

LSD: Lust, Sin, and Death

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References: James 1, 2 Samuel 11:1-6; Genesis 13:1-2; Genesis 13:10-12; Genesis 3:1-7; Romans 5:12; Romans 6:23

Introduction: A Different Kind of LSD

You can remember where you were in 1968, '69, '70, but I can't. I remember that in those years, the late '60s, the 1960s, I was in Los Angeles, California. And in those days, I was not a Christian, and I was nothing to be proud of. My life was not something that I would want to share with you today. I had a big emptiness in my heart, a big void in my life. And I was desperately trying to fill that void with the things that the world offers, and I can tell you by experience that doesn't work. The void just got deeper and the emptiness got worse, and I'm so happy that by the grace of God the Lord saved me out of that mess.

But I, I do want to mention something just as an introduction to my message today. In the late '60s, in particular in San Francisco, all along the west coast of California and in LA where I was living at that time, a lot of young people—and probably some older people, too—were taking a drug. A drug called lysergic acid diethylamide. Now, you wouldn't probably know that as the name of that drug, but if you're old enough, you might remember the initials **LSD**. It was quite popular in those days, and it was most commonly taken by—if you know what blotting paper is, it's a very coarse paper, almost like a paper towel. You just take a little bit of that paper and put a drop of LSD on that paper and put that under your tongue or inside. In some cases, they would take a drop of LSD and put it in a sugar cube and put that in their mouth.

It was very fast acting, and it would last, depending on the amount of acid you put on that sugar cube or that blotting paper or that piece of paper towel, 8 to 12 hours. LSD was a powerful, hallucinating, psychedelic drug. It would considerably alter your senses, your perception, your thoughts, your mood, your sense of time. It would cause your mind to drift in and out of reality into almost another world. It was very popular, and it actually ruined lives permanently with this drug. They thought it wouldn't have any lasting damage, but they were wrong. And it was quite powerful and ruined a lot of lives.

Now, why am I telling you that story? I want to pick up on this thought, LSD, this hallucinating drug. Because even though in Bible times they didn't have LSD—at least if they did, it wasn't under anything noticeable, we couldn't detect it from the way we understand it today—but LSD was still very popular even in the Old Testament. And I want to go first to a New Testament reference, and then I will explain what I'm talking about.

So if you have a Bible, let's go to the book of James in the New Testament. The book of James. It's late in the New Testament. If you have a table of contents, of course, you can look in the front of your Bible and find the book of James. We're going to read from chapter 1. James chapter 1. I'm going to read a few verses starting with verse number 13. James chapter 1 and verse 13.

[James 1:13-15 NKJV]

¹³ Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. ¹⁴ But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. ¹⁵ Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

Taking those verses and emphasizing three words out of those verses: in verse 14, he's "drawn away by his... **own lust**." In your version, it may be translated desires, desires of the flesh called lust. In verse 15, "when **lust** has conceived, it brings forth **sin**. And when **sin** is finished, it brings forth **death**."

L-S-D.

Lust and sin and death.

The Reality of Temptation

Now bear with me for a moment. You can ruin your life in one hour. Actually, in a moment. You can make a wrong decision. You can do a wrong thing that has consequences that you cannot stop, that has results that are irreversible. And you're in control of that. You get to make that decision.

Now, the Bible talks about lust and sin and death. I want to call your attention again to verse 14. "Each one is tempted." Now, to be tempted is for you to be exposed to something that you really like or really want or really desire. The Bible verse says each one is tempted when he's drawn away by his—and notice the personal aspect—by his **own** lust.

Now, why do I emphasize that? People are tempted by different things. I had the privilege of seeing an old man in his late 60s come to the Lord. He was an alcoholic. Okay. And he asked me on one occasion to go and visit a friend of his who was an alcoholic. My friend had become a Christian, and so he wanted to go share Jesus, the love of Jesus, the forgiveness of Jesus, the hope that Jesus gives us, and the promise of heaven. He wanted to go share that with his old friend.

Now, his old friend lived across the road from a dump. And it was out in a very rural area, nothing like this city. Like, you put your little garbage can in front of your house and it disappears, and that's all you know, right? Well, if you live out in the country like we do, we don't have garbage pickup. We get to take our garbage to the refuge site or to the dump site, okay? And believe me, it's not a nice place in many ways. This man lived across the road from the dump, and he lived in a dump. He lived in an old shack, an old cabin with no power and no water, and just kind of existing.

And we went into that place that night, and it was terrible. And he was sitting there with a—a little lantern run off of coal oil or some kind of liquids that would burn. It was a very dim light, and he was sitting there drinking out of a bottle of whiskey. That's what he was doing. He didn't know we were coming, but he was sitting there drinking. And my friend and I, the new Christian, we went in there, and the old guy that we visited offered a drink to my friend. And my friend said, "No, I don't drink anymore. I don't do that anymore."

So in that particular moment in his life, alcohol that used to be his master was no longer his master. The Lord had delivered him from alcoholism. Thank you. And when his friend tried to tempt him with the alcohol, it wasn't a temptation to him anymore.

So when a person is drawn away by his **own** lust, everybody, including myself, we all have our own desires, our own lust. And what may tempt you, what may draw you away, maybe wouldn't draw me away at all. It's personal. It's our own lust that draws us away and tempts us. Now, you may know what your lust is. You may know what tempts you. And I can only suggest for you that you do not put yourself in a situation where you are drawn away if you know what your weakness is.

But notice it's our own. Why do I say that? Well, we read in verse 13, you can't say, "God tempted me," because God doesn't tempt anybody to sin. The temptation or the lust is just the bait.

Now, if you were to go fishing in Mississippi and you wanted to catch a catfish in one of those rivers, you would take the inside of a chicken, a dead chicken, and you would get a big gob of that, and you would put your hook in that, and you would throw that in the river, and you

could catch a big catfish. Why? Because catfish love chicken innards. They love it. They'll bite it. They'll take it. It's the right bait.

If I brought chicken innards up to one of these nice, clear lakes where we got rainbow trout in or something like that in Canada, and I threw a bunch of chicken guts in there, I'm not going to catch anything. What? It's the wrong bait. You see my point? You've got to go to Mississippi and catch the catfish with that. You can't catch fish up here with that kind of bait.

The devil knows the right bait. Isn't that interesting? It's our own lust. I don't know what tempts you to sin, to disobey God, to do something wrong, but you know when it happens because God has put a conscience in every person's heart. And you know when you're drawn away. You know you want the bait. You might take that bait, and when you take that bait, one thing that sin does, it deceives you, and you don't know what that's leading to. You're saying, "Oh, it's a good party, it's a good drug, that's a good whatever, and I'm really going to be happy," and I'm drawn away by my own lust, but I can only say this: lust leads to sin, and sin leads to death.

Now, we're going to look at three people in the Old Testament that must have taken **LSD**. They didn't know it to be LSD, of course, but they must have taken it, because their lives would be ruined if they didn't take **LSD**—because of lust and sin and death. And dear friend, this could be your story. You might live to be an old man or an old woman, and one day you look back and you say, "How did I ever get where I am?" I can tell you how you got there. One day at a time, one decision at a time. And the wrong decision has consequences that you cannot stop. And it may lead you to death.

King David: A Look that Led to Ruin

First of all, let's go to 2 Samuel chapter 11. You say, where is 2 Samuel? Well, it's in the Old Testament. 2 Samuel chapter 11. It's another episode—I was talking about the life of King David last week. This is another episode in the life of King David. Let me begin reading in verse number one. Second Samuel chapter 11 and verse one.

[2 Samuel 11:1-6 NKJV]

¹ It happened in the spring of the year, at the time when kings go out to battle, that David sent Joab and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the people of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem. ² Then it happened one evening that David arose from his bed and walked on the roof of the king's house. And from the roof he saw a woman bathing, and the woman was

very beautiful to behold. ³ So David sent and inquired about the woman. And someone said, "Is this not Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?" ⁴ Then David sent messengers, and took her; and she came to him, and he lay with her, for she was cleansed from her impurity; and she returned to her house. ⁵ And the woman conceived; so she sent and told David, and said, "I am with child." ⁶ Then David sent to Joab, saying, "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent Uriah to David.

I'm going to stop the reading there and tell you the rest of the story. David realized that he had sinned. He realized the woman had become pregnant. He realized that her husband, one of his most faithful soldiers in his army, was in the battle. He sent for him. He brought him home. He told him that he needed to take a few days off. He needed to go home and see his wife and be with her. David is trying to cover up his sin. Ultimately, it did not work.

David then sent Uriah, the husband of Bathsheba, back to the front lines, and the army pulled away from him. He was killed in battle. And David now is not only guilty of adultery, but now he's guilty of murder.

How did that start? Well, we read it. It happened one evening. David with his hands in his pocket. David with nothing to do. David with special time, David just looking around, he saw a woman. And you and I read the results of that. He was drawn away by his own lust and he sinned. And the consequences of that sin would remain with him, and the consequences of that sin would remain with David through his life into his dying days.

What could David have done? Well, David took the bait. He saw something very beautiful. He saw something that enticed him. He could have said, "No, God says that's sin. God says that's adultery. God said, 'You shall not covet another man's wife.'" He could have read the law. He could have known that, but the lust in his own heart had drawn him away, and he sinned against Bathsheba, ultimately against God, and then he has her husband killed on the front lines in the battle. He's guilty of murder.

If you want to read the rest of the story, you can read the next chapter in here, and also you can read, if you're taking notes, Psalm 51 and also Psalm 32, which are confessions by David to the sin that he had committed.

Lot: A Choice of Green Pastures

Now I want us to go to Genesis chapter 13. Thank you. Way back in the beginning, the book of Genesis and chapter 13. The scene changes, the person changes, the temptation and the principles of **LSD** will kick in because they're very real. Lust and sin and death.

And Genesis chapter 13, look at verse 1, please.

[Genesis 13:1-2 NKJV]

¹ Then Abram went up from Egypt, he and his wife and all that he had, and Lot with him, to the South. ² Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold.

Now, Lot would be Abram's nephew. So we got Abram and his wife and all that he has, and his nephew is with him. In verse 2, Abram was very rich in livestock and silver and gold, and he went on his journey and he continued on.

Now, in this story, the theme of the story is that there came a time when Abram and Lot divided. There was a conflict among them, and Abram said, "Look, just look around. There's no sense in us having a conflict, a man and his nephew." He said, "Why don't you just choose what you'd like to do, and wherever you choose, you go one way and I'll go the other way." And in verse 10 of this same chapter, I want you to notice: Lot lifted up his eyes. He's thinking about dividing; he's thinking about choosing. Abram says, "Let's go wherever you'd like to. I don't want any conflict; I don't want any argument."

In verse 10, Lot lifted up his eyes...

[Genesis 13:10-12 NKJV]

¹⁰ And Lot lifted his eyes and saw all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere (before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah) like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt as you go toward Zoar. ¹¹ Then Lot chose for himself all the plain of Jordan, and Lot journeyed east. And they separated from each other. ¹² Abram dwelt in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelt in the cities of the plain and pitched his tent even as far as Sodom.

At this point, there's confusion. There's division. Abram said, "Look, I don't want this division. You go first, nephew. You choose. Where would you like to go?" Lot looked toward the plain of Jordan. He said, "There's a great place. It's well watered. It's a wonderful place."

The problem was where he looked and where he went was a great place to raise cattle and sheep and goats. It was a terrible place to raise a family.

It started with a look. David had nothing to do—idle hands are the devil's workshop. He looks from the roof of the king's house. He sees a woman. And it started. The whole process: lust and sin and death.

Lot has the first choice. He looks at the well-watered plains of Jordan and he makes a choice. In verse 11, he chose the plains of Jordan. Verse 12, Abraham dwelt in the land of Canaan. In verse 12, Lot dwelt in the cities of the plain. Notice something: he pitched his tent even as far as Sodom.

What's going on here? Well, the bait is there. Oh, not the beautiful woman that tempted David. This is a beautiful ground, the pasture land, the green and lush, like the garden of the Lord. And he thought, "Boy, that's a great place. If I get first choice, this is where I'm going."

The problem is it led him to a place called Sodom. That might ring a neat bell in your mind if you've ever known anything about the Bible, about how the wrath of God, the fire of God came on Sodom and Gomorrah and destroyed it all. That's not really the place you want to live.

If you read the rest of this story, you'll find out what happened. God had to send two angels. They grabbed Lot and his wife and his daughters and dragged them out with their heels dug in to get them out of there. It was a terrible place. It was a place where the wrath of God would destroy the whole city and their cities round about them. How did Lot get there? He made a wrong choice. He saw something. It led to death.

Eve: The First Disobedience

Let's go to Genesis chapter 3 now. Genesis chapter 3. You might remember this story very well. This is the story that God created the heavens and the earth and created the first man and the first woman, Adam and Eve. This part of the story is after God had told Adam and Eve that there was a tree in the garden that they were not to eat of the fruit of that tree. If they ate of the fruit of that tree, God said, "You will surely die."

Let's pick up the story in chapter 3, verse 1.

[Genesis 3:1-7 NKJV]

¹ Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, "You shall not eat

of every tree of the garden'?" ² And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; ³ but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, "You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die."" ⁴ Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. ⁵ For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

Time will not allow us to go into much more detail. What's my point? In all things, three stories today. The eyes, the look, the lust was different. Isn't that very interesting? For David, it was a woman bathing. For Lot, it was the green pastures that led to Sodom. For Eve, it was a beautiful fruit. We know that David looked. We know that Lot looked. We know that Eve looked. The bait was different. But the consequences were the same.

Very interesting that in this last story is really the story of how sin came into the world. If we were to read the text, you would find out that Adam also ate the fruit. Their eyes are open, okay. It didn't seem like they died. But they did die. They died **spiritually**. They had walked with God and talked with God and enjoyed fellowship with God before they disobeyed God. But now they had disobeyed Him. Their own lust had given in to disobedience, which was sin, and sin would bring death.

You say, "Well, wait a minute. They didn't die. Their eyes were open. They're talking. They're making clothes. They're trying to cover themselves." I got it. I got it. But what you don't realize is that death is more than physical. Matter of fact, when they sinned, they started aging. They were ageless before sin entered in. And now sin has brought spiritual death. Now they're separated from God. Eventually, God would have to run them out of the garden. They're not in fellowship with God. They don't have that relationship with Him. God would have to intervene for them to bring them back to Himself with a sacrifice.

This is the Bible's description of how sin came into the world. When we come to the New Testament, we read in Romans 5 and 12:

[Romans 5:12 NKJV]

Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned--

One man? Or was it one woman? Well, she took it first, but she gave also to her husband with her. And because Adam was the head of the home, God holds him accountable. And so as by one man, Adam, sin came into the world, and sin brings death.

Isn't that interesting? Lust and sin and death. Do you know that death is passed on to every generation? Adam and Eve have two sons, Cain and Abel. Do you know Cain killed Abel? Why would he do that? Well, there was conflict in the family, and there was sin in the family. There was jealousy in the family. You read the whole story. **LSD** is permeating the human race. And Cain kills his own brother, Abel. And sin now permeates the human race.

The Ultimate Consequence of Sin

That's why I'm a sinner today. That's why you're a sinner today. I don't know if you're a forgiven sinner or not. I am, by grace. I accepted God's payment for sin.

God doesn't want the human race to go to hell. God wants the human race to go to heaven. And so the Bible says there's punishment. There are consequences of **LSD**. The consequences of sin is death, and death is eternal. And Adam and Eve started aging back in that garden. And Adam lived—what? I forget, 600, 900. I forget, a long time he lived, but eventually he died. That is, physically. And you and I are aging physically, and one day we're going to die physically because the Bible says:

[Romans 6:23 NKJV]

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Not only am I separated from God, one day I'm going to be separated from my body. My body, my soul, and my spirit, which are eternal, that live inside of me, are going to be eternally separated from God unless I accept God's conditional sacrifice, salvation through Jesus Christ.

You say, "Well, what is it?" God sent His own Son to become like us, to become sin for us, and to die. The wages of sin is death. Who died? Jesus died. God's Son died. He was buried. He rose again the third day. He gave His life—are you listening?—for you, for you, so that you don't have to be eternally separated from God.

I don't know what has got your attention. I don't know your own lust that maybe has enticed you and led you away. But I can only tell you this: if David knew the consequences of looking at Bathsheba that day, he would have stopped the whole thing right there. If Lot would have known the consequences of the choice he made by looking at the well-watered plains of Jordan, he would have stopped right there. If Eve would have only known that looking at that fruit of the tree that God had forbidden and what the consequences were, she would have stopped before she ate.

We are drawn away by our own lust. Let me tell you today, **LSD** is still active in the human race, and we are all on a one-way crash course to hell. And unless you trust Christ as your Savior, you will not escape. David never escaped the consequences of his sin. Lot never escaped the consequences of his sin. And Eve never escaped the consequences of her sin.

Mercy is available. Love is available. Grace is available. Salvation is available. But you must accept it. I think one of our opening songs today was God's plan on a great banquet. He wants to receive everyone into this banquet and into His kingdom. But you must accept Christ. The Savior has come. He has paid the penalty of your sins. He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures. And your only hope is to trust Christ as your Savior.

Say, "I'm the man, like David." Say, "I sinned against God. I believe that Jesus took my sin away on the cross. I want a new life. I want to go to heaven. I want to know God as my Savior. I believe in the Lord Jesus." These are the conditions of salvation. They are available to you. There are seats at the table, folks. There are empty chairs at the table. And you need to take one of those seats by trusting Christ as your Savior today.

Let's pray.

Closing Prayer

Father, if You are pleased today by Your Holy Spirit to attend in the hearts and the minds of dear ones here today. Lord, perhaps there's a Christian who realizes they've made wrong decisions, they need to confess that to You and thank You for Your forgiveness. Perhaps there's someone here that is on their way to hell. No way out. The only way out is through Jesus, who said He's the only way to heaven. We pray that today Your Spirit might convince

them that Christ is the only answer and they might trust Him as their personal Savior today. Father, we commend this congregation to You. In Jesus' name, amen.