

AVOID IT, PASS NOT BY IT, TURN FROM IT, AND PASS AWAY PROVERBS 4:14-15

Text: Proverbs 4:14-15

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¹⁴Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil *men*. ¹⁵Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away.

Introduction:

As we can see in our text, the point of avoidance is being stressed in an emphatic way. There are places that as Christians we should avoid.

Some of the obvious ones include:

- The Bar
- The Casio
- A Dance Hall
- Etc.

However, this evening I want to look at some other places that we as Christians should not even think of going there.

1. THE PLACE OF DENIAL - THE DEVIL'S FIRE

(Mark 14:54) "And Peter followed him afar off, even into the palace of the high priest: and he sat with the servants, and warmed himself at the fire."

This all started when Peter began to think of himself as a super Christian, who was so spiritual that even the Devil couldn't effect him. Peter actually thought that he knew more than the Lord Himself. Beware when we begin to think of ourselves as some sort of Super Saint.

Matthew 26:31-35

³¹ Then saith Jesus unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad. ³² But after I am risen again, I will go before you into Galilee. ³³ Peter answered and said unto him, Though all *men* shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended. ³⁴ Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That this night, before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. ³⁵ Peter said unto him, Though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee. Likewise also said all the disciples.

A. Peter Denounced Christ's Purpose (Matt 16:21-23)

Matthew 16:21-23

²¹ From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day. ²² Then Peter took him, and began to

rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee. ²³ But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.

B. Peter Declared His Own Purity (Matt. 26:35)

Matthew 26:35

³⁵ Peter said unto him, Though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee. Likewise also said all the disciples.

C. Peter Disregarded His Prayer Life (Matt 26:40)

Matthew 26:40

⁴⁰ And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour?

Don't Even Think Of Going To The Place OF Denial

2. THE PLACE OF DISCOURAGEMENT - THE JUNIPER TREE

1 Kings 19:4

⁴ But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life; for I *am* not better than my fathers.

This was the result of forgetting the past blessings of God. He had forgotten about the results of the show down with the wicked prophets of Baal.

He had forgotten how that God had spared him from hunger with the never ending barrel of meal, and cruse of oil of the widow.

He had forgotten how that God had fed him bread and flesh with the ravens.

The quickest way to discouragement is to forget the blessings of God.

A. Elijah Retreated from the Danger

1. This is a very revealing picture. One woman in power terrified Elijah more than 850 wicked prophets.

B. Elijah Reckoned Defectively

1. He was focused on himself and missed out on the fact that there were 7,000 faithful men of God besides him.

C. Elijah Was Replaced Directly

1. I don't know if it is directly related to Elijah's pride and retreat, but God had Elijah anoint his replacement immediately after this incident.

Don't Even Think Of Going To The Place Of Denial Or Discouragement.

3. THE PLACE OF DEFILEMENT - THE ROOF TOP

2 Samuel 11:1-4

¹ And it came to pass, after the year was expired, at the time when kings go forth *to battle*, that David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the children of Ammon, and besieged Rabbah. But David tarried still at Jerusalem. ² And it came to pass in an eveningtide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king's house: and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman *was* very beautiful to look upon. ³ And David sent and enquired after the woman. And *one* said, *Is* not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite? ⁴ And David sent messengers, and took her; and she came in unto him, and he lay with her; for she was purified from her uncleanness: and she returned unto her house.

Notice David's defilement was accompanied by:

A. Laziness

2 Samuel 11:1

¹ And it came to pass, after the year was expired, at the time when kings go forth *to battle*, that David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the children of Ammon, and besieged Rabbah. But David tarried still at Jerusalem.

1. Laziness is not just unwillingness to work, but an unwillingness to work at what you should be

doing. Some people are lazy in one area and industrious in another.

B. A look

2 Samuel 11:2

² And it came to pass in an eveningtide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king's house: and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman *was* very beautiful to look upon.

1. We need to learn to turn our heads away from things that can bring about sin.

C. A lusting

2 Samuel 11:3

³ And David sent and enquired after the woman. And *one* said, *Is* not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?

1. He should have never lingered, been lazy, been looking. It resulted in lust.

James 1:13-16

¹³ Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: ¹⁴ But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. ¹⁵ Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. ¹⁶ Do not err, my beloved brethren.

D. A lie

2 Samuel 11:6-13

⁶ And David sent to Joab, *saying*, Send me Uriah the Hittite. And Joab sent Uriah to David. ⁷ And when Uriah was come unto him, David demanded *of him* how Joab did, and how the people did, and how the war prospered. ⁸ And David said to Uriah, Go down to thy house, and wash thy feet. And Uriah departed out of the king's house, and there followed him a mess *of meat* from the king. ⁹ But Uriah slept at the door of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and went not down to his house. ¹⁰ And when they had told David, saying, Uriah went not down unto his house, David said unto Uriah, Camest thou not from *thy* journey? why *then* didst thou not go down unto thine house? ¹¹ And Uriah said unto David, The ark, and Israel, and Judah, abide in tents; and my lord Joab, and the servants of my lord, are encamped in the open fields; shall I then go into mine house, to eat and to drink, and to lie with my wife? *as* thou livest, and *as* thy soul liveth, I will not do this thing. ¹² And David said to Uriah, Tarry here to day also, and to morrow I will let thee depart. So Uriah abode in Jerusalem that day, and the morrow. ¹³ And when David had called him, he did eat and drink before him; and he made him drunk: and at even he went out to lie on his bed with the servants of his lord, but went not down to his house.

1. David wasn't interested in the battle, he was interested in covering up his sin.

Proverbs 28:13

¹³ He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh *them* shall have mercy.

Illustration: One lie leads to another.

E. A Life (Uriah was killed)

2 Samuel 11:14-17

¹⁴ And it came to pass in the morning, that David wrote a letter to Joab, and sent *it* by the hand of Uriah. ¹⁵ And he wrote in the letter, saying, Set ye Uriah in the forefront of the hottest battle, and retire ye from him, that he may be smitten, and die. ¹⁶ And it came to pass, when Joab observed the city, that he assigned Uriah unto a place where he knew that valiant men *were*. ¹⁷ And the men of the city went out, and fought with Joab: and there fell *some* of the people of the servants of David; and Uriah the Hittite died also.

F. A loss - David suffered fourfold

Note:

Sin never goes un-checked. Sin always displeases the Lord. God always has a Nathan somewhere.

Notice: David cast his own judgment.☹

2 Samuel 11:27

²⁷ And when the mourning was past, David sent and fetched her to his house, and she became his wife, and bare him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD.

2 Samuel 12:1-14

¹ And the LORD sent Nathan unto David. And he came unto him, and said unto him, There were two men in one city; the one rich, and the other poor. ² The rich *man* had exceeding many flocks and herds: ³ But the poor *man* had nothing, save one little ewe

lamb, which he had bought and nourished up: and it grew up together with him, and with his children; it did eat of his own meat, and drank of his own cup, and lay in his bosom, and was unto him as a daughter. ⁴ And there came a traveller unto the rich man, and he spared to take of his own flock and of his own herd, to dress for the wayfaring man that was come unto him; but took the poor man's lamb, and dressed it for the man that was come to him. ⁵ And David's anger was greatly kindled against the man; and he said to Nathan, As the LORD liveth, the man that hath done this *thing* shall surely die: ⁶ And he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity. ⁷ And Nathan said to David, Thou *art* the man. Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I anointed thee king over Israel, and I delivered thee out of the hand of Saul; ⁸ And I gave thee thy master's house, and thy master's wives into thy bosom, and gave thee the house of Israel and of Judah; and if *that had been* too little, I would moreover have given unto thee such and such things. ⁹ Wherefore hast thou despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in his sight? thou hast killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and hast taken his wife *to be* thy wife, and hast slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon. ¹⁰ Now therefore the sword shall never depart from thine house; because thou hast despised me, and hast taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be thy wife. ¹¹ Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house, and I will take thy wives before thine eyes, and give *them* unto thy neighbour, and he shall lie with thy wives in the sight of this sun. ¹² For thou didst *it* secretly: but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun. ¹³ And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD. And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die. ¹⁴ Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also *that is* born unto thee shall surely die.

1. The baby dies (2 Sam 12:15-18)

2 Samuel 12:15-18

¹⁵ And Nathan departed unto his house. And the LORD struck the child that Uriah's wife bare unto David, and it was very sick. ¹⁶ David therefore besought God for the child; and David fasted, and went in, and lay all night upon the earth. ¹⁷ And the elders of his house arose, *and went* to him, to raise him up from the earth: but he would not, neither did he eat bread with them. ¹⁸ And it came to pass on the seventh day, that the child died. And the servants of David feared to tell him that the child was dead: for they said, Behold, while the child was yet alive, we spake unto him, and he would not hearken unto our voice: how will he then vex himself, if we tell him that the child is dead?

2. David's daughter Tamar was raped by her brother Amnon (2 Sam 13:10-14)

2 Samuel 13:10-14

¹⁰ And Amnon said unto Tamar, Bring the meat into the chamber, that I may eat of thine hand. And Tamar took the cakes which she had made, and brought *them* into the chamber to Amnon her brother. ¹¹ And when she had brought *them* unto him to eat, he took hold of her, and said unto her, Come lie with me, my sister. ¹² And she answered him, Nay, my brother, do not force me; for no such thing ought to be done in Israel: do not thou this folly. ¹³ And I, whither shall I cause my shame to go? and as for thee, thou shalt be as one of the fools in Israel. Now therefore, I pray thee, speak unto the king; for he will not withhold me from thee. ¹⁴ Howbeit he would not hearken unto her voice: but, being stronger than she, forced her, and lay with her.

3. Absalom kills his brother Amnon for raping his sister. (2 Sam 13:19-20, 22, 28-29)

2 Samuel 13:19-20

¹⁹ And Tamar put ashes on her head, and rent her garment of divers colours that *was* on her, and laid her hand on her head, and went on crying. ²⁰ And Absalom her brother said unto her, Hath Amnon thy brother been with thee? but hold now thy peace, my sister: he *is* thy brother; regard not this thing. So Tamar remained desolate in her brother Absalom's house.

2 Samuel 13:22

²² And Absalom spake unto his brother Amnon neither good nor bad: for Absalom hated Amnon, because he had forced his sister Tamar.

2 Samuel 13:28-29

²⁸ Now Absalom had commanded his servants, saying, Mark ye now when Amnon's heart is merry with wine, and when I say unto you, Smite Amnon; then kill him, fear not: have not I commanded you? be courageous, and be valiant. ²⁹ And the servants of Absalom did unto Amnon as Absalom had commanded. Then all the king's sons arose, and every man gat him up upon his mule, and fled.

4. Absalom dies (2 Sam 18:9-15)

2 Samuel 18:9-15

⁹ And Absalom met the servants of David. And Absalom rode upon a mule, and the mule went under the thick boughs of a great oak, and his head caught hold of the oak, and he was taken up between the heaven and the earth; and the mule that *was* under him went away. ¹⁰ And a certain man saw *it*, and told Joab, and said, Behold, I saw Absalom hanged in an oak. ¹¹ And Joab said unto the man that told him, And, behold, thou sawest *him*, and why didst thou not smite him there to the ground? and I would have given thee ten *shekels* of silver, and a girdle. ¹² And the man said unto Joab, Though I should receive a thousand *shekels* of silver in mine hand, *yet* would I not put forth mine hand against

the king's son: for in our hearing the king charged thee and Abishai and Ittai, saying, Beware that none *touch* the young man Absalom. ¹³ Otherwise I should have wrought falsehood against mine own life: for there is no matter hid from the king, and thou thyself wouldest have set thyself against *me*. ¹⁴ Then said Joab, I may not tarry thus with thee. And he took three darts in his hand, and thrust them through the heart of Absalom, while he *was* yet alive in the midst of the oak. ¹⁵ And ten young men that bare Joab's armour compassed about and smote Absalom, and slew him.

Don't Even Think Of Going To The Place Of Denial Or Discouragement, or Defilement.

4. THE PLACE OF DISOBEDIENCE - TARSHISH

Jonah 1:1-3

¹ Now the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, ² Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me. ³ But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD, and went down to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid the fare thereof, and went down into it, to go with them unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD.

- A. Jonah Realized God's command.
- B. Jonah Rejected God's will.
- C. Jonah Ran from God's presence.
- D. Jonah Received God's chastisement.
- E. Jonah Returned to God's purpose.

F. Jonah saw Revival as God promised.

G. Jonah Realized God was right and began to pout.

Close:

We need to avoid the place of denial.

We need to avoid the place of discouragement.

We need to avoid the place of defilement.

We need to avoid the place of disobedience.

Proverbs 4:14-15

¹⁴Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil *men*. ¹⁵Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away.