

2nd Samuel Chapter 11

- The best men and women in the Bible all had their faults and failures, just as we do – and yet the Lord in His sovereign grace was able to use them to accomplish His purposes.
 1. Noah was a man of faith and obedience, yet he got drunk.
 2. Twice Abraham lied about his wife.
 3. Jacob lied to his father and brother.
 4. Moses murdered a man, later he lost his temper when he struck the rock.
 5. Peter lost his courage and denied Christ 3 times.
- Here we see David: a man after God’s own heart commit adultery and murder, then refuse to repent for almost a year – yet when God confronted him, he repented and received forgiveness – but we’ll see that he pays a terrible price.
- At the end of chapter 10 we see that Israel has subdued all their enemies around them, the kingdom is at the height of it’s power, David is riding high on the blessings of God.
- As much as they are experiencing the blessing of God, victory, prosperity – it’s a time to beware, a time to be circumspect and watchful – a time not to drop our guard.

1 Corinthians 10:12 “Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.”

- When we know that we are weak we are more apt to depend on the Lord, to seek His face knowing that we can’t do it. In those times when I know that I am weak, that’s when we’re strong – because it’s His strength!
- The opposite is true as well, when we’re confident in ourselves, confident in our strength and abilities – look out! That is when we’re weak, that is when we’re vulnerable and in the most danger.
- David is at the peak of his power, the nation is at it’s peak – and that is when he stumbles and falls into this great sin.

V: 1 “... *the time when kings go forth to battle...*”

- Spring time was typically the time being spoken of here. Winters could be harsh, wet, and difficult to operate in – they didn’t necessarily have “all weather capabilities” as they do today – and the summer was possible but very hot and difficult as well.
- They had not completely defeated the Ammonites, who had retreated to their fortress capital – and now it was time to finish the job.

- “*David sent Joab*” instead of going himself – he set the precedent in the previous chapter when the Ammonites provoked him to battle.

2 Samuel 10: 7 “*When David heard of it, he sent Joab...*”

- Joab and the armies of Israel destroyed the Ammonites and laid siege to their capital / stronghold at **Rabbah**, 23 miles east of the Jordan River, which is the modern day capital of Jordan, **Amman**. ([Map](#))
- David tarried, he lingered – when he should have been with the army.
- ***When David laid aside his armor he took the first step toward moral defeat.***
- The same principal applies to us today:
Ephesians 6:10-18 describes the full armor of God:
 1. Without the helmet of salvation, we don't think like saved people.
 2. Without the breastplate of righteousness, our heart is un-protected.
 3. Without the belt of truth, we begin to believe the lies. (Lies like I can get away with this...).
 4. Without the sword of the Spirit, the Word or God, and the shield of faith we are helpless before the enemy.
 5. Without prayer we have no power.
 6. Unless our feet are shod with the Gospel of peace, we'll know no peace.
- David was safer on the battlefield than on the roof of his house!

V: 2 One evening or at sunset David gets up – it may have been hot, he may have been restless and he goes onto the roof of his house.

- Spring & summer it is not uncommon for Israelites and people in that area to use the roof of their house as a patio, a place to gather, BBQ, enjoy the cooler evening breezes.
- He saw a woman washing herself, and notes that she's beautiful to look upon.

“**he saw...**” (H-7200) ra'ah, raw-aw'; to behold, consider, discern, view.

“**looked upon...**” (H-4758) mar'eh, mar-eh'; (from H7200); to view, the act of seeing, to look, behold, consider, to inspect, to regard, to gaze

- We will often see something in a casual way, just notice it, become aware that it is there, and then we will look or examine closer and give it our specific attention.
- The issue isn't inadvertently seeing or noticing what is taking place, it's the 2nd look – the examination that cannot lead anywhere good.

2 Corinthians 10:5 “Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;”

- As we examine David’s behavior in this situation, and I do believe personally that he bears a greater degree of responsibility – but at the same time we can’t ignore Bathsheba’s role in this.
 1. Why was she taking a bath on the roof of her house in view of others?
 2. Was there any other way to accomplish her task or some other precaution she could have taken?
 3. It would be speculative on my part but not too awfully farfetched.

Ephesians 5:15 “See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise.”

1 Timothy 2:9 “In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, ...”

- Even if David had been propositioned outright, who is responsible for David’s behavior? David is!
- Bathsheba’s lack of discretion in no way absolves David for his actions, the Bible clearly and rightly lays the blame for this incident at his feet.

V: 3 David inquired: When God forbids something and calls it sin, we shouldn’t try to get more information about it.

Romans 16:19 “... I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil.”

- David makes an observation, he imagines an evil thing in his heart, then he moves into action to fulfill that thought; he inquires of the woman.
- The woman is identified as Bath-sheba (Daughter of an oath / promise) the wife of Uriah the Hittite, daughter Eliam – “... is this not Bathsheba?”
- That should have ended it, she’s a married woman – done deal.

Exodus 20:14 7th commandment: “Thou shalt not commit adultery.”

- Sadly the fact that she is the wife of one of the mighty men of valor (2 Samuel 23:39) in his army who had fought side by side with him doesn’t seem to slow David down.

Exodus 20:17 10th commandment “Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor’s wife...”

- Bath-Sheba’s father is Eliam, and his father, her grandfather is Ahithophel, David’s friend and counselor. Later when Absalom rebels against David and

drives him from Jerusalem, Ahithophel turns against David and joins Absalom which can be traced back to this betrayal.

David's lament:

Psalm 55:12-14 ¹²For it was not an enemy that reproached me; then I could have borne it: neither was it he that hated me that did magnify himself against me; then I would have hid myself from him: ¹³But it was thou, a man mine equal, my guide, and mine acquaintance. ¹⁴We took sweet counsel together, and walked unto the house of God in company."

V: 4-5 David sends messengers and takes her – she doesn't seem to resist – she could have and should have said "no".

- They lie together and together they conceive a child.
- They've committed a sin before God, and before men – all the palace servants knew what was going on.
- According to the Law (**Leviticus 20:10, Deuteronomy 22:22-24**) they were to be stoned to death.

V: 6-8 As David becomes aware of his situation he conceives and hatches plan "A" to cover up their sin.

- Trying to hide his sin – just like in the garden of Eden when Adam and Eve became aware of their sin, realizing they were naked, their first move was to gather some fig leaves and cover themselves.
- Moses, he looked to his right, he looked to his left – then he killed the Egyptian – then he tried to bury him, covering up his sin. His problem was that he didn't look up!
- David brings Uriah home from the battlefield as a ruse to send him into his wife who would presumably lie with his wife and then be given credit for fathering a son.
- Interesting that this hadn't already occurred prior to David being involved with Bathsheba.
- As Uriah is sent home, David sends the couple a portion of meat, a gift from the king – he's such a nice guy!

Galatians 6:7 "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."

Numbers 32:23 "... Be sure your sin will find you out."

V: 9-11 But Uriah had more honor and self control than David, he didn't go home to his wife, he slept on the back porch with the rest of David's servants.

- When David asked Uriah why he didn't go home, Uriah humbly replied invoking several persons:
 1. (1st thing mentioned / mind) The Ark, the presence of God, how can I do this in the presence of God.
 2. Israel, the nation is not at rest – there is a war to fight, how can I take my leisure.
 3. Judah – David's family isn't at rest, they're fighting.
 4. Joab, my master and brother in arms isn't with his wife, he isn't living comfortably – his life is in danger.
 5. Servants; none of the "other" servants are at home with their wives. Uriah equates himself to just another servant.

V: 12-13 Plan "B" David attempts to get Uriah drunk assuming that as his inhibitions are diminished he'll just relax and go home to his wife.

- Uriah, even in his drunken state maintained his honor because that was what was on the inside – he was an honorable man.
- Even in his drunken state Uriah had more self control than David.

Ironic that Bathsheba's son, Solomon would one day write:

Proverbs 31:4-5 "4It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes strong drink: 5Lest they drink, and forget the law, and pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted."

V: 14-17 Sin has an interesting way of compounding itself. It starts out as one thing, then it grows, and morphs, and gets bigger, uglier, and involves more people. It starts getting deeper and deeper, to the point we find ourselves doing things that we never thought we'd be doing and that is where David is.

- Plan "C" - David now conspires to murder Uriah simply to cover his own sin.

Proverbs 28:13 "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper..."

- David is adopting the tactics of the enemy, and of his predecessor Saul, the tame tactic that Saul tried to use on David.

1 Samuel 18:25 "And Saul said, thus shall ye say to David, the king desireth not any dowry, but an hundred foreskins of the Philistines, to be avenged of the king's enemies. But Saul thought to make David fall by the hand of the Philistines."

- Uriah doesn't know that he's carrying his own death warrant in his hand. He faithfully delivers the message to Joab who without any compunction carry's out the plan.
- In killing Uriah in this manner, others were killed in the process.

V: 18-21 Joab sends a messenger back with a coded message to explain why he would have foolishly exposed the troop to un-necessary danger – and that Uriah was dead – which was the real mission.

- There is a reference from the book of Judges to Abimelech being killed by a woman throwing a stone from the wall in Thebez – in a similar way, too close to the wall. This means that they had the book of Judges at that time, a record of their history.

V: 22-25 The messenger delivers the message about the heat of battle telling David all that Joab had directed.

- David responds back to Joab to press forward on the attack, and essentially not to worry about Uriah – people are killed in battle all the time.

V: 26-27 Not just Bathsheba, but she's identified properly as the wife of Uriah.

- Bathsheba is told of her husband's death and grieves for him.
- The standard time period for mourning is 7 days, or for a notable person 30 days – so she probably mourned for her husband for 30 days.
- David waits for the proper time then takes Bathsheba into his house to become his wife; looks like an act of benevolence but is in reality the final part of the cover up.
- Bathsheba bears a son, which would normally be cause for rejoicing – **but the whole thing displeases the Lord.**

-
- This un-varnished, honest account of David's actions – a hero of the faith are a testimony to the faithfulness and truthfulness of the scriptures.
 - Any other lesser "holy book" would certainly have deleted such an account.

-
- David was a man after God's own heart, a man who was held up in the OT as one of the greatest men of faith.

What is going on?

- It started out so simply, so small:
 1. He neglected his duty to go to battle, he set his armor aside.
 2. Then his eyes wandered to where they should not have.

3. He allowed his curiosity to be aroused. He didn't take his thoughts captive.
 4. He inquired further.
 5. Then he committed adultery & murder.
- His sin snuck up on him, it was compounded, it grew, he got more deeply involved. Before he knew it, he was doing things he thought he'd never be doing.

David's temptation and sin illustrate the truth of James:

James 1:14-15 “¹⁴But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. ¹⁵Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.”

- This is why it is absolutely essential to not give in at that first point of temptation.

1 Corinthians 10:13 “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.”

Numbers 32:23 “.... Be sure your sin will find you out.”

- David still goes down as a man after God's own heart because the story doesn't end here – there will be revelation, brokenness, forgiveness, and restoration.

Proverbs 28:13 “He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.”