

Week of Jan 22, 2024

Book: No More Excuses

Chapter 4: No More Allowing Immorality

Theme: Guardrails

Overview:

On many sections of highways, there are security barriers, also called guardrails, to prevent catastrophic damage for single and multiple vehicle accidents on the highway. Either as a separator for two different directions of traffic or alongside the edge of steep mountainous terrain, they are there for protection against ourselves or others. Many men, including pastors, have fallen to the temptation and sin of immorality. It is one of Satan's greatest weapons, and David was no exception to it. Satan picked the right time and right place to take advantage of David without his guardrails. Men look at guardrails as limiting their freedom when in fact, they are protecting that freedom from themselves. When we literally go off the rails, far more than just our little world is impacted. Our family, friends, colleagues, and even strangers are impacted by our immoral decisions. David's poor decision affected a kingdom. How can this be avoided? One must answer the question, "Is Christ enough in your personal, professional, social, and spiritual life?" Grapple w/ this question this week.

Daily Devotions (Scripture and Meditation)

- **Monday - 2 Samuel 11**
 - When David committed adultery with Bathsheba, he was isolated (by himself) and somewhere he wasn't supposed to be (at home instead of in battle with his men). How will you avoid becoming isolated in a place where you shouldn't be?

- **Tuesday- 2 Samuel 12**
 - David had Nathan who could speak the truth to him and help him see the gravity of his sin. Do you have a person like Nathan in your life? If not, where do you think you need to look to find them?

- **Wednesday- Psalm 32**
 - Why is confessing your sins to the Lord crucial? What happens when you don't confess your sin? What happens when you do? Read Psalm 139:23-24 and make that your prayer today.

- **Thursday - Matthew 6:22-23**
 - From television to the internet, to social media, to advertising, and to culture as a whole, sexual temptation and imagery is everywhere we look. What guardrails do you need to put in place to protect your eyes, ears, heart, and soul from these temptations?

- **Friday- Matthew 5:27-30**
 - What is your definition of adultery and sexual sin? How does it line up and compare with the words of Jesus? What measures are you taking to avoid sexual temptation?

- **Saturday- Ephesians 5**
 - How do you look at women? Do you love and respect your bride as Christ did the church as commanded by Paul in Ephesians 5? If you are single, do you look at the woman you are dating and care for her in a way that she might one day become your bride? Do you treat her in such a way that you recognize she likely WILL be someone's bride in the future?

- **Sunday- 1 Corinthians 10**

- Paul writes in v13: “No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.” Tony Evans suggests several ways to overcome sexual sin. How will you find the “escape route,” and how will you know that you have found it?

Weekly Challenge:

Is Christ enough?

- If He is, then question your incentives in pursuing whatever other endeavors might be before you.

Is Christ enough?

- If He is, then praise Him publicly and privately so others wouldn't question it.

Is Christ enough?

- If He is, then see your vocation or current situation in life as ministry of His Gospel and not something else.

For Further Meditation:

Psalm 51 and Romans 7