

2 Samuel 11

And it came to pass, after the year was expired, at the time when kings go forth to battle, that David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the children of Ammon, and besieged Rabbah. But David tarried still at Jerusalem.

² And it came to pass in an eveningtide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king's house: and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon.

³ And David sent and enquired after the woman. And one said, Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?

⁴ And David sent messengers, and took her; and she came in unto him, and he lay with her; for she was purified from her uncleanness: and she returned unto her house.

⁵ And the woman conceived, and sent and told David, and said, I am with child.

⁶ And David sent to Joab, saying, Send me Uriah the Hittite. And Joab sent Uriah to David.

⁷ And when Uriah was come unto him, David demanded of him how Joab did, and how the people did, and how the war prospered.

⁸ And David said to Uriah, Go down to thy house, and wash thy feet. And Uriah departed out of the king's house, and there followed him a mess of meat from the king.

⁹ But Uriah slept at the door of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and went not down to his house.

¹⁰ And when they had told David, saying, Uriah went not down unto his house, David said unto Uriah, Camest thou not from thy journey? why then didst thou not go down unto thine house?

¹¹ And Uriah said unto David, The ark, and Israel, and Judah, abide in tents; and my lord Joab, and the servants of my lord, are encamped in the open

fields; shall I then go into mine house, to eat and to drink, and to lie with my wife? as thou livest, and as thy soul liveth, I will not do this thing.

¹² And David said to Uriah, Tarry here to day also, and to morrow I will let thee depart. So Uriah abode in Jerusalem that day, and the morrow.

¹³ And when David had called him, he did eat and drink before him; and he made him drunk: and at even he went out to lie on his bed with the servants of his lord, but went not down to his house.

¹⁴ And it came to pass in the morning, that David wrote a letter to Joab, and sent it by the hand of Uriah.

¹⁵ And he wrote in the letter, saying, Set ye Uriah in the forefront of the hottest battle, and retire ye from him, that he may be smitten, and die.

¹⁶ And it came to pass, when Joab observed the city, that he assigned Uriah unto a place where he knew that valiant men were.

¹⁷ And the men of the city went out, and fought with Joab: and there fell some of the people of the servants of David; and Uriah the Hittite died also.

¹⁸ Then Joab sent and told David all the things concerning the war;

¹⁹ And charged the messenger, saying, When thou hast made an end of telling the matters of the war unto the king,

²⁰ And if so be that the king's wrath arise, and he say unto thee, Wherefore approached ye so nigh unto the city when ye did fight? knew ye not that they would shoot from the wall?

²¹ Who smote Abimelech the son of Jerubbesheth? did not a woman cast a piece of a millstone upon him from the wall, that he died in Thebez? why went ye nigh the wall? then say thou, Thy servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also.

²² So the messenger went, and came and shewed David all that Joab had sent him for.

²³ And the messenger said unto David, Surely the men prevailed against us, and came out unto us into the field, and we were upon them even unto the entering of the gate.

²⁴ And the shooters shot from off the wall upon thy servants; and some of the king's servants be dead, and thy servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also.

²⁵ Then David said unto the messenger, Thus shalt thou say unto Joab, Let not this thing displease thee, for the sword devoureth one as well as another: make thy battle more strong against the city, and overthrow it: and encourage thou him.

²⁶ And when the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she mourned for her husband.

²⁷ And when the mourning was past, David sent and fetched her to his house, and she became his wife, and bare him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD.

2 Samuel 12:1-14

And the LORD sent Nathan unto David. And he came unto him, and said unto him, There were two men in one city; the one rich, and the other poor.

² The rich man had exceeding many flocks and herds:

³ But the poor man had nothing, save one little ewe lamb, which he had bought and nourished up: and it grew up together with him, and with his children; it did eat of his own meat, and drank of his own cup, and lay in his bosom, and was unto him as a daughter.

⁴ And there came a traveller unto the rich man, and he spared to take of his own flock and of his own herd, to dress for the wayfaring man that was come unto him; but took the poor man's lamb, and dressed it for the man that was come to him.

⁵ And David's anger was greatly kindled against the man; and he said to Nathan, As the LORD liveth, the man that hath done this thing shall surely die:

⁶ And he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity.

⁷ And Nathan said to David, Thou art the man. Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I anointed thee king over Israel, and I delivered thee out of the hand of Saul;

⁸ And I gave thee thy master's house, and thy master's wives into thy bosom, and gave thee the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that had been too little, I would moreover have given unto thee such and such things.

⁹ Wherefore hast thou despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in his sight? thou hast killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and hast taken his wife to be thy wife, and hast slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon.

¹⁰ Now therefore the sword shall never depart from thine house; because thou hast despised me, and hast taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be thy wife.

¹¹ Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house, and I will take thy wives before thine eyes, and give them unto thy neighbour, and he shall lie with thy wives in the sight of this sun.

¹² For thou didst it secretly: but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun.

¹³ And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD. And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die.

¹⁴ Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also that is born unto thee shall surely die.

DAVID'S SIN AND REPENTANCE

In our last lesson, we looked at David as a soldier, a king, and a leader. Today, though, we're going to focus more on his heart and what he was dealing with on the inside. We won't be talking much about his battles or leadership decisions,

but instead about his struggles and regrets. David had some big failures, like his sin with Bathsheba, and even though God forgave him, he still faced a lot of pain and hardships because of it. From that point on, his life was filled with trouble and deep sorrow.

This lesson shows us that even when we're forgiven, some consequences of our choices can stay with us. David's story reminds us that God sees our struggles and hears us in our lowest moments. Let's look at how his humility and his honest sorrow brought him closer to God and how, through everything, he still leaned on God in his brokenness. David's journey is a reminder that while sin has consequences, God's mercy and forgiveness are always there for those who turn to Him with a sincere heart.

2 Samuel 11:1-3 In these verses we see that Bathsheba wasn't the only one responsible for what happened, but the Bible makes it clear that David wasn't where he was supposed to be. Instead of being out with his men at war, he stayed back in Jerusalem. Israel was at war again, and Joab and the army had already had some victory over the Ammonites and were now attacking the city of Rabbah. But David stayed home, likely weighed down with his own concerns and getting bored—a risky situation to be in.

One evening, David went for a walk on the flat roof of his house. That's when temptation hit. David saw Bathsheba, and while just seeing her wasn't the problem—we all face unexpected temptations—David made the mistake of letting his thoughts linger on it. At that moment, he had a choice: to turn away or to keep looking. He didn't stop himself; instead, he started asking questions, letting the temptation go further. David had taken the first steps toward a sin that would carry heavy consequences. He didn't do anything to block it or stop it in its tracks, and that's what made the situation so dangerous.

2 Samuel 11:4-5 David went further and fully gave in to sin. Just being tempted isn't a sin, but giving in is. In **James 1:13-15 the Bible says** “¹³ **Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:**¹⁴ **But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.**¹⁵ **Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death**”

With sin always comes trouble. Here, it came fast. Bathsheba sent a message saying, 'I am pregnant.' Imagine the fear David must have felt. People would

soon know, and Uriah—what would he think when he found out? David was caught in a web of his own making, and he could see the danger closing in around him. He couldn't hide from the consequences of his choices. This shows us how quickly things can spiral out of control when we give in to temptation. We need to be careful not to let our desires lead us to actions that can bring shame and pain, not just to ourselves but to those we love."

2 Samuel 11:6-27 In these verses we see how sin can pull us deeper and deeper. David fell into it easily, but getting out was much harder. To cover up one sin often leads to more sin. First, he committed adultery, then tried to deceive Uriah with a big lie. David was likely desperate when he called for Uriah, trying to cover up his actions. This was unlike David, but sin takes us farther than we ever plan to go. He was afraid of getting caught, but his plan didn't work. Uriah, not knowing David's intentions, didn't do what David hoped.

What now? David went even further and arranged for Uriah's death, making it look like he died in battle. But God sees everything (Luke 12:2). David then tried to make things right by bringing Bathsheba and the baby into his home. Still, this didn't please the Lord. None of it was hidden from God's sight."

"David's sin with Bathsheba, who was married to Uriah, is one of the darkest moments in his story. But this account has a clear purpose—it shows us the destruction sin can cause. Here, we see both the heavy regret of someone who truly seeks God's forgiveness and the peace that comes from being forgiven and restored. When people say their sin is nobody's business but their own, it isn't true. Our sins always impact those around us. David's sin even led to the unnecessary loss of lives.

Some might try to excuse sin by saying, 'I couldn't help it.' But God always provides us with ways to resist, even if it doesn't feel that way at the time. **1 Corinthians 10:13** says **"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."** It would have been easier for David to turn away if he had tried to resist sooner. We can't hold on to temptation and expect to stay strong. Instead, we should avoid it entirely. David could have avoided all of this trouble if he'd made different choices earlier. Anyone or anything that tempts us to do wrong should be kept out of our lives. We should replace them with people and things that help us stay close to God."

2 Samuel 12:1-9 God used a parable through the prophet Nathan to help David see the seriousness of his sin. God often shows us our sins today through messages from true men of God. Nathan told a story about a rich man taking from a poor man, and when David heard it, he said the rich man deserved to die. That's when Nathan pointed at David and said, 'You are the man.' David finally saw his own actions for what they really were. The Holy Spirit brings conviction so that, when we hear God's message, we can recognize our own guilt. Sin brings death to all people. **Romans 6:23 says "For the wages of sin is death."** David could easily see the wrong in the story Nathan told, but he needed someone to show him his own sin. Is this something people still struggle with today?

2 Samuel 12:10-12 Nathan also brought God's message of punishment to David. God said, 'Whatever a man sows, he will also reap.' Since David had killed Uriah, God said, 'The sword shall never leave your house,' and promised there would be trouble within David's own family, where his own wives would be taken publicly. This wasn't just a warning; it was a clear sign that actions have consequences. David had to face the reality that his choices would lead to pain for himself and his loved ones. David had a high price to pay. His sin not only affected him but would ripple through his family and the entire nation. It reminds us that we must think carefully about our actions and the impact they can have on others."

2 Samuel 12:13-14 David says, 'I have sinned against the Lord.' There's no delay, no excuses, no blame-shifting—just a straightforward confession. His repentance seems complete, as we see in Psalm 51, where he openly confesses his sin. David admitted it, turned away from it, and received God's mercy. 'The Lord also has put away your sin.' This shows us God's love and mercy. Even though David deserved death, he was forgiven because God saw his broken and sincere heart and didn't reject him. David's gratitude and joy show up in Psalm 32.

David put himself entirely in God's hands and was forgiven. But from that point on, his household faced sorrow and sadness. When we do things that cause others to speak badly about God, even if we repent, sadness can follow us because of those actions. David, like the rest of us, had to live with the results of his sin."

CLOSING

“As we close, let’s remember the powerful lessons from David’s life. We saw how temptation can lead us down a dangerous path if we don’t resist it right away. David’s sin with Bathsheba started with a look but turned into something much more because he didn’t guard his heart. And though David was forgiven by God, his actions had lasting consequences.

But there’s also hope in this story. When David realized his sin, he confessed it fully—no excuses, no blaming, just true repentance. And God, who is rich in mercy, forgave him. This shows us that, no matter how far we may have gone, God’s love and mercy are there when we genuinely turn back to Him. Yet, it also reminds us that our choices matter, affecting not just us but the people around us.

Let’s take David’s story as a guide. Let’s be quick to turn away from temptation, quick to confess when we fall, and ready to lean on God’s mercy. And let’s live in a way that honors Him, knowing that each choice we make has a lasting impact. May we leave here today with our hearts set on God, ready to live in His grace and strength.”

JUST A THOUGHT

It is better to look ahead and prepare than to look back and regret.