

# FAITHFUL MEN

## 2 Samuel 11

*In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war...David remained in Jerusalem (2 Samuel 11).*

There are times in life when we find ourselves in places that we should not be. It is in these seasons that we are discontent, despondent and confused. It is in these seasons, we can and do bypass the Lord. Many times, adultery is not sexual in origin. Men often commit the sin of adultery because they lack a sense of significance that they once had or never really had. Men mostly commit adultery because they are not where they should be emotionally, relationally, spiritually or physically. David belonged with his warriors in battle yet he sat in the luxury of his palace. Uriah, Bathsheba's husband, understood this upon his brief return home. He did not belong at home with his wife while his brothers in arms battled the enemy.

We tend to accentuate the need for growth in Christ for the building of the kingdom. Men like to grow and conquer and be on *offense*. We like being the quarterback of our own lives. The way we grow is by enhancing our relationship with Christ and others. We meet and study the bible, sharing testimonies, and worship together. It is great to build the church and the kingdom of God.

Yet there are other reasons why we grow. When we grow we also develop a strong *defense*. This side of heaven we do not have a full understanding of how many things we have avoided that could have devastated us. Sometimes our transparency and openness with those close to us alleviate the need to find emotional satisfaction in inappropriate relationships. When we are vulnerable, when we ask for help from our brothers, when we walk in emotional wholeness we ward off the weakness that lures us into sin and compromise.

Men commit adultery because their emotional needs are not being met. When men lack affirmation, significance and transparency they can become self-destructive. When the stress of life becomes overwhelming, some men become dangerous. These are the places we cannot allow ourselves to stay in.

Remain on offense and grow in your faith. Remain on defense and ward off the seemingly overwhelming temptation when it comes. But whether on offense or defense, remain in relationship to others that are there for you. Seek counsel for your marriage. Shed pride and seek the Lord. If only we knew the trouble we have avoided by seeking the Lord in our own communities of faith.

Everyone is capable of any sin at any time. Regardless of the sin, make every word of Psalm 51 a part of your spiritual diet on a regular basis. Remain humble and field a great offense and a formidable defense. Psalm 51 is the balm we need when we have failed but it is also the shield we need to avoid calamity. Remain broken and contrite and you will find yourself in deeper and more meaningful fellowship with the Lord and with those around you.