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**‘Rock Star from Mars’**

What we can learn from Charlie Sheen

by Paul Asay

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**What Happened**

Charlie Sheen has made a mint playing a morally impaired playboy on CBS’ “Two and a Half Men.” He makes close to \$2 million per episode on the show—or rather, he made that much before his off-the-set antics led to Sheen getting fired and the show being indefinitely postponed.

Typically, getting canned from a hit show would be a setback for an actor. However, Sheen, thanks to a series of bizarre interviews, has become a bigger celebrity than ever. His interview with ABC’s “20/20” was particularly revelatory.

“I am on a drug,” he said. “It’s called Charlie Sheen. It’s not available. If you try it once, you will die. Your face will melt off and your children will weep over your exploded body.”

He’s told NBC’s “The Today Show” that he has a great life: “I’m tired of pretending I’m not a total b—chin’ rock star from Mars, and people can’t figure me out; they can’t process me. I don’t expect them to. You can’t process me with a normal brain.”

Sheen admits he has used drugs: “I probably took more than anybody could survive...I was bangin’ seven-gram rocks and finishing them because that’s how I roll, because I have one speed, one gear...I’m different. I have a different constitution. I have a different brain. I have a different heart. I got tiger blood, man. Dying’s for fools; dying’s for amateurs.”

He also insists he’s clean now, “with the power of my mind.”

All these comments have catapulted Sheen into an Internet sensation, with numerous websites popping up, extolling the sitcom star with, as he says, “Adonis DNA.” The day after Sheen opened his own Twitter site, he’d accumulated more than 1 million followers.

“In some ways, the actor almost seems to have rewritten the meltdown playbook for the new digital age,” writes Darren Franich of *Entertainment Weekly*. “Much of Sheen’s current state of mind seems to be based on the megalomaniacal sensation that everyone on earth looks up to him.”

As strangely entertaining as Sheen is for many people, some experts believe this comedy could have a very tragic ending. Few people believe Sheen could will himself off drugs, as he says he's done. Most say the guy needs help, and fast.

Others point a finger of blame indirectly at us, for laughing at an obviously sick man. Writes columnist Joel Mathis: "Who hasn't made or heard a Charlie Sheen joke in recent weeks? The man appears to be destroying his career and many of his relationships, yet we treat the whole matter like it's another, somewhat diverting episode of his sitcom. It's ugly and sordid: Pass the popcorn."

### **Talk About It**

Some people think Sheen, with all these crazy interviews, knows exactly what he's doing. Do you think he's under control? Do you think he needs help? If so, what type of help would you suggest he get? Do you think all the attention Sheen's getting now is helping him or hurting him?

Few of us know out-of-control Hollywood celebrities, but many of us have friends who are a little out of control. How do you react to them? Do you laugh at their stories? Do you try to help them or encourage them to get help? A little bit of both?

Have you ever known anyone who you wish you could've helped a little more than you did? Someone who made everyone laugh, who made everyone think he or she was just fine—until it became sadly obvious they weren't? If you could have that relationship to do over again, what would you do differently?

### **What the Bible Says**

"I thought in my heart, 'Come now, I will test you with pleasure to find out what is good.'...I tried cheering myself with wine, and embracing folly—my mind still guiding me with wisdom. I wanted to see what was worthwhile for men to do under heaven during the few days of their lives...I amassed silver and gold for myself, and the treasure of kings and provinces. I acquired men and women singers, and a harem, as well—the delights of the heart of man. I became greater by far than anyone in Jerusalem before me. In all this my wisdom stayed with me.

"I denied myself nothing my eyes desired; I refused my heart no pleasure. My heart took delight in all my work, and this was the reward for all my labor.

"Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun" (Ecc. 1, 3, 8-11).

"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God's people who are in need" (Rom. 12:12-13).

"Why do you boast of evil, you mighty man? Why do you boast all day long, you who are a disgrace in the eyes of God?" (Ps. 52:1).