

# Hazardous Intersections

**Introduction.** When you live close to a major city, everyone here has driven in them at rush hour. The traffic is heavy, sometimes you run into construction, the lanes are often narrow in areas, and sometimes you see other people who have wrecked. It can really make you nervous and unsure about whether or not you want to continue. But when you come to an intersection, you cannot just stop and refuse to go through it. You simply cannot turn back.

David was a man after God's own heart (1 Samuel 13:14; 16:7; Acts 13:22). He wanted to please God, but he had his own hazardous intersections that he had to cross. As he matured, there were five intersections that tested him. Sometimes he sinned and sometimes he stood fast.

Just like traffic intersections, we cannot turn back (2 Peter 2:20-21). When we come to these intersections, we have to keep going. If we turn back, we will forfeit eternal reward. Here are intersections we have to survive if we want to be rewarded.

## ***I. The Intersection Of Fear (1 Samuel 17:26-49)***

- A. Can you imagine the fear a boy could have had when up against a giant? It potentially could have been overwhelming, but David stood fast. There is an old saying that goes, "Sometimes fear adds wings to the heels and sometimes it nails them to the ground."
- B. The way David overcame his fear was through trusting God and realizing that God was with him. Christians are sometimes afraid of the world because we have forgotten the promises of God (Hebrews 13:5).
- C. Paul also overcame fear (1 Corinthians 2:3-5). He realized that the message was far more important than the messenger. When we learn that valuable lesson, we will have the power to come to grips with the fear of rejection.

## ***II. The Intersection Of Identity (1 Samuel 18:5-16)***

- A. When the public opinion was turning against Saul and toward David, he had a unique intersection to face. The people's praise and Saul's jealousy could have driven David to think much more of himself than he should.
- B. We are wonderfully blessed to be partakers of "the unsearchable riches of Christ" (Ephesians 3:8). But having the truth is a temptation to arrogance, a "holier than thou" attitude (Matthew 8:20; 2 Corinthians 9:8; Acts 3:12; 4:19-20; 26:19)! Many people falsely accuse Christians of having this syndrome, while other Christians need condemning! They feel that they are better than everyone else!

- C. Paul gives very specific commands as to how we are to regard ourselves (Romans 12:3; 2 Timothy 2:24-26). Everyone of us have sinned and fallen short of God's glory (Romans 3:23). The only reason we have a hope of heaven is because of God's grace (1 Corinthians 15:10; Ephesians 2:8-10).

### ***III. The Intersection Of Temptation (2 Samuel 11:1-5)***

- A. The devil caught David through the weakness of sexual temptation. Even though millions of people pass through this intersection every year, a lot of people wreck at this point. James used the word "enticed" in 1:14. Just like the duck hunter with a decoy, "enticed" meant to catch something with the use of bait.
- B. Sin seems far from "destruction and perdition" when you are experiencing it (1 Timothy 6:9; cp. Hebrews 3:12-13). If someone just won the lottery, it is doubtful that they would feel like winning was a "snare," "destruction" or "perdition."
- C. "Temptation" means "a testing, trying, or proving." H. L. Mencken called temptation "an irresistible force at work on a moveable body." In the Bible, the word is used in a good sense (John 6:6; Hebrews 11:17) and in a bad sense (Matthew 16:1; 22:18; 1 Corinthians 10:9).
- D. Satan is a tempter (Matthew 4:3; 1 Thessalonians 3:5), but Hebrews 11:17 clearly implies that God also "tries" in a sense, so when someone speaks of temptation, it is critical to understand the differences between God and Satan.
1. When the Lord "tests" someone, He does it in order to improve them. God does not tempt anyone (James 1:13-16), yet we see Him "testing" His people (1 Peter 1:6-7). God allowed Job to suffer by the hand of the devil in order to demonstrate his righteousness and faith (Job 1:8).
  2. When Satan "tempts" someone, he does it to cause them to sin (1 Corinthians 7:5; Revelation 2:10). In Matthew 4:1, Satan's purpose was to make Christ sin, thus disqualifying Him for the purpose of redeeming man.

### ***IV. The Intersection Of Betrayal (2 Samuel 11:14-27)***

- A. Because of weakness, David betrayed Uriah and arranged for his murder. What more reprehensible act could there be?
- B. Our Lord knew what it felt like to be betrayed by Judas (Matthew 26:21, 45; John 13:1-2), Peter (Matthew 26:69-75; Luke 22:61-62), and all the disciples (Mark 14:50). Because of our weakness, will we betray our confession of the Lord and His truth (Matthew 10:32-33; Luke 12:8)?

## ***V. The Intersection Of Confrontation (2 Samuel 12:1-15)***

- A. Sometimes we are going to have people tell us, "You are the man!" What will our reaction be? Will we repent or will we storm away in a rage appalled that people have the nerve to say that we are doing wrong.
- B. Remember that when someone confronts us about sin, they are only doing what they are supposed to (Matthew 18:15-17; Galatians 6:1; James 5:19-20; Jude 22-23). This is difficult step, and honestly, it is a whole lot easier to just drop the matter, than to try and see that person turn back to God again.
- C. If I did not have a deep-seated concern for people, why would I care what they do? What possible motivation would I have to help people see what is right? If I were not concerned about their soul, I would have no motivation.

**Conclusion.** David faced these intersections and so must we. God will give us the power to resist and stand if we want it (1 Corinthians 10:12-13). We cannot simply throw up our hands and say, "I quit!" We have got to go through them. If anyone is here and has failed at one of these intersections, you need to make your life right with God. All of us here care about you and we want to see you do what is right.