

A MARRAGE WITHOUT REGRETS

PROGRAM 29 (#910159)

WEEK 6 (910334)

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The following is an actual transcript of the PRECEPTS FOR LIFE Broadcast. For the purpose of filling transcript requests quickly, they have received only light editing. If you have questions concerning the material covered in this broadcast, Kay has published a number of books explaining the Scripture in depth. These books may be ordered by contacting the telephone number or address printed above.

SERIES: A Marriage Without Regrets

TITLE: Program 29 – How Do You Handle Temptation

THURSDAY

OPEN

Precious One, you need to learn how to handle temptation. Because when lust conceives, it brings forth sin. And sin brings forth a child and that child's name is death. You don't want to die. You want to live. And Jesus can set you free. Just listen to Him

PART ONE

2 Samuel, chapter 11, we find the story of a man who failed to handle temptation. You probably know about him. You've probably seen the movie, "David and Bathsheba." Well, let's go to 2 Samuel 11 and see what happened to David and how he ended up in bed with Bathsheba. It says in chapter 11, verse 1, "That it happened in the spring at a time when kings go out to battle, that David sent Joab and his servants with him and all Israel. And they destroyed the sons of Ammon and besieged Rabah." And then there's this very clear statement that God doesn't want you to miss. "But

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David stayed at Jerusalem.” Now, what I want you to know and what I want you to see is: it was the time for kings to go to battle. Kings only went to battle during certain times of the year. And they only went during those certain times of the year because of the rains, because of the storms, because the weather was best for battle. And so that’s when they would go to war. It was just taken, “Okay guys, pick up your swords, pick up your shields, get on your horses. Let’s go. It’s time for war.” Well, it was time for war. But David stayed in Jerusalem. When you are tempted, you are usually tempted because you aren’t where you ought to be, doing what you ought to do. So that’s the first thing that I would write down. How do you handle temptation? You stay where you ought to stay. You do what you ought to do. Well, the next verse says, “Now when evening came, David arose from his bed.” Now something is wrong. The guy’s in bed. And he’s in bed in the late afternoon. It says, “He arose from his bed and he walked around on the roof of the kings house and from the roof, he saw a woman bathing and the woman was beautiful in appearance. You say, “Now wait a minute. How do you see a woman bathing from the roof of your house?” We have to remember that this is Jerusalem. And you have to remember that the roofs of the house are flat. And you have to remember that many times a woman would go out and on the roof of her house, she would bathe, or else, maybe she went up there to seduce someone. But I doubt that. Anyway, “David sent and inquired about the woman. And one said, ‘Is this not Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah, the Hittite?’” Now catch this. Who is the woman that lives in the house over there? Well, they come back with a report. And the report is very clear. She is the wife of Uriah the Hittite. “And David sent messengers and took her. And when she came to him and he lay with her and when she had purified herself from her uncleanness, she returned to her house. And the woman conceived and she sent and she told David and said, ‘I am pregnant.’” David’s in a dilemma. David’s in a dilemma because he knows who Uriah the Hittite is. He knows that Uriah serves in his army. He knows Uriah is on the battlefield. He knows that Uriah’s not home. And he has just slept with Uriah’s wife. As we look at

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this, what I want to do is I want to read part of the story and then give you a couple insights on how you handle temptation. And what I want you to see is there's a process here. First of all, David's not where he ought to be. You say, "But I'm where I ought to be. I'm at work and I'm tempted." And I understand. And the temptation is great. And the pressure is great because we live in an amoral society. So you can be where you're supposed to be and still be tempted. But what if you are where you ought to be, doing what you ought to do, and you see someone and you desire someone. What do you do? Well, it's interesting because there is a pattern here, a pattern that you need to understand when you see something that you shouldn't see. He was on the roof of his house. He looked down, he saw this woman. She was taking a bath. She was beautiful and all of a sudden there was this inflaming desire. Now let me just go back and say one thing: that when you are rested, when you get a lot of rest, your sex drive increases, so many of you have lost your sex drive because you're so tired. And you just fall in bed at night and neither one of you feel like having sex. David has had a nap. So David, I mean, he's rested. He sees this woman. He inquires about her and then he takes her. He sees her. He desires her. He takes her. And what does he do? He sins. He breaks God's commandment. Now there's a pattern here. You have to know what to do when you see something that you shouldn't see, and to know that, I want to take you to Job, chapter 31. In Job, chapter 31 and it's a very, very key passage because Job is talking to God about his righteousness. And Job is explaining, "God, I have lived righteously." And he had lived righteously. As a matter of fact the Bible tells us that there was no man on the face of this earth that was more righteous than Job in his days, no one. I mean God was so proud of it, that He called Satan. He says, "Have you considered my servant Job? Do you see how wonderful he is? And Satan said to Him, "You know he's only that way because You put a hedge around him. Take the hedge away and then he'll turn around and he'll curse You to Your face." Well as Job pleads his righteousness before God, he tells God, "God, I made a covenant with my eyes. How then should I look on a virgin? God, I made a deal, a solemn, binding agreement with my eyes that

when I saw someone and it inflamed desire in me, that I was going to turn away my eyes.” I want to tell you something. If David had handled temptation that way, that day, if when he saw that woman, even though all of a sudden, desire and passion welled up in him, David had other wives. David could have gone to those other wives. He should have satisfied his desire legitimately. He could have done what Proverbs 5 says. He could have let his wife's breasts satisfy him at all times. He could have been exhilarated with her love. But instead, he looked at this woman and he kept on looking at this woman and he desired. He didn't all of a sudden say, “That woman's taking a bath,” and turn his head away and get down those stairs and get off that roof. He did not do it. And if he had done it, it would have changed the whole course of his life. It would have saved the lives of people. It would have saved the lives of a child. It would have saved a relationship with his son. It would have changed a lot in his life that consequently cause him pain. You need to make a covenant with your eyes. And that covenant with your eyes is if you're watching a movie and all of a sudden they're in a sex scene you make a covenant with your eyes, you're going to shut your eyes or you're going to get out of that movie. If you see any advertisement for pornography or anything or you're flipping the dial or you're traveling internationally and when you turn on the TV, all of a sudden those things can come right before your eyes. I know. I've had it happen to me. And you make a covenant that you are going to get to that TV and not stare at the screen and try and watch it while you turn it off. You're going to instantly turn away from it. Listen to what Job goes on to say. He says, “If my heart has been enticed by a woman.” The heart is enticed, Precious One, when the eyes see it, when the eyes are the gate that let that desire into your heart. So he says, “If my heart has been enticed by a woman, or if I've lurked at my neighbor's doorway.” Well, in a sense, that's what David was doing. He was lurking at his neighbor's doorway. And I'll tell you why. Because the servant comes back and says, “Yes, I can tell you who she is.” And he gives who she belongs to and he says, “She's the wife of Uriah, the wife of Uriah the Hittite.” Immediately David knows that's another man's wife. And he's

not to take her. David knows the Ten Commandments. David had a heart that was for God. David walked with God. David knew the power of God in his life. David restrained himself when he could have killed Saul, because he honored covenant. He knew that marriage was a covenant and yet he was about to break it. What does Job say? He says, “If I have lurked at my neighbor’s doorway, may my wife grind for another. And let others kneel down over her.” In other words, let others have her sexually. He says, “For that would be a lustful crime.” It’s a crime. It’s a crime. Did you hear it? Adultery is a crime. To take another man’s wife is a crime. And it’s a crime of the lusts. It’s a lustful crime. He says, “Moreover it would be an iniquity punishable by judges.” It’s a crime. It’s a sin that deserves to be punished by judges. “For it would be a fire that consumes to Abaddon and would uproot...,” listen, “...all my increase.” In other words, it would tear up my family. It would tear up my future. It would tear up my blessing. It would pull it out. It would uproot it all. Do you hear what God is saying? You need to listen, Beloved. You need to listen. And you need to listen because these are critical words. They’re a matter of life and death. They’re commandments that are going to lead you to life. They’re commandments that are going to keep you from darkness.

PART TWO

Well, I want to take you back to 2 Samuel, chapter 11. Remember it was a lustful crime. It was a lust. It was a desire. He desired her. What should he have done? What should you do when you are full of lust and desire? What do you do when you’re tempted? Well, let me review it before I tell you the answer to youthful or lustful passions. Number 1: When you’re tempted the first thing you need to do is to prevent temptation, be where you ought to be. Remember we saw that in Proverbs, chapter 7. David should have been at war. It was the time when kings went to battle and David had stayed in Jerusalem. All right, number 2: When you see something that you should not see, anything that awakens desire or lust in you, turn immediately away from

it. You say, “But I saw enough so that now my body’s turned on. Now my hormones are aflame. Now that desire is burning in my gut. What do I do?” Now what does 2 Timothy 2:22 say? Flee youthful lusts.” But it goes on to say something that’s very important. “Flee youthful lusts and pursue righteousness.” Now these are both commands. They’re present imperative verbs. The imperative mood means it’s a command. The present tense means continuous action. So what is he saying? You as a habit of life, you keep on continuously fleeing youthful lusts. You keep on continuously pursuing righteousness. You see, you make a choice. And so immediately when that lust comes, you turn round and you flee. Where do you flee? You flee to righteousness. You should have as a habit of your life to pursue righteousness. And believe me if you will make that your habit, if you will make that the goal of your life, “God, I’m going to be righteous.” You say, “What is righteousness?” Good question. Righteousness means you do what God says is right. Who determines right or wrong? It’s not our society. And no we are not living in a time where there are no moral absolutes. There are moral absolutes. We’re just ignoring them. We’re saying that they don’t exist. We’re saying that we must be tolerant and if we’re going to be tolerant I have to say that your way is right and your way is right and my way’s right, although all of them are going in different directions. Now that’s what society’s saying. And they’re saying that if you don’t accept what others believe and you don’t pat them on the back or you don’t agree with them or you tell them that they’re wrong then you are being intolerant. Don’t let anyone feed you that lie. God sets the standard for righteousness and if someone is not living according to that standard, they’re sinning and you and I, if we really loved them, and if we really care for them, we’re going to tell them. We’re going to warn them so that they can flee from the judgment of God and from the wrath of God. And they can embrace righteousness. And we’re going to tell them how to find it. So he says, “Flee youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace...,” He says, “...With those who call on the Lord from a pure heart, a pure heart.” The minute you see something like that, if you don’t turn your eyes away from it, if you begin to

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think on it, you are putting things into your heart and into your mind that you are going to have to battle with. And if you would have dealt with them immediately, if you would not have permitted them to come in, if you would have pursued righteousness and faith and love and peace with those that call on the Lord out of a pure heart and you would want to have a pure heart, you wouldn't be in all that trauma. You wouldn't be in all that mental conflict and anguish. You wouldn't be battling it. There is something about innocence that we need so desperately. And that is the fact that we have not tasted of evil and therefore we are not lured by evil. But let's go back to 2 Samuel. He says, "He sent and he inquired about the woman." He saw her, he desired, he sent and inquired about the woman. In other words, he's carrying this out. Now there's another scripture and I almost forgot to give it to you. And I've got to give it to you, because it's so essential. And it's, Matthew, chapter 5. He says in verse 27, "You have heard that it was said that you shall not commit adultery. But I say to you, that everyone who looks on a woman to lust for her has committed adultery already with her in his heart." Now when does adultery begin? It begins in the heart. To the Jews, they thought with their heart. So it was interchangeably. So adultery begins here. You see something. You desire it. You don't flee those youthful lusts. You don't pursue righteousness. You don't keep your heart pure. So you continue to look at her. Now David could have just stood on the balcony and committed adultery with her before he ever got her in bed. He could have just fantasized in his mind what it would be like and gone through the process in his mind. Now I want you to understand something. It is not a sin to look at someone or see something and have your passions aroused. That is not a sin. That's normal. It's more normal for some than it is for others. But that's normal. All right. What makes it a sin is when you continue to carry on that action in your mind. So he says, "Everyone who looks on a woman to lust for her...", to lust for her habitually, keeps on looking at a woman is what it says, "...has committed adultery with her already in his heart." Now listen to his advice. "And if your right eye makes you stumble, tear it out. And throw it from you. It is better that one of the parts of your body perish

than the whole body be thrown to hell.” You say, “Is he telling me literally to reach in and grab my eye and throw it out?” Now some people have literally done that. That’s not what he’s saying. He’s saying, “I’m trying to make a point. And I’m doing it with a hyperbole. And this is what I’m saying. I’m saying, “That if you don’t control that temptation in your mind and you go ahead and you lust with her. From what you are seeing...” Now remember what you are seeing. “You would be smarter if you can’t control your eyes, to get rid of your eye, than to keep your eye and to keep on looking and end up in hell.” 1 Corinthians, chapter 6 says this. “No adulterer has any inheritance in the kingdom of God.” He says, “Do not be deceived.” Now he forgives. He says, “And such were some of you, but you’ve been washed, you’ve been sanctified, you’ve been justified, you’ve been declared righteous because you’ve come to Me and you’ve asked Me for forgiveness and I’ve forgiven you. And you are forgiven and you are washed and you are clean and you are in right standing with Me.” But this is what He’s saying. He wants you to understand. And then you reach out and touch. You begin to caress. He says, “And if your right hand makes you stumble, cut it off and throw it from you. It is better for you that one of the parts of your body perish than for your whole body to go to hell.” What is he saying? He’s saying this: when you’re tempted, learn to control your eyes. Learn to control your mind, your thoughts. Do whatever is necessary so that you don’t sin. Because if that becomes your habit of life, you’re going to live forever in a place where the worm dies not and where the fire is not quenched. You don’t want to do that.