
“Suggestive Sin”

If you are honest with yourself as you read this article, sin is crouching at your door. There is something that you are contemplating doing that you know is wrong. You have been massaging and entertaining that sinful act or behavior for some time now. Your thoughts have been steering towards this sinful act that you know will displease the Lord. It is almost as if you have this relatively painless yet nagging headache that will not go away even though you manage to block it out and work through it. Nevertheless, you know that it is there. You are struggling constantly with wanting to do what is right and pleasing to God but the lure of this temptation is very strong. Your flesh is making a passionate bid for your surrender while the Spirit is pleading that you stay focused on Him. Whatever your particular battle is right now, and because of the sensitive state that you are in, it is critical that you are careful who you speak to, hang out with, or associate with. Why? Simple: the wrong company who gives the wrong advice or motivation will put you over the edge. (By the way, if you are not in a battle of sin right now, then get ready because there is one right around the corner!) Do not kid yourself and think that you will be able to handle it because the Scriptures clearly declare “that pride comes before that fall” (Proverbs 16:18) and “the heart is deceitful above all things” (Jer. 17:9). Besides, do you think that our enemy is not aware of your struggle, temptation, or secret desire right now? Of course he is! And he is planning his next move to put you over the edge!

As we search the Scriptures for evidence of such things, we can look at a critical moment in the life of one of David’s sons, Amnon, in 2 Samuel 13:1-14. Amnon had been festering the sinful seed of lust over his brother Absalom’s sister, Tamar. In fact, we can safely conclude that Amnon had been lusting heavily over Tamar for some time and so much so that he even became sick over wanting her so bad. So now the epidemic stage is set for Amnon because he knew that what he wanted to do would have been an egregious sin, but his constant thoughts on it and intense secret desire created, unfortunately, the perfect opportunity for the wrong company and wrong advice to turn his evil desires loose. Enter his friend, Jonadab, who the Bible call a very “shrewd” or “crafty” man depending on the version your read. Irregardless, neither description is a good one, and certainly he was not the kind of person that Amnon needed as a friend at a time like this. Nevertheless, Jonadab notices something is wrong and asks Amnon what is troubling him. Now, this probably would have been a good time for Amnon to keep his mouth shut and not disclose his secret yearnings to such a shady character like Jonadab, but he does anyway. The result is predictable. Jonadab concocts a scheme that allows Amnon to rape Tamar thereby unleashing and playing out his sinful desire. All it took for Amnon’s sin to come to fruition was an ill-advised word from “a friend”. I believe that sin was so entrenched and impregnated in Amnon’s heart, thoughts, and mind that anyone (if not eventually himself) with an improper word, motivation, or setting would have been enough to give birth to his sin. Incidentally, can we say that the enemy was behind Jonadab’s creative scheme? Jonadab, himself was shady so it would have been very easy for the enemy to use Jonadab for his own destructive purposes. So, yes the enemy can use someone or something to push you over the edge when sin is crouching at your door.

At this moment, you need to exercise discernment with who you speak to or consult with and what you allow yourself to be exposed to. The slightest incorrect decision or action can have destructive consequences. More importantly, however, is to turn it over to the Lord and stay close. He says that if you draw near to Him He will draw near to you (James 4:8). Recognize that no temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it (1 Cor. 10:13).

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