

## David's Downfall      2 Samuel 11 – 12

### David's Downfall    Introduction

- One "Bible verse" that isn't really in the Bible is,
- *"An idle mind is the devil's workshop and idle hands are the devil's tools."*
- Nonetheless, it contains some serious truth.
  
- The greatest battles in our spiritual life may not come in the form of great deeds of heroism.
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- The greatest battles in our spiritual life may not come in the form of great deeds of heroism.
- When life is difficult, it can force us into greater dependence upon God – a good thing.
- Spiritual battles can come even when things are going well or when there is a break in the action.
  
- Such was the case with David.
- The great giant killer, who was unbeatable when the fighting was fierce, proved as vulnerable as anyone else when he thought he was perfectly safe.

### David and Bathsheba    2 Samuel 11

- *Send* or *sent* are the notable words in this chapter.
- Most often David is doing the sending. (vv. 3, 4, 6, 14, 27)
- A few times it's Joab. (vv. 6, 16, 22)
- Once (v. 5) it's Bathsheba, giving us her only words in this whole story, "I am pregnant."
  
- David is a man in control, exercising his authority.
- No one dares to confront him, even though it is clear that what he is doing is wrong.
- Uriah is perfectly loyal. His character is flawless – and it costs him his life.
- Nupanga Weanzana, Dean of Bangui Evangelical School of Theology (B.E.S.T.), comments,
  - *"There are two contrasts with David here. David did not go into battle, and he slept with someone else's wife. Uriah did go into battle and refused to sleep even with his own wife."*
  
- David was a godly man, but this shows us how easily sin can take hold of us under the right circumstances.

- This is from John Wesley (1701 – 1793), founder of the Methodist Church,
  - *“How are the beginnings of sin to be dreaded! For who knows where it will end? David hath sinned, therefore Uriah must die! That innocent, valiant, gallant man, who was ready to die for his prince's honour, must die by his prince's hand!”*  
*“See how fleshly lusts war against the soul, and what devastations they make in that war! How they blind the eyes, fear the conscience, harden the heart, and destroy all sense of honour and justice!”*
- The lesson is to avoid sin before it can take hold of us.
  - See 1 Corinthians 10:12
  - See also James 1:13-15

### **Nathan and David 2 Samuel 12:1-15a**

- Now God does the sending.
- 12:1-6 David’s response indicates at least two things:
  - He is still behaving like a man in charge – perhaps becoming a bit self-righteous at this point.
  - Some time has probably passed so that he now doesn’t expect to be confronted regarding what he did.
  - *“When men are most indulgent of their own sins they are most ready to condemn those of others.”*
    - *James M. Gray (1851 – 1935), President of Moody Bible Institute*
- 12:7-8 This is all that the Lord had done for David up to this point.
- 12:9 This is God’s perspective on David’s recent response.
- 12:10-12 These are the consequences of David’s sin.
- 12:13-15a Even when people fall into serious sin, the Lord uses his Word and his Spirit to warn them to repent.
- The purpose of reproof is to move the heart and conscience.
- 12:13-15a When sin has entangled us, we should immediately turn from evil, and turn to the mercy and grace of God.
- This is truly what David does.

### David and the Child 2 Samuel 12:15b-23

- 12:15b Bathsheba is still called “Uriah’s wife.”
- This reminds us that she was not David’s wife when the child was conceived.
- We never find out the child’s name.
  
- Still, this section does indicate that David’s repentance is perfectly genuine.
- He is no longer boldly wielding his authority as he did earlier in the story.
- He is a contrite, remorseful man.
  - *“Perhaps nothing more perfectly reveals the sincerity of his repentance than this ready acceptance of the stroke by which God refused to answer his prayer.”*
    - *G. Campbell Morgan (1863 – 1945)*

### Solomon’s Birth 2 Samuel 12:24-25

- Bathsheba is now called David’s wife. God blessed their union even though it started badly.
- The name Solomon is related to the word *shalom*, meaning “peace.”
- God was at peace with David again.
- Jedidiah means “beloved of Yahweh.”

Consider Bathsheba’s situation:

- David’s servants never confronted him on what he did.
- Joab was unwilling to go against his orders.
- David sends for her. Imagine the pressure.
  
- 11:4 says “David took her.”
- 12:4 In Nathan’s parable, the rich man “took the poor man’s lamb.”
- 12:9 Nathan tells David he “has taken Uriah’s wife to be his wife.”
  
- Nowhere is Bathsheba ever given a bit of blame.
- In Nathan’s story she is portrayed as a helpless lamb who is treasured by its owner.
- She lost her reputation, her extremely honorable husband, and then her child all thanks to David’s sin and selfishness.
- Now she was one of the king’s many wives – one more woman in a large harem.
  
- She lost her reputation, her extremely honorable husband, and then her child all thanks to David’s sin and selfishness.
- Now she was one of the king’s many wives – one more woman in a large harem.
- God raises her to the position of queen mother.

- In a nationwide survey, the CDC determined:
  - 8% of high school students reported having been forced to have sex (11.8% female, 4.5% male).
  - 20 – 25% of college women been victims of rape or attempted rape.
  - Nearly 20% of women in the US have actually been raped at some point in their lives (also nearly 1.5% of men).
- If you are looking for a way to help people, there is certainly something that can be done in this area.

### **David's Victory 2 Samuel 12:26-31**

- David's restoration was thorough.
- There were consequences for his sin, but he remained a great king.
- He retained his position of favor in the eyes of God.
  - *"Where there is true contrition, confession, and faith, He not only forgives, but restores; He not only restores to the enjoyment of his favour, but reinstates in opportunities of usefulness. So Jesus not only met the apostle who had denied Him, and put him back into the old position of happy fellowship, but gave him a commission to feed his sheep and lambs."*
    - *F. B. Meyer (1847 – 1929)*

### **David's Downfall Conclusions**

Four lessons to take away from this story:

- Sin sneaks up on us, so avoid it right from the beginning.
- God's goal in dealing with our sin is not punishment, but repentance and restoration.
- When repentance is thorough and enduring, restoration is equally thorough and perhaps even more enduring.
- God loves to take the lowly, the contrite and the victim and raise them to positions of honor.

Three Psalms by David to take home:

- Psalm 51
- Psalm 32
- Psalm 103