

In what area of your life do you need to be guarding your mind from wandering thoughts that could take you down a path of sin? What are you going to do about it?