

# Lessons from the Halftime Strip Show

By Kerry S. Doyal

It is old news. I am as sick of hearing about it as you are. However, the Justin / Janet Super Bowl halftime tryst bares – yes, pun intended - some great lessons for us.

Personally, pastorally and parentally, I feel we need to change the discussion. It is time shift from disgust to discerning and discovering some of the valuable truths this providential morality (immorality) play offers (Rom. 8:28; Gen. 50:20).

Wise King Solomon used the world's perverse nature as a teaching tool for his kids. Here is a chance for us to do the same. Want an example? Read his frank, godly graphic, Father-Son talks in Proverbs 5 and 7.

First, God's people, who are aliens and strangers here, need to remember that the world is supposed to act like the world. They are being true to their nature.

This was an MTV produced show. With that in mind, what expectations for moral goodness or family-friendly fare could one rightfully have? If you have ever experienced MTV, I doubt you let your kids watch it.

That yields another lesson: When the world is in the driver's seat, expect to be taken places you would never want to go. Putting oneself in a vulnerable place often strips away more than you wanted. Ask Janet or Samson (see Judges 14-16).

We can never control where or how far sin will take us. The ride may be fun - will often be a blast - but the crash cannot be scripted, nor does it usually go according to rehearsal (Heb. 11:25).

Which steers us to lesson three: If you don't get out when you have the chance - in this case, change channels- don't blame the driver. Exits, ways of escape, are useless if ignored (1 Corin. 10:12-14; 1 Tim. 6: 11, 12; Gen. 39).

If there had been no bonus flesh-flash, would we still have been offended by the rest of the performance? It was already a few skimpy steps from clothed public intimacy. Reviewing here, can you say "MTV"?

Thus lesson four: It takes too much to scandalize us any more – "us" being world-soaked Christians. One more typical bump-and-grind halftime show may not have even roused us. Have you read 1 John 2:15-17 lately? Do you remember Lot's wife (review Gen. 19)?

What if Janet had been left with her red lace in tact – no “outfit malfunction?” Would we have decried the pseudo-rape by Justin? After all, was not this supposed to be where that song took us?

Let us be fair, he had warned her and us. The song was his vow to have her naked before the tune was over. He was partially true to his word.

Indulge my fantasy of how this could have gone. Imagine if Janet, hearing Justin’s base intentions, had delivered a well-deserved preemptive slap, ran away, or called 911 to report a stalker. That also would have gotten us talking – clearly their goal.

Instead of modeling immodesty and a lack of self-control, Janet could have shown girls around the world how to avoid date rape. She could have displayed a sense of dignity and virtue.

Justin, playing along, could have taught us boys who “want to be boys” a valuable lesson as well. Treat a woman like so much meat and a means of selfish gratification and you get rightfully shamed and humiliated. Not to mention having to answer to her daddy, brothers...

But alas, I dream... and I expect from the word what is my responsibility, our God-given task (see Deut. 6; Eph. 6:4).

That leads to the next truths to teach our kids and for them to note well – as if their life and reputation were at stake. Our crass culture illustrates some facts of fallen life we daddy’s and mommy’s need to pass on.

First: If a guy sends signals that he wants your body and he is telling you in so many words he is going to get you disrobed, believe him. He may not be as blatant as Justin was, but the signs are just as clear to those not blinded by love (infatuation).

Secondly, thanks to the halftime show, men with impure motives have been exposed. Much of what is passed off by guys for love and affection is so much hormone-driven drivel.

When there is no prospect of a good time from a “fine young thing”, many guy’s rosy romance is striped away and shown to be passion propelled platitudes.

Yes, your mom and dad know what they are talking about when they offer those “crazy warnings” about sweet-talking boys. The truth may hurt, but it also protects (see Prov. 2:11-22).

A guy under the influence of passion is a male often lacking control – or better – having given up his control. Give him the proverbial inch and he will feel as if he has to have the mile.

Many naive young ladies don't seem to understand that innocent teases from them can become proof of consensuality for him. Seeing what he thinks and hopes is a green light from you, its "peddle to the metal." Kobe Bryant is not the only one using this defense.

Meatloaf, a 70's rocker, playfully portrayed this in "Paradise by the Dashboard Lights." Too many guys do not charge down the first base line (think baseball here) without trying to get to second base. In no short order, they expect to cross home plate. Reality-checks and warning lights are ignored and a price must be paid.

Though it does not excuse one bit of bad boy behavior, women need to know that few guys can handle a gyrating babe, seemingly offering herself on the dance floor or in her dress or conduct.

Males are to be held responsible for their behavior. Period. That having been said, they do not need fuel thrown on an already raging fire. A little help here, ladies. Or, if nothing else, a little healthy fear.

Girls need to ask themselves if a guy could sue them for false advertising?

So, a sincere "thank you" to Justin and Janet for a great teaching opportunity. We pray that not only you have learned some valuable lessons from this, but that we have as well.

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