

# “The Fall of David” // 2 Samuel 11–12 // *The Whole Story* #17

This weekend, I want to walk you through one of the most tragic stories in the Bible. There are **multiple things** at work in this story. It serves as a significant pivot point in “the whole story,” showing us why we need a Messiah; why it’s not an earthly king or political solution that can help us. But along the way, it gives us a very pressing warning about a very practical issue.

Just remember, though, these stories are **Not: Bible character → You**, but **Bible character → Jesus → You**. Don’t cut out the middle man here. The big point of this story is that **every earthly leader will let us down**. Salvation does not come riding on **Air Force One**. We need something different.

But this story also shows us the dangers of sexual sin. Sexual sin destroys **more people’s relationship with God** than probably any other thing, including one of the greatest men who ever lived—a man God described as a man after God’s own heart.

Now, as your campus pastor said, **we always encourage you, if you have kids, to take advantage of our awesome stuff going on at Summit Kids. But today, I really want to encourage you to consider that. I’m not going to be intentionally risqué, but we might dip into some PG-13 content in this message... and I don’t want to force these conversations on you if you are not ready for them... So if you think your kids might not be ready for this yet, now might be the time to stage an emergency bathroom run and drop them off in Summit kids. (If they are 13 or over they should be fine... in fact, they might have to end up explaining a few things to you.)** But, you’ve been warned.

2 Samuel 11:1–27 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> *In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel, out to battle... But David remained at Jerusalem.*

- **The first thing you notice here is that A. David was disengaged from the battle.** For maybe the 1<sup>st</sup> time in his life, he isn’t leading his people out into the battle himself; he sends someone else and he stays at home. David the warrior has become David the relaxer.
- For a lot of people, this is where sexual temptation begins. Their lives lack purpose, and the allure of sex promises a fulfillment, a distraction, an excitement, attention, or adventure, that they desperately crave.

<sup>2</sup> *It happened, late one afternoon, when David arose from his couch and was walking on the roof of the king’s house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful.* (Hebrew word for beautiful here is “tobe”, which means literally “fine.” Typically, the Bible doesn’t rate people. So, the fact that it notes that Bathsheba was *fine*—and not just fine but *very fine*... means that she was some kind of hot.)

**Here’s the 2<sup>nd</sup> thing you notice: B. David was in a place where he could be tempted.**

- He’s walking on the roof... He’s doing the OT version of browsing the Internet alone, late at night. He points, clicks. Clicks again... then he dwells. And his feelings start to overpower him

<sup>3</sup> *And David sent and inquired about the woman. And one said, “Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?”*

- **Now this is really important:** The author subtly points out that this is **someone’s daughter**; someone’s wife; someone’s mother. Why is he doing that?
  - **Because, you see, sexual sin almost always objectifies someone.** You think of them only as an object of **your** pleasure, and you forget that you’re dealing with someone’s life, usually multiple people’s lives.

- This person is someone's daughter; or someone's mother; someone's wife, or future wife; this **man you are messing around with** is some little girl's daddy.
- Most crimes begin with **dehumanizing...** We hear about Nazi crimes and think, "How could actual people do these things??" Historians explain: Easy. The Nazis quit thinking of the Jews as human.
  - That's what often happens in sex. You think of someone in terms of what kind of pleasure they can provide for you, and you forget you are dealing with a real person with real relationships.
  - **Some of you have been on the other side of this...** You've been **hurt**. Someone used you. Someone didn't take into account what the sexual sin was going to do with your family.
- Probably the thing that helps me stay away from pornography more than any other is thinking that every image is some daddy's little girl. Behind every pornographic image is a broken-hearted father.

<sup>4</sup> Then she returned to her house. <sup>5</sup> And the woman conceived, and she sent and told David, "I am pregnant."

**At this point**, David starts a pretty complicated cover-up. He sends word to Joab, his army commander, and says, "Have Uriah come home. I'd like for him to brief me on the war."

**So Uriah comes back**, and starts explaining what is happening, and David is like, "Yeah, yeah, yeah. That's great. Why don't you go on home, get a good night's sleep... Aren't you married Uriah? Oh really, well, I'm sure your wife misses you, so go on down to your house..."

- (David is of course **thinking that Uriah hasn't seen his wife** in a while, and so David gives him (vs. 8) a Hebrew version of an aphrodisiac, and sends him to home... thinking he and Bathsheba will... you know... get busy, and then everyone will assume the baby is Uriah's.

But here's where the real drama starts. Uriah refuses to go home. He says in vs. 11, "All my brother soldiers are sleeping in tents in the midst of battle, and the Ark of God is out there, too, it's just not right that I go home, lounge around, and sleep with my wife." So he sleeps in a big room with all the palace guards that night. Imagine how convicting that was for David—this guy won't even sleep with his wife out of loyalty to his brother soldiers.

So David hatches **plan-B**. He invites Uriah up for dinner the next night, and just gets him hammered, thinking, "Drunk guys tend lose their nobility." **So, Uriah, who is noble, yes, but also loves a good Corona, gets hammered.** But as he's going home he passes out in his front yard and spends the night there... and everyone sees that.

So, David starts **plan-C**. And by this time he's desperate. He writes a note to Joab that says, "Put Uriah in the very front of the battle. And when you charge the line, have everyone pull back from him and leave him out there alone, so that he dies." He writes this on a scroll, seals it and tells Uriah not to read it, and has him deliver it by hand to Joab.

Uriah literally carries his own death warrant in his hands. Joab follows the instructions, and Uriah is killed. By the way,

- I noticed in our reading this week... it **wasn't just Uriah** that was killed, but a bunch of soldiers got killed in this operation. Joab abandoned the whole squadron that Uriah was in and they all died.
- **This is David, the loyal shepherd boy who was a man after God's own heart! The giant slayer; the mighty warrior.** The shepherd of God's people. Killing a whole group of people to cover up his moment of pleasure.

Well, after Uriah dies, David takes Bathsheba for his wife and takes her into **his** house. She bears the child, everybody assumes that she got pregnant on their honeymoon, and David brushes this whole thing under the rug. And it's all behind us, right?

Not hardly. 2 Samuel 11 ends with these chilling words: <sup>27</sup> **But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD.**

**Chapter 11 is going to mark a turning point in David's life.**

- David, who up until this point has enjoyed a pretty charmed life, watches as his family starts to fall apart.
- This newborn son dies.
- Another one of his sons rapes his half-sister in the palace and gets killed in vengeance by another of his brothers.
- And then another of David's sons leads a rebellion against David and is himself killed.

Let me stop here before we go on, and draw out three really important truths:

### **1. Sexual sin will absolutely destroy your life**

**I read a book one time where a guy listed out all the things that would happen if he committed adultery...** and it made me make my own list.

- *I would cause untold hurt to Veronica, and I would have to endure the loss of her respect and trust, and would likely forfeit my relationship to her*
- *I would cause deep hurt and confusion in Kharis, Allie, Ryah, and Adon, who may never understand why I traded them for a thrill. My relationship with them would never be the same.*
- *I would bring shame on my mother and father*
- *I would bring shame and endless judgment on girl I commit adultery with...*
- *I would cause shame to you, my church family*
- *I would just give fodder for the mockery of professors at UNC, Duke and NC State who would use my story as just one more example with students of why none of this is true.*
- *I would follow in the footsteps of men I know whose immorality forfeited their ministry and causes me to shudder with horror*

- *Most importantly, I would grieve my Lord and Savior and one day I will have to look him in the face and explain why, after all he had given to me, and after all the beauty he had put into my life, I had to have something else.*

**And notice, men especially, that** this sin began with a version of pornography.

- Sociologists point out that **pornography trains your heart and mind to objectify the opposite sex.**
- That's what you see happening with David, which is why I showed you how the author stops to point out the things that David is **not** thinking about—that this is someone's daughter; someone's wife; maybe someone's mother.

I read a book several years ago called *Hooked*, in which these scientists studied out the effects of either porn or multiple sexual partners on our brains (for **both men and women**). (These scientists were **not Christians, just people interested what happens when you begin to regard sex** more as a commodity to enjoy with whomever you're interested in at the moment, rather than something you pursue in a life-long covenant. They say,

*"The individual who goes from sex partner to sex partner is causing his or her brain to mold in such a way that eventually accepts that sexual pattern as normal... The pattern of changing sex partners therefore damages their ability to bond in a committed relationship."*

*"The kind of attachment damage caused by repeated sexual encounters is, in many respects, more devastating than (unwanted) pregnancy or STD's..."*

The authors use the metaphor of **"tape,"** which you have probably heard...

Again, these are not pastors; they are scientists! They conclude, **"You can no more 'try out' sex than you can 'try out' birth. The very act of sex produces a new reality that cannot be undone."**

**Pornography, they say, has the same effect. Pornography destroys your own capacity for sexual fulfillment.** Every time you look at porn you train your soul to believe 3 things:

- A **real body** isn't good enough.
- **Only one body** isn't good enough.
- Your **spouse's body** isn't good enough.<sup>1</sup>

**No woman**, no matter how beautiful she is can live up to what you see in porn. Naomi Wolf (Who is *not* a Christian... far from it; she's a left-wing, a super-radical feminist, writing for NYT). "[For most men] real naked women are just bad porn." **No man has ever gorged himself on porn and then put it behind him after marriage because his wife met all his porn fantasies.** Instead, the opposite happens...

**Men, if you have pornography, for the sake of your relationship with all future women, you need to get rid of it today.**

- **AND... if you're not willing to address this in your life then I challenge you to tell your girlfriend/fiancée that you are bringing these things with you into your relationship... Tell her that now and give her the option to opt out now before you break her heart later.**

(BTW, I keep applying this to men, but it works in both genders. Sometimes for women it takes different forms: **trashy novels**—50 Shades...; but sometimes it is in images just like it is for men; studies show it is a problem for both men and women today.)

**Sex done God's way is life-giving.**

- It is to be a **total opening of the soul**—a fusion of bodies that is to be matched by oneness in every other area

- It is a renewal of the **marriage vow**: I give myself wholly and completely to you without reservation. You can see everything; you have it all. (I want to renew my vows)
- It's a **beautiful picture of the gospel**... known and loved.

Sex done God's way is life-giving; when done outside of God's way, outside of marriage—when our bodies become one without oneness in the rest of our lives, sex has the opposite effect. It dis-integrates—literally tears apart—the person. **Sex is such a powerful thing**—with *great powers to bless and equally great powers to destroy*.

- I always describe it like **FIRE**. Do you want fire in your house? Depends on where you put it. Fire in the FIREPLACE is awesome. Fire in the couch—not so awesome.
- It just makes sense; something as powerful as sex, with so great a power to bless, has an equally great ability to destroy.

Many think of sex as a victimless crime. **Woody Allen**: "Sex without love is an empty experience, but as empty experiences go, it's one of the best."

- It is not a victimless crime. And it turns out that **you are the first victim!**

**Many young people don't want to wait for sex until they get married** because they are afraid they will miss out on something; God tells you to wait because he doesn't want you to miss out on something.

- **Many think it is impossible: Not true... 2 things:** My wife and I were both virgins... "You're a pastor." Yeah, but I wasn't then. Even now you hear stories of people who make this decision. Russell Wilson. It's possible. 2. The most fully alive man ever to live, who taught us about the abundant life, chose never to experience sex.

## **2. Stay engaged in the battle**

- **For many of you, the problem is not a lustful body; it is a bored soul.**

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<sup>1</sup> These 3 specifically from Andy Stanley

- Your first application is to get involved in God's plan in the church.
- Volunteer. Lead. Serve. Get in a group
- Men, I can tell you from personal experience that the attractions of sex lose a lot of their power when you are actively engaged as the spiritual leader in your family.
  - That's why some of you are so susceptible. You're not living the life of courage and ministry God has designed you to live. You're not the spiritual leader on your family; you're sitting on the sidelines, disengaged from the battle.
- It's a lot more difficult to take your pants off when you're in a battle than when you're lounging around on the couch.
  - **Don't believe? Try taking off your pants in the middle of a rugby match.** You can do it; it's just a lot more difficult.
  - Let that be a metaphor unto you.
- For many of you, the problem is not a lustful body; it is a bored soul. **Stay engaged in the battle!**

### 3. Keep yourself away from temptation

- **Listen: It is easier to avoid temptation than to resist it.**
  - *As a child of the 80's, I learned many great life lessons from Mr. Miagi on Karate Kid.* One that always stuck with me: The best way to avoid a punch is not to be in a place where you are likely to get into a fight.
  - ***It is easier to avoid temptation than to resist it!***
- Let me use **Martin Luther's colorful way of saying this:** "*If your head is made of butter, stay away from the fire.*"
- Years ago I read this statement by **Dietrich Bonhoeffer** (German pastor who led a sabotage operation against Nazis and was ultimately executed for that)... He wrote something which I thought perfectly described my own path toward temptation:

(TALK THROUGH THIS...) "*In our members there is a slumbering inclination toward desire which is both sudden and fierce. With irresistible power, desire seizes mastery of the flesh. All at once, a secret smoldering fire is kindled. The flesh burns and is in flames.*"

*In this moment, God becomes quite unreal to us. And Satan does not here fill us with hatred of God, but with a forgetfulness of God. The lust thus aroused envelopes the mind and the will in deepest darkness. It is here that everything in me rises up against the word of God.*

*Therefore the Bible teaches that in times of temptation to our flesh there is one command – flee. Flee youthful lust. Flee worldly temptation. If you're feeling under pressure and on the verge of something – an emotion is welling up within you – what does the Bible say? Run. No human being has within them the strength to resist such overpowering emotions." **Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Temptation***

- This from a man who stared down the Nazi regime and was executed for it!
- ***It is easier to avoid temptation than to resist it.***
- *This is why I don't spend time alone with girls who are not my wife or my daughters! Is that because I can't handle myself?* No. It's just that I don't think I can handle myself. And the stakes are just too high.
  - I don't play Russian Roulette with my family.
  - I don't leave loaded guns around the house (technically not a sin, but what kind of dad would do that?)
  - I don't keep a panther in my backyard that may or may not eat one of my children.
- For some of you: take out the internet; get accountability. Give up a smartphone. You say, "Radical!" Jesus said to better to go gouge out your eye... so I'm letting you off easy.

### (2 Samuel 12:1–14)

Well, let's get **back to the story:** In 2 Sam 12, we're about a year after David's affair with Bathsheba. (We know that because the child from David and Bathsheba's affair has just been born, and back in those days, it took 9 months from the time a couple has sex for the baby to be born. I learned that in *seminary*.)

**One day a prophet named Nathan** asks if he can see David. He says, *“David... I heard something recently that really bothered me, and I thought you should know about it.”* (Now, **remember at this point, David thinks** nobody knows about his sin except of course Bathsheba. It was the perfect cover-up, so David is not nervous at all.)

And Nathan says: <sup>1</sup>*“There were two men in a certain city, the one rich and the other poor. <sup>2</sup> The rich man had very many flocks and herds, <sup>3</sup> but the poor man had nothing but one little tiny lamb, which he had bought with his own money. And... it grew up with him and with his children. (It was like a pet to them). It used to eat from their table and drink from his cup and lie in his arms, and it was like a daughter to him.* That’s a little creepy, but you get the point.

Nathan goes on, **(vs. 4): This rich guy, who had more sheep than he knew what to do with**, had some relatives from out of town stop in for a visit, but instead of preparing one of his own sheep for them to eat, he went and stole that **one little lamb** from this poor family, took it out of his arms while he was sleeping, just because he could get away with it and the man didn’t have any power to stop him.

*[5] Then David's anger was greatly kindled against the rich man, and he said to Nathan, “As the LORD lives, the man who has done this deserves to die, [6] and he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no compassion.”*

Nathan looks at David and says, in the most direct application point from a sermon, ever, said... ~~[[7] Nathan said to David,]~~ *“You are the man!”*

- Have you ever said, “Man, I felt like the preacher was talking right to me in that sermon?” David was literally the only one in the room!

The **conviction was inescapable** and David’s actions are **inexcusable**. David had just condemned himself to death out of his own mouth.

Nathan then says (vs 7), *“Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, ‘I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you out of the hand of Saul... and if that had been too little, I also would have given you much more! Why have you despised the commandment of the Lord, to do what is evil in his sight?’”*

<sup>13</sup> David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the LORD.”

And Nathan said to David, “The LORD has put away your sin; you shall not die.

<sup>14</sup> Nevertheless, because by this deed you have utterly scorned the LORD, the child who is born to you shall die.”

[10] Because you have despised me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife, therefore the sword shall never depart from your house... [11] ‘Behold, I will raise up evil against you out of your own house.

Listen: You can get forgiveness of sin, but sin still has consequences.

- This child died.
- Uriah died.
- David’s trust with the people was broken.
- David’s family was permanently scarred, suffering deep emotional and family trauma from this point on, with brothers literally killing one another.

**Write this down:** You can be forgiven, but you can’t un-sin. And a lot of people confuse forgiveness and consequences.

- You can be **fully and completely forgiven**. David *was*, Nathan said so. He was **made completely right with God**. He no longer had to carry around guilt and condemnation... but the effects remained.
  - If you **murder someone**, you can get forgiveness, but that doesn’t bring that person back to their family.

- In the **same way**, with sexual sin, you can get forgiveness, but **sin leaves damages**, in your life and in the life of others, that don't just automatically go away.

Understand that as I say this, **I am conflicted**, because I don't want to discourage those of you who have made a mistake like this... as if there is no hope. As I'll show you in a moment, the power of God's grace is amazing. But I also want to warn some of you who are on the brink of this of the seriousness of what you are dealing with.

#### 4. Exposing your sin begins the healing process

- For a year David had set on this. In Psalm 51 he explained that it ate away at his insides like a cancer.
- But here was the thing. God had said this 4 chapters before: **2 Samuel 7:16**, "**Your house and kingdom will endure forever. And your throne will be established forever.**"
  - God said that to David **knowing full well** what would do!
  - He had determined to work for good in his life forever, already knowing what David would do...
  - God's promise to work for good hadn't changed; but God can't commence that until David repents!
- **Proverbs 28:13**, "**Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.**"
- Y'all, listen: The question is not "do you sin?" but, "What do you do after you sin?" **Everybody sins**. What you do after you sin makes the difference between life and death.
- **The gospel, we often say, is this: If you cover your sin, Jesus will expose it in judgment; if you expose your sin, Jesus will cover it in grace**

*Well, this story leaves us with 2 questions:*

- **First, if even David fails, what hope for salvation is there?** David was the greatest king ever to arise in Israel. He was the giant-killer, the protector. But if even he can't be trusted, what hope is there?

- *Second, if even David, the giant killer a man after God's own heart could not escape physical temptation, what hope is there for any of us do that? **Ever think about that?** If David can't even do this, how can I possibly hope to make it?*

*Remarkably, the answers to both last two questions are found at the same place:*

#### 5. Only God can provide the king we need

- **The people are left in this story, bewildered.** "Even David failed us!"
- And so this story points beyond itself—we need a Savior greater than than David.
- **Even today, we still find ourselves looking to political solutions for our biggest needs.** Politicians promise prosperity or education as the answer to our problems.
  - **Perhaps one bright spot** in this dismal political season is that some of us are realizing salvation is not going to be found in either the Democrats or Republicans this year... because we look at the 2 candidates and say we are "straight outta options."
  - **But even if you take the best the Republicans have to offer**—Lincoln, Reagan; or the best that the Democrats have to offer—who would that be? Roosevelt; Kennedy; Obama.
  - **Salvation does not come riding in on Air Force One.**
- **We need a different kind of king.** A king that won't serve himself and use his power to exploit us.
- *And this coming king is strangely pre-figured in this story not through David, but through Uriah...*
  - Think about Uriah: Uriah is **innocent; selfless, and heroic.** To the end, he is absolutely loyalty to David and his fellow Israelites. He can't even bring himself to enjoy a night of legitimate pleasure when his countrymen are in harm's way.
  - He is **faithful to the end...** When he is placed on the front line of the worst part of the battle and told to charge, he does

so. The only reason he died was because he was faithful and obedient.

- He **dies because of David's sin, not his own.**
- **Like Jesus.** Jesus was loyal to us. He put our needs above his. He was faithful to the end and because of that died for our sins against him.
- Uriah gives us a picture of the steadfast love of God that God had promised to David, a love that would never depart from him. Yes, **David made a bad mistake**, and yes, there would be pretty bad consequences, but the steadfast love of **God would never depart from David**, and God would ultimately take the death penalty for David's sin.
- **Yet there's one crucial difference between Uriah and Jesus.** Uriah did not know what David had done to him. Jesus did, and he went eagerly to death anyway.

## 6. We overcome sin as we are captivated by the beauty of this coming King

The promise that God would send this better king gives us the ability to overcome the temptations that David could not.

David was susceptible to Bathsheba's beauty because his soul was **bored and hungry**. It's when your heart is empty that you are unable to resist Bathsheba's beauty.

- The way to resist Bathsheba's beauty is to be captivated by a greater beauty.
  - **Here's the illustration I often use for overcoming sexual temptation:** "Off like a light-switch." In that moment your desire for her is **LESS THAN** your fear of her father. On one side you have your desire for her, but that is (remember math class) **LESS THAN** your fear of her father. Desire for her outweighed by your desire for *personal survival*.

- The problem is not that your desire for sex is too strong; but your love for God is so weak.
  - **Thomas Chalmers:** Expulsive power of a new affection
- A lot of people are going about trying to conquer their lust in entirely the wrong way. They think they can overcome their lust by lessening it, or taming it. No, it's when the passion you feel for God and his plan is greater than the thrill that sin can give you.
- **The way to overcome sexual urges is NOT by learning to love them LESS, but by learning to love God MORE.**

You say, 'Well how do I do that? I'd love to just press a button or donate some money memorize some verses and do that...' Those things can't do that.

Seeing that Jesus was the real King, the truer and better David, who served not himself, but you, even when you didn't deserve it; who, unlike David, did not please himself even when he was entitled to it, but sacrificed himself for you; who **did not use his power** to make people die for him, but used his power to die for you... *That* love captivates your heart to the point that you gain the power and motivation to say no to sin.

So the Apostle John says: "Behold (stand amazed!) what manner of love the Father has bestowed to us, that we should be called the children of God; and so we are. Beloved, we are God's children now... and we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And *everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.*" (1 John 3:1-3 ESV)

Why do you purify yourself? Not because you are afraid to get caught; or because you feel guilty, or ashamed, but because you love Jesus and can't wait to see him and want to be like him!

So BEHOLD! *Feel* that love. The **gospel doesn't tell you to resolve to do better**; or buck up your will power, or even only to



get the internet out of your house... but behold. The gospel starts not with what you must do for God; but with what God has done for you.

Jesus showed this in how he dealt with a woman in his life caught in the very act of adultery... Like David. **John 8:11, "Neither do I condemn you; go, and sin no more."**

- What's always been odd: Order. **Instinctively**, I'd say, "If you go and sin no more..."
  - The reason this woman went into the arms of adultery, however, is because her soul was empty. If Jesus just told her to stop, she wouldn't be able to.
  - He had to give her a greater love, a greater acceptance that would keep her from running to adulterers.
- **We say: God's acceptance is the power that liberates us from sin, not the reward for having liberated ourselves.**
  - Our message to the teenage girl who has lost her virginity is not, "Stop sinning. You're a bad girl." It is that "You have a heavenly Father who has never stopped loving you. Never. Not in your darkest moment or darkest desire. On the cross he took everything about you that made you unacceptable and died for it... the rocks of justice were pummeled into his body instead of yours."
  - Our message to the man who is looking at pornography is not, "You're going to mess up your family!" I will tell them that. But it is also, "This is the God who forgave David; who knew what you were going to do before you did it, and had already forgiven you and made a plan for restoration!"
- **And when you believe that, that in him you washed and sanctified and justified, that "BREAKS THE POWER OF CANCELLED SIN; and SETS THE PRISONER FREE"**
  - **Jesus last words on the cross** were not "go fix yourself" but "it is finished."
  - John's message is not simply: Stop sexual sin, but, "behold the love of God!"

*Come every soul, by sin oppressed, there's mercy with the Lord! And he will surely give you rest by trusting in his word! Only trust him, only trust him, only trust him now! He will save you, he will save you, he will save you now!*

Nobody is not touched by this... but there's hope. For every 1 look at sin, take 10 looks at the cross.