

## Mid-Week Devotion



## Forbidden Promises

**Read 2 Samuel 11 ...and he saw a women bathing...and she was very beautiful.**

Why is what we don't have always more attractive than that which we do have? Have you ever wanted something forbidden so bad that it constantly occupied your every thought, driving you to near insanity? Wanting what we can't have, that is the forbidden, is so entrenched in our being that it often will become a consuming fire, driving us to do almost anything to possess it.

David had everything; he was the king; God's anointed. He had been the recipient of God's mercy and protection on countless occasions, which literally saved his life. He was blessed with many servants, and also many wives. He was ruler over the house of Judah and Israel. Moreover, even though He had so much, God would have given him even more, had he just asked. But none of that mattered, for he had cast his eyes upon Bathsheba...the wife of another. While this made her the forbidden, I suspect it also made her irresistible to David.

We all have things forbidden to us, in fact, no matter how much we may acquire in our lifetimes there will always be that which we are forbidden to possess. Isn't it interesting that being forbidden only seems to make us want them even more? It is as if they promise us to be just what we need, and so we scheme, strive, and connive until at last, we have it. It's only then however, that we begin to realize its true cost, which then leaves us feeling empty. Feeling this way however, just seems to spur us on to find the next forbidden thing promising to be our savior. Surely if I can just have this one thing, we tell ourselves, everything will be great. Then that too fails us. That's the problem with things forbidden; they all make promises they can't deliver and they all wind up costing us much more than we ever intended to pay. David's affair with Bathsheba promised to quench his lustful desires on that hot summer night; what promised to be a simple act for a King, cost him more than he could ever have had imagined.

Things forbidden in our lives are not always as apparent as adultery; however, one sure way to recognize them is to ask yourself what you are willing to pay to have it. If the answer is almost anything, then you can be assured that it is something God has forbidden you to have. This is because if you are willing to do anything or pay anything to possess it, in reality, it is the forbidden that has possessed you, and the cost will always be more than you thought it would be. It is like paying for something with a credit card. If just before the sales person ran your card he informed you that by making the minimum scheduled payment it would take you 40 years to pay it off, you probably wouldn't buy it! But as David found out, things forbidden never reveal their true costs, just as no sales person will ever tell you about the hidden costs of using credit.

So the next time you're tempted to possess the forbidden, remember that only Jesus is your true Savior, and the only thing it will cost you to have Him, is your sin.

Blessings, Pastor Ed