

2 Samuel 11

David > shown mercy to Mephibosheth, Jonathan's son, in chapter 9

Chapter 10 > David attempts same, showing mercy to a new King, Hanun

KINDNESS is REBUFFED in SHAMEFUL Way

Both chs. 9 & 10 BEGIN > David thinking of GOOD of OTHERS

Ch 11 > What am I going to DO for ME??

His kingdom is now probably twice the size that Saul's kingdom, which stretched from Dan to Beersheba, David's kingdom is now probably twice that size.

¹ In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel. And they ravaged the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem. ² It happened, late one afternoon, when David arose from his couch and was walking on the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful. ³ And David sent and inquired about the woman. And one said, "Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?" ⁴ So David sent messengers and took her, and she came to him, and he lay with her. (Now she had been purifying herself from her uncleanness.) Then she returned to her house. ⁵ And the woman conceived, and she sent and told David, "I am pregnant." ⁶ So David sent word to Joab, "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent Uriah to David. ⁷ When Uriah came to him, David asked how Joab was doing and how the people were doing and how the war was going. ⁸ Then David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house and wash your feet." And Uriah went out of the king's house, and there followed him a present from the king. ⁹ But Uriah slept at the door of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and did not go down to his house. ¹⁰ When they told David, "Uriah did not go down to his house," David said to Uriah, "Have you not come from a journey? Why did you not go down to your house?" ¹¹ Uriah said to David, "The ark and Israel and Judah dwell in booths, and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are camping in the open field. Shall I then go to my house, to eat and to drink and to lie with my wife? As you live, and as your soul lives, I will not do this thing." ¹² Then David said to Uriah, "Remain here today also, and tomorrow I will send you back." So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day and the next. ¹³ And David invited him, and he ate in his presence and drank, so that he made him drunk.

And in the evening he went out to lie on his couch with the servants of his lord, but he did not go down to his house. ¹⁴ In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it by the hand of Uriah. ¹⁵ In the letter he wrote, “Set Uriah in the forefront of the hardest fighting, and then draw back from him, that he may be struck down, and die.” ¹⁶ And as Joab was besieging the city, he assigned Uriah to the place where he knew there were valiant men. ¹⁷ And the men of the city came out and fought with Joab, and some of the servants of David among the people fell. Uriah the Hittite also died. ¹⁸ Then Joab sent and told David all the news about the fighting. ¹⁹ And he instructed the messenger, “When you have finished telling all the news about the fighting to the king, ²⁰ then, if the king's anger rises, and if he says to you, ‘Why did you go so near the city to fight? Did you not know that they would shoot from the wall?’ ²¹ Who killed Abimelech the son of Jerubbesheth? Did not a woman cast an upper millstone on him from the wall, so that he died at Thebez? Why did you go so near the wall?’ then you shall say, ‘Your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also.’” ²² So the messenger went and came and told David all that Joab had sent him to tell. ²³ The messenger said to David, “The men gained an advantage over us and came out against us in the field, but we drove them back to the entrance of the gate. ²⁴ Then the archers shot at your servants from the wall. Some of the king's servants are dead, and your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also.” ²⁵ David said to the messenger, “Thus shall you say to Joab, ‘Do not let this matter trouble you, for the sword devours now one and now another. Strengthen your attack against the city and overthrow it.’ And encourage him.” ²⁶ When the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she lamented over her husband. ²⁷ And when the mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD.

HONESTY of the Bible > Wish was NOT So Honest > BIOG + or - , Not Both

TRULY the WORD of GOD > Tells WHOLE Truth – No EMBELLISHMENT

Thomas Jefferson > Made OWN Bible – JEFFERSONIAN Bible – CUT Out all bits NOT ACCEPT

This is like a story that could be told today. – IT IS Often Told Today

ABOUT BAD People – CREEPS – People we would NEVER ADMIRE

THIS STORY – SHOCKINGLY – About Greatest King of Israel!!

MAN who LOVED God and MAN WHOM God LOVED

SCANDAL to read this GROSS HYPOCRISY on EASTER!

There are few valleys so deep and dark as this one in the Scriptures.

The fall of David is tragic and gripping and it's charted not just by this historical account here in 2 Samuel but also by the psalm of repentance in Psalm 51.

It is dark and deep because this is David. This is David.

This is the sweet psalmist of Israel.

This is the man who wrote half of the psalms.

This is the man who is described in Scripture as “the man after God’s own heart.”

And it is dark and deep because of the nature of this sin.

4 Main Points and couple Applications

First of all, the circumstances of David’s temptation.

Some time has elapsed. We saw in previous chapters David has prospered, conquered cities and regions and districts and expanded the kingdom to twice the size of Saul’s kingdom.

He reigns over a phenomenal amount of territory. It’s a time of great success and prosperity in David’s life, but with that success and with that prosperity, David is no longer the man that he was.

Power has begun to eat into David’s life. We see two things here.

First of all, and not every commentator is agreed on this, but it is a time of neglected duty.

At the opening of this chapter we read it’s a time when kings go off to war. It’s springtime.

SPRING for WAR > WARMER, Ground FIRM not MUDDY, CROPS for Food

PUNISHMENT on UNGRATEFUL AMMON

War against the Ammonites, against the city of Rabbah.

“But David,” the end of verse 1, “David remained at Jerusalem.”

Now some commentators say it wasn't the king's business to go off to war. He wasn't involved in the skirmishes recorded in chapter 10 either.

But most commentators will suggest that in this period of history it was the position of the king to lead his men into battle, at least to be present at the battle.

And David, as the writer of 2 Samuel seems to be saying in the adversative form of verse 1, “but David remained at Jerusalem,” David is not doing his duty.

It's a time of dampened zeal.

Uriah shames him in the contrast between this military, soldier, principled man who refuses even to pop down and say hello to his wife because his men are fighting in battle in the open field.

Where are you tonight? EASTER NIGHT

Where are we in our relationship with God?

Where are we in our relationship to the Scriptures?

Where are we in relationship to the things of God?

Is this describing us in some fashion, that we have begun to neglect our duty, that religion has become a form, a pattern, a thing that we do, but the heart, the zeal, the love, the devotion, the spirit, has gone?

David appears here in this chapter to be in a position where he is no longer nourishing his spiritual affections.

He has no energy to resist the onslaught of temptation.

All that David needs is opportunity. All that he needs is for opportunity because desire is already there.

Do you ever think of that my friends, that the only thing that keeps us from great sin is the intervention of God, that the opportunity just isn't there because the

doors are wide open on our part, it's just that the opportunity has just never presented itself?

David finds himself now in a position where opportunity and desire coincide.

Little BOY every time ANGRY – Just happened to be ROCK NEARBY!

What is your WEAK SPOT? Most Vulnerable? Where Go? What Do?

TURN TOWARD God or AWAY from GOD? Holy Habits? Hurtful Habits?

The second thing I want us to see in this chapter is the Building of temptation, the progress of the enticement.

You see in verses 2, 3, and 4 the main verbs – “he saw.”

Somewhere from seeing her to actually making the mental note that she was beautiful he has crossed the line.

“He saw, he sent for, and he laid with” – those three verbs in verses 2, 3, and 4.

v. 4 BROKE Heart of Law > KEPT the CEREMONIAL Shadow

It's a progression. At any point you see, you could stop the progression but it doesn't stop.

There's an advancement to sin.

12 Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. 13 Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. 14 But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. 15 Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.
James 1.12-15

It begins in the mind somewhere and it grows and grows and grows and ultimately brings forth death.

David saw. She, Bathsheba, is bathing. Don't be too hard on Bathsheba, I have no idea, neither do you, of what the cultural morays of bathing were in this period of history.

Difference between being ATTRACTIVE and ALLURING, Find for Yourself

LUST in Heart of Men > Women show only EYES and Hands, Feet > LUSTING

Maybe she was on the edge and maybe she wasn't, but the whole focus here in on David.

David saw and in seeing he lost his mind and that's where sin always starts – in the mind, as a thought, as a thought that is nourished and watered and promoted into growth. His understanding, you see, no longer rules his affections.

He saw Bathsheba and in seeing Bathsheba, he lost sight of God.

IDLE > When DESIRES are Strong, Stay BUSY in MIND & BODY

“Idle mind is a devil's workshop”

ROAMING EYE – Eve SAW Fruit / David SAW Woman – Visual Temptation

PORNOGRAPHY Industry > EYES full of Adultery – 2 Peter 2

Pornography stimulates MIND to Greater Activity > Not Escape, Entrapment

I have made a covenant with my eyes; how then could I gaze at a virgin? Job 31.1

There's a mental image and no matter where you turn, that mental image will not go away. Like looking at the sun and for minutes afterwards all you can see is this white blotch in front of you. He saw Bathsheba and he lost sight of God.

This is the David who looked at the giant Goliath and with faith and courage and tenacity enters into battle with him because he didn't see Goliath, he saw God.

And now everything has changed, everything has changed.

In this period of David's life, he's lost sight of God.

Sin is deceitful. You see, when he saw Bathsheba he didn't see sin, he saw beauty. He saw something desirable. Now my friends, the seed of every known sin lies within all of our hearts. The seed of this sin lies within all of our hearts.

BEAUTY turns UGLY > RIPPING FLOWER from its STEM – Withers, Dies

The third thing I want us to see here is the complexity of this sin.

Little phrase – “I’m pregnant.” And now, like a tidal wave of trying to undo what David has done.

It’s hard to imagine. It’s like some bad opera scene – bringing Uriah back from battle, sending him to his house, refusing to go, sleeping outside on the step, staying an extra day, making him drunk, still finding him on the step in the morning, writing a letter, giving it to Uriah – Uriah’s carrying his own death warrant – to ensure through Joab that Uriah will be killed.

It’s heart breaking reading David’s response, saying to Joab not to be distressed - one dies just like another in battle, c’est la vie, this is life, this is what happens in war. It’s like trying to pull a pebble out of a pond. You can get the pebble out of the pond but the ripples keep going back and for, back and for.

KING DAVID behaves like PONTIUS PILATE > Decrees Murder of Innocent

MOTIVE > BOTH wanted to PRESERVE their REPUTATION in the World

DRUNKEN URIAH > MORE NOBLE than SOBER DAVID

David becomes like a man who’s trying to fight an octopus.

You grab hold of one limb but there are seven more wrapping themselves around you.

By the end of this chapter, David has broken almost every commandment.

He has broken the first table of the law in denying God His glory and due

Dishonored his parents / Committed adultery / Stolen / Committed Falsehood

Murder / Coveted

David is NO BETTER than JOAB who killed Abner

DAVID STOOPED to Same LOW LEVEL as JOAB

SEX NOT JUST Personal Preference – Private Act – that does not Effect Others

N.KOREA Explodes NUCLEAR Bomb underground > Effect MILK in S.Korea

Woman in David's Bedroom – Someone's DAUGHTER and WIFE

TOUCH HER > TOUCH Whole Family, Students she Teaches

We're NOT ISOLATED SEX OBJECTS Someone's Grandchild/Daughter, Wife

WIFE of one of 30 HEROES – Hid with David in Caves, Running from SAUL

Just between 2 of them > I AM PREGNANT! > Sex ALWAYS SOCIAL Affair

1500 ABORTIONS in CHINA Every HOUR / 13 MILLION every YEAR!

1 Child POLICY resulted in 336 Million ABORTIONS since 1971

Bedroom Activity > Leads to LIES, DIVORCE, MURDER, KILLING FAMILY

David's Sin > Family Collapse, Infighting in Family, Civil War, Solomon's Fall

Thus says the LORD, 'Behold, I will raise up evil against you out of your own house. And I will take your wives before your eyes and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun. 12 For you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel and before the sun.'" ² Samuel 12.12

The fourth thing I want us to see is the heart of David's failure.

verse 27 – Uriah is dead, Bathsheba performed her mourning for her husband.

Verse 27 – "When the mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord."

Now look at verse 10 of chapter 12 – "Now therefore the sword shall never depart from you house, because you have despised Me"

God now speaking to David. The thing that David had done displeased the Lord.

David had despised God. God's verdict: something happened in David's heart.

Something has happened in his heart that God says, "You've despised Me."

You can almost imagine, you remember when David loses his son Absalom, you remember David says, “Oh Absalom, Absalom, my son, Absalom,”

Can hear God saying, “Oh David, David, My son, David. What are you doing?”

Application.

First of all, the importance of guarding our minds, of guarding our minds.

Psalm 119 and verse 11 – “I have stored up Your Word in my heart that I might not sin against You.”

Importance of memory verses. Importance of teaching a children’s catechism.

Importance of making sure that the Word of God is treasured up, stored up in our hearts so that at the moment of temptation the Word of God is like a two edged sword.

IF you are struggling in this area - Run like Mark in that mysterious Gospel narrative leaving everything behind. Just run, flee, flee temptation. This may be the very area of your temptation.

JOSEPH > Wife of POTIPHAR

Celebrate Recovery

For some of you, it isn’t – Remember DAVID had a time when it wasn’t Either

Covenant to pray this year for the rest of this congregation that this sin of adultery will not manifest itself within the doors of this church.

Pray for our marriages, men and women in this church, lives and occupations and businesses are at the very forefront where this temptation is perhaps acute.

Our People Travel - Some strange city in some strange hotel.

Pray for our marriages. Pray for our young people. Pray for sexual purity.

Why this Event? - Sovereignty of God

Warning to Believers > Experienced of God’s Mercy

Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. 12 Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. 13 No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it. 1 Corinthians 10.11-13

AFTER Conversion we are ANGELS? No PROBLEMS > BEYOND Sin's Grip
IMMUNE to TEMPTATION = NOAH'S Drunkenness

FIGHT Sin BEFORE FIND Yourself in ROOM, ALONE with Beautiful Person

But – there is a way back.

GUILTY Conscience CUTS US OFF from God's MERCY & POWER

NO Thought for GLORY of God / GOOD of Others > Unconfessed 1 Year

People FOLLOWED David's Sin > Why Not? He is man after God's heart!

Only the God can save David now. Only the Gospel can save David now.

Good intentions, resolutions – with all due respect – resolutions won't cut it.

Only the grace of God that will help David now.

It's only the grace of God in the Gospel.

There is forgiveness even for this sin.

It's hard to think of that, isn't it? If Bathsheba was our wife or our daughter

Forgiveness for David because there's forgiveness for the likes of you and me.

Blood of Jesus covers all sin.

Now David must repent and we'll see that in the next chapter...