

# David and Bathsheba

## 2 Samuel 11

**ILLUSTRATION:** This morning we are going to look at one of the most sobering and sad stories in all the bible. We've seen the rise of David a man after God's own heart, and today we will see him fall. But we will not stay fallen - because at his core he is righteous man - and though the righteous man falls seven times, he gets up eight.

The story begins with...

### 1. The Temptation -

**TEXT: 2 Samuel 11:1 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> 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.

There we see that David was...

#### a. Unengaged in Purpose -

Rather than embracing his calling and purpose, he takes a break. Now taking a break is good, but he has had all winter to relax. The battle is on, the game is afoot, but David send Joab and David remains.

***Purpose is to a Heart, what People are to a Home.*** Unoccupied homes deteriorate much faster than occupied ones. They seem to fall apart. Well the human heart is similar. When it is engaged in purpose it seems unstoppable. But when a man forgets his purpose and begins to drift, vines begin to grow.

Men - you have a purpose. You are to be engaged fathers, loving husbands, profitable employees, assets to the body of christ here at Capshaw. When you are fully engaged in your purpose you are unstoppable. But drift for a moment and you are vulnerable.

*Not only was David Unengaged in His Purpose*

#### b. Unafraid of Sin

**2 Samuel 11:2-3 (ESV)**

<sup>2</sup> It happened, late one afternoon, when David arose from his couch and was walking on the roof of the king's house,

The roof in David's culture was like a backyard in our culture. This is where you go to relax, to take it all in. Imagine what it was like...

- He could look up off to his east and hear perhaps the sounds of war that he didn't even have to fight.
- He could look over to his to the south west corner of his property and see the tabernacle that contained the Ark of the Covenant that he had brought back to Jerusalem.
- The palace he lived in was constructed of the finest materials that the King of Tyre could provide.
- At this point in his life his kids were young, perhaps he could even hear them playing in the background of this lovely spring evening in Israel.
- He looks up and God's provision and protection are upon him.

- He looks down and something catches his eye...

2b. that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful.

**This girl was Mehode Tobe in appearance -**

/meh·ode/] It's used 299 times in the Old Testament it means with great and exceeding abundance.

/tobe/ Good and pleasant and beautiful

She was a 10 physically, but she also had an amazing personality and charm.

DAVID SAW her - we've all been there. We see something we weren't supposed to see. That popup screen on your laptop. That website you should have never visited. The heart rate speeds up, sweat forms on the brow.

***It's at that point you run.*** Listen there are times when the bible says, "resist the Devil and he will flee from you... but when it comes to sexual temptation the bible says clearly... do not pass go, do not collect \$200, "flee youthful lust". Like Joseph, leave your jacket and run.

Married men, when you are tempted let it become a trigger to you to go love your wife.  
**Run from temptation to the arms of your bride.**

**The two best things you have in battling this sort of temptation:**

1. **A Good Purpose** - something bigger than you to occupy your mind.
2. **A Good Wife** - The Proverb writes says it well.

David should have found and embraced his wife Abigail, then suited up and went to join Joab in the battle. But he didn't...look at verse 3.

<sup>3</sup> And David sent and inquired about the woman.

He's moving closer and closer to the object of temptation. He's feeding his curiosity and what you feed grows.

3b. And one said, "Is not this Bathsheba, the **daughter** of Eliam, the **wife** of Uriah the Hittite?"

Now this is really important: The author subtly points out that this is someone's daughter; someone's wife; someone's mother. Why is he doing that?

- Because, you see, sexual sin almost always objectifies someone. You think of them only as an object of your pleasure, and you forget that you're dealing with someone's life, usually multiple people's lives

**ILLUSTRATION:** Most crimes begin with dehumanizing. We hear about Nazi crimes and think, "How could actual people do these things??" Historians explain: Easy. The Nazis quit thinking of the Jews as human.

That's what often happens in sex. You think of someone in terms of what kind of pleasure they can provide for you, and you forget you are dealing with a real person with real relationships.

Probably the thing that helps me stay away from pornography more than any other is thinking that every image is some daddy's little girl. Behind every pornographic image is a broken-hearted father. Someone's sister, someone's grandchild. May you never forget it when you are tempted.

David was unengaged in purpose, unafraid of sin... and thirdly...

### **c. Unaware of the Consequences**

#### **2 Samuel 11:4–5 (ESV)**

<sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> And the woman conceived, and she sent and told David, "I am pregnant."

Temptation has a remarkable way of causing us to forget the consequences of our actions. There is not a woman on the planet that could get you to commit adultery if you knew the sum total of what it would cost you.

- Your reputation will never be the same - is it possible to think of David apart from this sin?
- Your wife, if she forgives you will never look at you the same.
- Your children, who think you walk on water may not speak to you.
- Your parents will be disappointed.
- Our church will suffer.

But none of that will cross your mind in the heat of passion, unless you meditate on it over and over.

## **2. The Situation**

### **a. Plan A**

#### **2 Samuel 11:6–12:23 (ESV)**

<sup>6</sup> So David sent word to Joab, "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent Uriah to David. <sup>7</sup> When Uriah came to him, David asked how Joab was doing and how the people were doing and how the war was going. <sup>8</sup> 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.

So David thought, "It's simple, I'll get Uriah home, he will sleep with his wife and when it turns out that she is pregnant people will do the math and remember Uriah's furlow. No one would know the truth except David and Bathsheba.

But unlike David - Uriah was gripped with his PURPOSE.

<sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> 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?" <sup>11</sup> 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."

Oh the conviction that must have brought on David's heart. Seeing a man who loved something more than himself, committed to duty, gripped with purpose.

## b. Plan B - Make Uriah Drunk

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.

Now there is something about alcohol. It has potential dangers in itself - but the greatest danger is that often it will exploit your main weakness.

**Johnny Hunt said, "It causes your break fluid to leak".**

David thinks to himself, "Oh he's noble tonight, but get a few drinks in him and his nobility will go out the window". But it didn't work.

What a man Uriah was.

And David is suddenly gripped with purpose - ***OH, if he could only channel the same passion he had for covering up his sin, into staying out of sin!***

## c. Plan C

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."

So not only does Uriah die, but all of the valiant men in his company. All because David didn't have sexual discipline.

## 3. The Confrontation

Well Uriah is dead, David takes Bathsheba as his wife. There must have been something in David's mind that said, "well it's over".

**ILLUSTRATION:** This week the authorities captured Tim Cummins in CA who had kidnapped his 15 year old student and taken her across the country. When the officer arrested him he said, "I'm glad it's over". I wanted to shout in the television - it's NOT over! It will never be over. For eternity the consequences of what you have done will effect other people.

1 And the Lord sent Nathan to David. He came to him and said to him, "There were two men in a certain city, the one rich and the other poor. 2 The rich man had very many flocks and herds, 3 but the poor man had nothing but one little ewe lamb, which he had bought. And he brought it up, and it grew up with him and with his children. It used to eat of his morsel and drink from his cup and lie in his arms, and it was like a daughter to him. 4 Now there came a traveler to the rich man, and he was unwilling to take one of his own flock or herd to prepare for the guest who had come to him, but he took the poor man's lamb and prepared it for the man who had come to him." 5 Then David's anger was greatly kindled against the man, and he said to Nathan, "As the Lord lives, the man who has done this deserves to die, 6 and he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity."

Sometimes it's so much easier to see the heart motive of others than it is to see our own. You see the problem of the rich man in the story wasn't mainly theft, it was mainly a lack of compassion.

David's sin wasn't mainly adultery it was a heart devoid of love and compassion for others. He didn't love Uriah, he really didn't love Bathsheba, he didn't love God. David in that moment loved David. And in these words he is condemning himself.

<sup>7</sup> Nathan said to David, "You are the man!"

## **Chapter 11 is going to mark a turning point in David's life.**

- David, who up until this point has enjoyed a pretty charmed life, watches as his family starts to fall apart.
- This newborn son dies.
- Another one of his sons rapes his half-sister in the palace and gets killed in vengeance by another of his brothers.
- And then another of David's sons leads a rebellion against David and is himself killed.

**LISTEN:** Sex is a powerful thing. I've heard it compared to fire.

- In the fireplace fire is good, it warms the home, it cooks the food.
- In the couch, fire is not so good, it destroys the home.

**IN CONCLUSION:**

### **1. Never think you are too big to fall -**

- David was by God's estimation, "A Man after God's Own heart".
- David was so close to the Lord that he wrote songs that make up the bulk of the Psalms of the Old Testament.
- He had been used by God in incredible ways, from defeating Goliath to returning the Ark of the Covenant.
- All of his peers considered him a righteous and Godly man.

*If David could fall, so could you...*

### **2. It's easier to avoid temptation than to resist it**

**An ancient Chinese proverb said,** "He who would not fall, should not walk in slippery places"

**Martin Luther,** *"If your head is made of butter, stay away from the fire."*

ILLUSTRATION: Vice President Mike Pence has taken a lot of flack for his commitment not to have dinner with someone who is not his wife. But friend, that is a man who knows what he is capable of and planned accordingly.

ILLUSTRATION: I like guns. But I don't leave a loaded 9mm laying on the coffee table in my living room. Technically, it's not sin - but the stakes are just too high.

FATHERS - listen to me... if you are going to have internet in your home. YOU MUST HAVE A PLAN to protect your family and to protect yourself. If you think that they are spiritual enough, or you are spiritual enough - you are crazy.

### 3. Look to Christ -

Healing for David began when he looked his sin square in the eye and he owned it.

Healing began when the words of David echoed the words of Nathan - I AM THE MAN.

**God was more committed to David than David was to God.** You see four chapters earlier God made a promise - **2 Samuel 7:16 (ESV)**

<sup>16</sup> And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.' ”

God made that promise **knowing** full well that David:

- Would commit adultery with Bathsheba
- Would commit murder against Uriah
- Would seek to cover up his sin for almost a year.

The Gospel, the good news... you may be thinking Pastor. It was good while it lasted but there is no Gospel here David is not Christ figure here. You're right It's not David - the boy who has slain the Giant has now been slain by lust. You said the scriptures testify to Christ? Where is Christ in this story?

LET ME SHOW YOU: It's not David, it's Uriah. Think about Uriah: Uriah is innocent; selfless, and heroic.

**J.D. Greear helped me see this** - To the end, he is absolutely loyal to David and his fellow Israelites. He can't even bring himself to enjoy a night of legitimate pleasure when his countrymen are in harm's way.

- He is faithful to the end... When he is placed on the front line of the worst part of the battle and told to charge, he does so.
- He dies because of David's sin, not his own.
- Like Jesus. Jesus was loyal to us. He put our needs above his. He was faithful to the end and because of that died for our sins against him.
- Uriah gives us a picture of the steadfast love of God that God had promised to David, a love that would never depart from him. Yes, David made a bad mistake, and yes, there would be pretty bad consequences, but the steadfast love of God would never depart from David, and God would ultimately take the death penalty for David's sin.
- Yet there's one crucial difference between Uriah and Jesus. Uriah did not know what David had done to him. Jesus did, and he went eagerly to death anyway.

**Jesus showed this in how he dealt with a woman in his life caught in the very act of adultery... Like David. John 8:11, “Neither do I condemn you; go, and sin no more.”**

I've always found that order odd - it seems like it should say, “Go and sin no more, and I will not condemn you”.

But that's not what Jesus did - he showed her grace, acceptance, love.

- The reason this woman went into the arms of adultery, is because her soul was empty. If Jesus just told her to stop, she wouldn't be able to.
- He had to give her a greater love, a greater acceptance that would keep her from running to adulterers.
- Our message to the teenage girl who has lost her virginity is not, "Stop sinning. You're a bad girl." It is that "You have a heavenly Father who has never stopped loving you. Never. Not in your darkest moment or darkest desire. On the cross he took everything about you that made you unacceptable and died for it... the rocks of justice were pummeled into his body instead of yours."
- Our message to the man who is looking at pornography is not, "You're going to mess up your family!" I will tell them that. But it is also, "This is the God who forgave David; who knew what you were going to do before you did it, and had already forgiven you and made a plan for restoration!"
- Jesus last words on the cross were not "go fix yourself" but "it is finished."

Come every soul, by sin oppressed, there's mercy with the Lord! And he will surely give you rest by trusting in his word! Only trust him, only trust him, only trust him now! He will save you, he will save you, he will save you now!

Nobody is not touched by this... but there's hope. **For every 1 look at sin, take 10 looks at the cross.**