**TITLE:** Ten Commandments part 4

**TEXT: 2 Sam. 11:1-5, 11:11, 11:14-15, 12:1-4**

**Mt. 5:27-28**

**INTRODUCTION:** This morning we will be continuing our message on the Ten Commandments of God.

The seventh command is:

**Ex. 20:14 “You shall not commit adultery.”**

Just what is adultery?

A pastor, listened as a fourth-grade Sunday school teacher shared a concern. Completing a quarter's lessons on the Ten Commandments, he had asked the kids, "What is the hardest Commandment for you to keep?" to which most of them responded, "Thou shalt not commit adultery."

We couldn't understand why fourth graders would find that command a problem until a mother quizzed her son on what he thought committing adultery meant. Without blinking, the boy replied, "Thou shalt not sass back to adults."

Well adultery is not sassing back to adults!

***naw-af'***

**A primitive root; to *commit* *adultery*; figuratively to *apostatize:—*adulterer (-ess), commit (-ing) adultery, woman (or man) that breaketh wedlock.**

Adultery is the breaking of wedlock! Wedlock is the covenant relationship between a man and a woman who have committed themselves to one another in the covenant bond of marriage!

Because marriage is a blood covenant relationship, if the vows of the covenant are ever broken through an adulterous act, then it is not only an affront to the other person within the marriage relationship but it is an affront to God as well, because God is the mediator, the overseer of the marriage covenant….

Example: Blood Covenant ceremony….

May God do to me as I have done to this animal if I ever break this covenant!

Probably no story better illustrates how the sweet, stolen water of adultery turns invariably sour than the story of Camelot. In this epic tale, the relationship of King Arthur and Queen Guenevere is trespassed upon when Arthur's most renowned and trusted knight Lancelot gingerly slips his toe across the marital boundary. It started with a look -- an innocent look, without premeditation or evil intent. But it was a short, slippery step from a look to lust, from infatuation to infidelity. The look eventually led to a touch. The touch sometime later led to a kiss. The kiss, to adultery. And adultery, to tragedy.

We don’t have to go to secular literature to find the hazards of adultery….

We can find its curse within the pages of Scripture itself…

**2 Samuel 11:1 - 5 (NIV) 1In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king’s men and the whole Israelite army. They destroyed the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained in Jerusalem. 2One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace.**

**From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful,  3and David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, “Isn’t this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite?”  4Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her. Then she went back home.  5The woman conceived and sent word to David, saying, “I am pregnant.”**

At a time when Kings go off to war David stayed in Jerusalem…

Most adulteries happen for this very same reason….

Placing ourselves in places that we shouldn’t be at times when we shouldn’t be there!

At a time when Kings go off to war David stayed in Jerusalem…

David’s place as King of Israel was to be out overseeing the spring campaigns encouraging his troops.

Everything had been going pretty well for the King of Israel! God had blessed David with victory after victory.

Jerusalem for the most part was secure! David had personally fought in many of the battles himself.

This particular year as the spring campaigns started David decided to kick back and stay in Jerusalem and leave the overseeing of the battle into the hands of the commander of his army, Joab.

We see David’s first mistake was to put himself in a place that he shouldn’t have been. His place as King was to be out supervising his troops not sitting in his recliner back home in the palace…

**2One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful,  3and David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, “Isn’t this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite?”**

With too much spare time on his hands and probably a little bored David finds that he cannot sleep too well so after retiring one night he gets back up to take a stroll on the palace roof.

He sees a woman bathing on one of the house rooftops adjacent to the palace. He sees that she is a very beautiful woman, so he asks one of his attendants about her… The attendant replies, isn’t this Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?

David has now stepped upon the slippery slope of sin.

**4Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her. Then she went back home.  5The woman conceived and sent word to David, saying, “I am pregnant.”**

Even after learning that this lady is married to one of the men in his own army, he has his attendants go and get her anyway.

He sleeps with her and sends her back home because for David this was just going to be a one night stand.

Later Bathsheba sends word to the king that she is now pregnant with David’s child and things go from bad to worse…..

In trying to cover up his sin David sends a note to Joab, his commander, to send him Bathsheba’s husband Uriah with a report on how the battle is going.

David isn’t really concerned about the how the battle is going as much as he is how to cover up his indiscretion.

His plan is to have Uriah stick around for a day or two so that he would go home and lie with his wife Bathsheba and then Uriah would think that the child was his.

Well, after getting the report of the battle David tells Uriah to go home and take pleasure with his wife. The next morning when David gets up and goes out on his palace steps, he finds Uriah there asleep with the rest of the servants….

So he asks Uriah why he didn’t go home…

You want to hear the words of a true man of integrity..

Listen to Uriah’s response to the King..

**2 Samuel 11:11 (NIV) 11Uriah said to David, “The ark and Israel and Judah are staying in tents, and my master Joab and my lord’s men are camped in the open fields. How could I go to my house to eat and drink and lie with my wife? As surely as you live, I will not do such a thing!”**

So, David tries again, but this time he first invites Uriah to a little party with the intent of getting him drunk thinking that while inebriated he would surly go home to his wife Bathsheba.

The next morning David once again finds Uriah has not went home but slept with the servants on the Palace steps..

Feeling he has run out of options David then writes a note to his commander Joab, seals it with His seal, and gives it to Uriah to take back to Joab.

Little does Uriah know that he is actually carrying his own death warrant in his hands.

**2 Samuel 11:14 - 15 (NIV) 14In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it with Uriah.  15In it he wrote, “Put Uriah in the front line where the fighting is fiercest. Then withdraw from him so he will be struck down and die.”**

Uriah carries this note back to Joab and Joab carries out the king’s command and Uriah is killed in battle..

David probably feels bad about what he has done but he is also relieved that his sin has been covered up…

Now, no one will ever know! He waits a respectable amount of time and then takes Bathsheba as his wife.

The people probably looked up to the King for his kind and noble act of marrying a fallen soldier’s wife who was with child….

David put Uriah’s death behind him and went on as though nothing had happened.

Cover-up complete! Now no one would ever need to know!

The problem was----God knew!

Over a year later God reveals to the prophet Nathan what David had done and sent him to confront David….

**2 Samuel 12:1 - 10 (NIV) 1The LORD sent Nathan to David. When he came to him, he said, “There were two men in a certain town, one rich and the other poor.  2The rich man had a very large number of sheep and cattle,  3but the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb he had bought. He raised it, and it grew up with him and his children. It shared his food, drank from his cup and even slept in his arms. It was like a daughter to him.**

**4“Now a traveler came to the rich man, but the rich man refrained from taking one of his own sheep or cattle to prepare a meal for the traveler who had come to him.**

**Instead, he took the ewe lamb that belonged to the poor man and prepared it for the one who had come to him.” 5David burned with anger against the man and said to Nathan, “As surely as the LORD lives, the man who did this deserves to die!  6He must pay for that lamb four times over, because he did such a thing and had no pity.” 7Then Nathan said to David, “You are the man! This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul.  8I gave your master’s house to you, and your master’s wives into your arms. I gave you the house of Israel and Judah. And if all this had been too little, I would have given you even more.  9Why did you despise the word of the LORD by doing what is evil in his eyes? You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your own. You killed him with the sword of the Ammonites.  10Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.’**

**2 Samuel 12:11 - 14 (NIV) 11“This is what the LORD says: ‘Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity upon you. Before your very eyes I will take your wives and give them to one who is close to you, and he will lie with your wives in broad daylight.  12You did it in secret, but I will do this thing in broad daylight before all Israel.’” 13Then David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the LORD.” Nathan replied, “The LORD has taken away your sin. You are not going to die.**

**14But because by doing this you have made the enemies of the LORD show utter contempt, the son born to you will die.”**

It is true that David finally owned up to his sin, sought God’s forgiveness and was forgiven by God, but what a price he had to pay!

Even though he was forgiven for his sin, sin still had its consequence!

God told David what those consequences that David had set in motion would be….The sword will never depart from your house, **Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity upon you.**

**Before your very eyes I will take your wives and give them to one who is close to you, and he will lie with your wives in broad daylight.  12You did it in secret, but I will do this thing in broad daylight before all Israel.’”**

And the child born to you through this adulterous, murderous act will die!

The child does die and David finds that the sword in fact doesn’t depart from his house.

David’s personal family life is anything but tranquil from this time on….

David has a Son Amnon that rapes his ½ sister Tamar and then her brother Absalom, David’s firstborn son, has Amnon killed to avenge the disgrace to his sister.

Absalom flees to another country in fear of what David would do to him and David, not only has to grieve the loss of his slain son Amnon but also his exiled son Absalom.

Years later Absalom returns to Jerusalem to try to patch things up with his father but there is still a riff between he and his father David.

Absalom eventually rises up against David to try to take his throne and drives David out of Jerusalem. In broad daylight Absalom takes David wives unto himself as an act of showing disgrace to the King.

David retakes Jerusalem and his commander Joab end up killing Absalom as he is fleeing Jerusalem upon a donkey…

How the words of the Lord must have rang in David’s ears as all this was happening….

And the sword will never depart from your house!

All of this was put in motion because at a time when kings go off to war David stayed in Jerusalem!

David put himself in a place that he shouldn’t have been….A look led to lust, lust to adultery, adultery to murder…. Then the costly consequence of sins price….

-- Jim Baker in his book “I was Wrong” said:

I knew that what I was doing went directly against everything I believed as a Christian. I had never cheated on my wife in all our years of marriage. Jessica Hahn, however, seemed quite comfortable with the situation. I simply abandoned myself to the moment. We did not make love; we had sex. When it was over, I quickly left the room, and in a daze, hurried to the elevator and pressed the button marking the eighth floor. The winter afternoon sun was already beginning to slide down on the horizon as I stepped inside my room. I was horrified. Oh, God! What have I done?

I had not considered the consequences of my absurd attempt to make Tammy Faye jealous. I had not even paused to think of the potential ramifications of my actions while I was giving in to the temptation of having sex with a woman other than my wife. I had simply reacted. I had opened the door to attack on the ministry I headed, my family, and me personally. Worse yet, the devil had not made me do any of it; I had done it of my own stubborn will. I disrobed and immediately stepped into the shower, turning the water on as hot as I could stand it. I never felt so dirty in all my life.

Maybe if I make the water hotter, it will wash it all away, I thought.

Adultery is a serious sin because it is the breaking of a covenant promise. A covenant that God Himself is a part of.

In speaking about the sin of adultery Jesus says this in: **Matthew 5:27 - 28 (NIV) 27“You have heard that it was said, ‘Do not commit adultery.’  28But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.**

Here Jesus tells us where all adultery begins. Before adultery is manifested in the act itself it first manifest itself in the heart!

So, to deal with adultery effectively, or any sin for that matter, we must deal with it at its origin, in the human heart!

Scripture says that it is out of the overflow of the heart that the mouth speaks……

In other words what we allow within our heart will be manifest in what we speak and what we do….

Good in---good out! Bad in---bad out!

Paul says in the book of Romans…”for what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering, and so He condemned sin in sinful man in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us who do not live according to the sinful nature but who live according to the Spirit!

Jesus came to deal with the matters of the heart!

He came to indwell our hearts to give us the ability to live up to the righteous requirements of God’s law!

We deal with the sin of adultery just as we deal with any other sin of the flesh…..we yield our lives to Christ through Lordship and allow Him to manifest His presence within us!

Lordship speaks of surrender and control!

A life that is truly surrendered to Christ will advocate all control to Him!

Adultery, like all other sins, can be forgiven but sometimes even forgiven sin has consequence that were set in motion that must yet be paid.

David was forgiven his sin by God and that is a wonderful thing, but even though he was forgiven he still had a high price to pay for his infidelity….

His family was never the same again!

Otis of Wisconsin once wrote advice columnists, Ann Landers.

Dear Ann Landers: Eleven years ago, I walked out on a 12-year marriage.

My wife was a good person, but for a long time she was under a lot of stress. Instead of helping her, I began an affair with her best friend.

This is what I gave up:

1. Seeing my daughter grow up.

2. The respect of many long-time friends.

3. The enjoyment of living as a family.

4. A wife who was loyal, appreciative and who tried very hard to make me happy.

This is what I got:

1. Two step-children who treated me like dirt.

2. A wife who didn't know how to make anything for dinner but reservations.

3. A wife whose only interest in me was how much money she could get.

4. A wife who disparaged my family and ruined all my existing friendships.

5. Finally, the best thing I got was a bitter, expensive divorce.

Ann, tell your readers that anyone who is married and has his or her next mate all lined up is looking for trouble. People don't know what they are giving up until they no longer have it. Then it's too late.

Otis of Wisconsin.

Far too many Christian men and women have fallen into the trap of adultery.

Though the exact details that got them there may be different there are some common denominators that all who have broken their marriage covenants through adultery have in common.

At a time when kings go off to war David stayed in Jerusalem! Most often those who fall to adultery have placed themselves in a place that they shouldn’t have been at a time when they shouldn’t have been there.

Either physically, emotionally or mentally have placed themselves in Jerusalem when they should have been somewhere else.

At the emotional and physical side of their spouse.

Working together to do whatever was necessary to see that the vows that they made to each other and God remain unbroken.

This morning are you as committed to your marriage as God would have you to be? Are you as committed to it as God is?

And for this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united unto his wife and the two of them will become one flesh…..

Do you thank God for His original and perfect design and plan for marriage? Do you thank Him for the one that He has brought into your life to become the other half of the whole He intended for you to be?

And the two shall become one flesh….

Are you cherishing the wholeness of the one God has given you in your spouse?

And are you protecting that wholeness by living a life of love, fidelity and devotion to that person?