

### 3.8.21 - It's Her Fault

We are going to explore a tendency that most of us have, blaming someone else for our own mistakes/sins. To keep from making it too personal we will look at some Bible accounts...it's just easier if we use them as illustrations rather than ourselves. That said, see if you don't see yourself in any of these stories. We are going to use stories that blame women for mistakes made by men. According to the scriptures there is higher likelihood of a woman justifying her error because of a man's decision than it is for a man to justify his mistake because of a woman. God appointed man as the head of his home and as such...the leader of his wife, the woman he most often blames when he screws up. Men are more inclined to view themselves as perfect. To keep that image...mistakes and errors have to be blamed on someone else.

We will start with the first example in the Bible. **Gen 3:12 And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.** Yes, he did admit his error, but he also tried to blame someone else for his error...namely, God and Eve. Did it help him with God? Accusing the Judge for your error (**the woman whom THOU gavest to be with me**) does not seem like a way to get a light sentence. Did blaming Eve for leading him into sin help his cause? God did not mention that His sentence was lighter because he followed Eve's suggestion. Did Adam help his relationship with Eve by blaming her? We can only guess how God would have reacted if Adam had not joined Eve in eating the forbidden fruit. She was glad she would not be alone in the transgression, but being a scapegoat is not a very honorable role either. Adam certainly was strong enough that Eve was not going to force him to eat the fruit. He got the rule straight from God so neither Eve nor Satan convinced him that God would not care. Does not look like he gained much by blaming her.

Next, we will consider "brave" Abram in Egypt. **Gen 12: Say, I pray thee, thou art my sister: that it may be well with me for thy sake; and my soul shall live because of thee.** He did say in an earlier verse that Sarai, his wife and half sister, was beautiful which apparently was something that scared him as it related to others and their interest in her. His concern was being killed by someone so they could take Sarai for themselves. He did not win any favors from his compliment if he asked her to lie and risk becoming someone else's wife. He used her beauty as an excuse to disown her as his wife. Imagine telling your wife, "You are beautiful, but not enough that I want to die to protect you." Did he save his life? Yes, but God told Pharaoh that Sarai was Abram's wife. Pharaoh confronted Abram about his lie and sent him on his way, which sounds like an order to leave Egypt. In

addition to losing a lot of face before Pharaoh, he probably got Hagar at this time. Did he have another choice then to lie about his wife? He could have gone somewhere else to escape the food shortage. He could have trusted God to protect him and told the truth. He could have sent a servant to buy food. Note that God protected him even after he lied. It surely is not Sarai's fault. She is not to be blamed for the beauty which God blessed her with. Again, we do not see that Abram gained any benefit in his blaming.

Could King David use Bathsheba's nakedness as an excuse for his adultery? Unless we missed something, David did not try to blame his sin on Bathsheba. That said, David's sin is used today as a means of creating a lot of clothing/modesty rules regarding covering the female body. Do they have a case? In today's society, a naked woman bathing in view of a non-naturist man would probably cause him to become aroused due to society's conditioning of that man. When nakedness is typically only viewed in preparation for sex, then we program people to respond sexually to nakedness. If nakedness were commonplace and nonsexual then we reprogram people to respond non-sexually. Is that enough reason to condemn Bathsheba or any other woman who shows too much uncovered skin? Since God didn't, we won't either. What do we know about the society in King David's time? Most houses did not have water piped to a bathtub. There were no water heaters except the sun or what you could heat up over a fire. There were people who did not have any clothing to wear because they did not have enough money for both food and clothing, so they chose food. Naked people bathing at the river or creek was a common sight. Working naked to avoid damaging or soiling a good article of clothing was a common sight. Therefore, we can safely assume that David probably saw many people bathing and working naked every day so blaming Bathsheba would seem counterintuitive...and again, God and Nathan didn't blame her.

You don't need to take our word for it either, read the analogy that Nathan the Prophet got from God and gave to David in 2 Samuel 12:1-4. Bathsheba is represented by the ewe lamb and as you can read for yourself, God did not blame Bathsheba for the lust in David's heart. Even though men today are programmed to think of nakedness and sex as synonyms, they still are the ones in control of their lust, not the woman regardless of how much clothing she is wearing or not wearing even to the point of nakedness. That said, we believe there is great benefit in this area in reconditioning society by making nakedness for everyday activities common, thus not making nakedness only about sex.

Now we take a look at Samson and his trouble with women. Yes, he was tricked and disappointed by women. Can he justify disobedience to God because he was tricked? God seemed to go easier on Eve because she was tricked by the serpent. Does that apply to Samson? The Nazarite vow involved three rules. No use of grapes for food or drink. No contact with dead bodies not even father or mother who died while you were under the Nazarite vow. No haircuts during the vow. At the end of the vow, the hair was cut and offered with other offerings. Samson was to be a Nazarite from birth and for his entire life. God tolerated the dead lion and probably the wine at the wedding feast. He gave Samson plenty of chances to see that Delilah was trying to destroy him and save himself by leaving at the least. Samson took a chance that God would overlook the last part of the vow for his carnal pleasure. Joseph and Potiphar's wife illustrate that Samson had a choice of leaving when his first false reason for his strength was tested. Even though Delilah was trying to take advantage of Samson, he made the choice to risk capture and destruction.

Was Solomon lead astray by all his wives? According to the following verse, yes. **1Ki 11:4 For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father.** Did he have a choice? That is the point of the article, we always have a choice...even under pressure. Solomon was feared and respected over the whole earth. For example, it is believed that the copper for the brass columns in front of the temple came from the area northwest of Lake Superior in north America. The wives were part of alliances and trade agreements. With so much power, it would seem that something else could have been used. There is no way He could fulfill the last part of this rule for additional wives even with a small number. **Exo 21:10 If he take him another wife; her food, her raiment, and her duty of marriage, shall he not diminish.** The wives would keep ties with their home country and inquiry would be made about their treatment. How would stating that she receives "the duty of marriage" about once every three years be received back home without including the number of other wives. Probably as a sign that Solomon did not like her or her country. Honoring the native god might smooth things over.

Solomon knew the power women have to corrupt men judging from the books of the Bible he wrote. He had absolute power over them, so they could not use any outside force against him except the one mentioned in the paragraph above. If you believe Bathsheba wrote the 31st chapter of proverbs, then his mother cautioned against too many wives. He should have seen the problems his father had with a large number of wives. Solomon's reputation as the wisest man who ever lived,

second to Jesus of course, means he knew that he was making a mistake and the women were not to blame. The women probably had little choice in the deal. They just had lots of time to become discontented.

Now that we feel good about our "Monday morning quarterbacking", what difference does it make? First, don't go into sin because you think you have no choice. The examples above illustrate that you will always have other choices. The problem is that they are not usually nice straight level paved roads, but winding dirt paths over mountains and we choose the easy way hoping God will understand. Seek help from a trusted advisor before choosing sin. Textile believers like to blame the level of nakedness of a woman for the lust of a man. We find this completely against the Bible. Lust is a condition of the heart of an unbeliever and of the mind of a believer. The unbeliever needs a new heart and the believer needs to renew his mind. The commonplace of nonsexual nakedness will go a long way with renewing the mind of the believer as it changes how we see people. The renewed mind no longer views a person as an object of sexual fulfillment, but rather as a special and beautiful creation, made in the image and likeness of God. The renewed mind tells us that nakedness is seldom preparation for sex, but rather a common everyday occurrence. Covering the object that is lusted after, does not, will not and cannot change the lust. The imagination makes the object under the covering that much more appealing. Adding rules to prevent lust will not work either, the only thing that works is a change of heart. In fact, we have discovered that Jesus was right...more rules simply cause more sin!