

Wednesday Night BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday, February 27, 2013 – First Baptist Church Buda
Midweek Prayer Meeting & Bible Study

DAVID... A MAN AFTER GOD'S HEART "The Case of the Open Window Shade" 2 Samuel 11

David's biographers have used different words to say the same thing about his fatal experience with Bathsheba. One calls it "the most distressing episode in David's life." Here is a few rather significant statements about this part of David's life from some noted Biblical scholars:

- Clarency Mcartheyney called this episode in David's life (David's sin with Bathsheba) "a dark day."
- F.B. Meyer referred to as "the sin of his life."
- Alan Redpath exclaims, "How are the mighty fallen!"
- G. Frederick Owen perhaps put it best when he said, "In his spiritually depleted state, the great hero 'fell by a glance,' then set about the task of covering his tragic tracks."

However we may describe it, the encounter with Bathsheba and subsequent acts of sin stand as a never-to-be-forgotten illustration of this New Testament warning in 1 Corinthians 10:12 (NKJV),
"¹² Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall."

I. A DARK BACKDROP (2 Samuel 11:1)

"^dIn the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king's men and the whole Israelite army. They destroyed the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained in Jerusalem." – 2 Samuel 11:1 (NIV)

David was about fifty years old and had been king for around two decades. He had distinguished himself as a valiant warrior, gifted musician and composer, sensitive man of God, and a man of grace and compassion. However, his fall was not quite so sudden as it might appear. It must be kept in mind that David was no rebel or pervert, but one who had allowed weakness to get the upper hand in his life.

Polygamy (2 Samuel 5:12-13) - "¹² And David knew that the LORD had established him as king over Israel and had exalted his kingdom for the sake of his people Israel. ¹³ After

he left Hebron, David took more concubines and wives in Jerusalem, and more sons and daughters were born to him.” – 2 Samuel 5:12-13 (NIV84)

“¹² And David realized that the LORD had established him as king over Israel, and that He had exalted his kingdom for the sake of His people Israel. ¹³ Meanwhile David took more concubines and wives from Jerusalem, after he came from Hebron; and more sons and daughters were born to David.” – 2 Samuel 5:12-13 (NAS)

In verse 13, the term “meanwhile” (NAS) is interestingly placed in front of a sentence that could be easily overlooked. Its presence almost seems to say that what followed it was considered incidental or common in practice. Observe: “Meanwhile, David took more concubines and wives from Jerusalem, after he came from Hebron...” (v.13 NAS), as if he did not already have enough. His action was a direct violation of God’s precept laid down for those who served as king in Israel in **Deuteronomy 17:14-17** (listen closely to this and let’s see how David is doing), *“¹⁴ When you enter the land the LORD your God is giving you and have taken possession of it and settled in it, and you say, ‘Let us set a king over us like all the nations around us,’ ¹⁵ be sure to appoint over you the king the LORD your God chooses. He must be from among your own brothers. Do not place a foreigner over you, one who is not a brother Israelite. ¹⁶ The king, moreover, must not acquire great numbers of horses for himself or make the people return to Egypt to get more of them, for the LORD has told you, ‘You are not to go back that way again.’ ¹⁷ He must not take many wives, or his heart will be led astray. He must not accumulate large amounts of silver and gold.”* The matter couldn’t have been clearer. David’s passions, his sexual appetites were out of control.

READ

READ

A Scriptural Admonition and Warning For Us: Colossians 3:1-7, *“¹ Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. ³ For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. ⁵ Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. ⁶ Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. ⁷ You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived.”*

Vulnerability (2 Samuel 5-11) – In these seven chapters, David’s career reaches all-time heights. He was fresh off a series of great victories, and public adoration was at its peak. He had ample money, power, and fame – his life was a celebrated story of success. No one is more vulnerable than at a time like this... David was no exception.

READ

A Scriptural Admonition and Warning For Us: We have a couple of good Scriptural warnings concerning the vulnerability that can accompany moment of great victory and success: (1) **Proverbs 16:18**, *“¹⁸ Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.”* (2) And one that we have already mentioned in **1 Corinthians 10:12 (NKJV)**, *“¹² Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.”*

Indulgence (2 Samuel 11:1-2) – *“^dIn the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king’s men and the whole Israelite army. They destroyed the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained in Jerusalem.² One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful.”* Perhaps David had come to admire his own track record, because he’d begun taking life a bit easy. We are told, *“In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king’s men and who Israelite army... but David remained in Jerusalem.”* Unable to sleep, he rose from his bed and walked about the roof of his house. (Oriental monarchs usually relaxed upon the roofs, up where they were free from noise and the demands of the public). While his men were off fighting, David... really negligent of his battle duty... was surrounded by the comforts of home. The explicit remark at the end of verse 2, *“... but David remained in Jerusalem”*, implies criticism of David for remaining behind, as well as setting the stage for his devastating sin. David wasn’t where he was supposed to be.

READ

A Scriptural Admonition and Warning For Us: Remember the Apostle Peter strong warning to us in 1 Peter 4:8-9, *“Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of suffering.”* David wasn’t where he was supposed to be, in the wrong place at the wrong time, and he was exercising self-control or alert to how God’s enemy wanted to take him down.

READ

3 Pieces of Good Biblically Based Advice on Guarding Your Heart:

- 1. Beware of allowing seemingly small cracks of compromise into your life** – For David, not unlike most men, it was his attraction to beautiful women... nothing really wrong with that. Right? But that small crack opened the way to his uncontrollable sexual appetites and to many polygamous relationship including multiple wives and concubines (not wives, but sex partners). He could do it, after all, because he was KING!
- 2. Guard against the thinking that you are above falling** – Perhaps, David’s many victories and accomplishments, his great praise and accolades from the people, his celebrated talents and abilities, he began to buy into the thinking that he has arrived, was invincible, and above falling. Pride is a dangerous thing! It almost always set us up for a big fall!
- 3. Watch out for moments of spiritual laxness in your life** – In David’s life, he became lax. He wasn’t fulfilling his kingly duties (v.1, *“In the spring, at the time when kings off the war...”*) but David was king and didn’t go) He wasn’t where he was supposed to be. But why wasn’t he? He had accomplished so much and had some many victories that he had perhaps become bored with it all and lax in his commitment and responsibility before God and others. It got him into trouble and it will us too! Spiritual laxness in our lives, taking a spiritual vacation, will almost always open the way for sin in our lives. We stop spending quality time with God in prayer and in the reading of Scripture, we perhaps become lax in our faithfulness to the body of Christ (the church), we are no longer doing the things we know to do, and

before long we find ourselves out of step and out of sink with God and more open to the world

II. A SERIOUS SCENE (2 Samuel 11:2-5)

² One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful, ³ and David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, 'Isn't this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite?' ⁴ Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her. (She had purified herself from her uncleanness.) Then she went back home. ⁵ The woman conceived and sent word to David, saying, 'I am pregnant.'" – 2 Samuel 11:2-5 (NIV)

From atop the roof, David saw a woman bathing... the trouble began. The higher elevations of the palace roof allowed David to see into the courtyards of the nearby house. That same roof would later become the scene of other sinful immoralities Bathsheba is identified in **verse 3** as the **"daughter of Eliam."** Eliam, the father of Bathsheba was one of David's mighty men (see 2 Samuel 23:34), and was the son, himself, of one of David's top advisors, Ahithophel... thus making Ahithophel, Bathsheba's grandfather. This could explain why Ahithophel, David's counselor, later gave his allegiance to Absalom in his revolt against David. (see 2 Samuel 16:20-22... *You may ask why did Ahithophel turn on David like that when Absalom rebelled against his father [David] and stole the throne from him? Ahithophel had been a loyal subject of David as one of his royal advisors. This is significant because Ahithophel happened to be Bathsheba's grandfather. He may have been looking for an opportunity for revenge on David. Why do you think Ahithophel advised Absalom to sleep in this roof top with David's concubines?*) Interestingly, **verse 3** is the only time **"Bathsheba's"** name is actually mentioned by name in the entire chapter. He name isn't mentioned again until chapter 12, verse 24. Rather she is referred to as **"the wife of Uriah"** in **verses 3, 26** and in 2 Samuel 12:10, 15. This the Bible's way of emphasizing and intensifying David's sin of adultery... this one's another man's wife, one of those who loyally and faithfully served David at that. (*Interestingly, even in the New Testament genealogy of Jesus in Matthew 1:6, Bathsheba is not mentioned by name, but rather referred to as "the wife of Uriah."*) What we do know about Uriah is pretty limited. Mentioned in **verse 3** simply as a **"Hittite."** 2 Samuel 23:39 that Uriah was also one of David's mighty men, and according to this passage in 2 Samuel 11, he is identified as serving in David's army when he was killed... really at David's deceitful plot of withdrawing his defenses. The name Uriah is a Hebrew name with means, "The Lord is my Light" indicating that he was a genuine worshiper of the one true God of Israel... he was a believer.

Verse 4 tells us, *⁴ Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her. (She had purified herself from her uncleanness.) Then she went back home.* This is very telling and extremely graphic in nature in the Hebrew language. The phrase, **"She came to him, and he slept with her..."** is a euphemistic reference to sexual intercourse indicating that both Bathsheba and David were guilty of adultery here. The

phrase in parenthesis in the NIV, *“She had purified herself from her uncleanness”* is telling us that her recent days had involved her “female cycle or menstruation” and the required ceremonial purification rite required by Jewish Law (see Lev. 15:19-30). They were followed by this adulterous act. This is significant in Scripture because we are being told that having just completed her menstruation the child conceived could not have been Uriah’s but was David’s... the next man she had slept with since then. Bathsheba was not pregnant by Uriah when she came and slept with David as David would try to persuade others to believe.

These few brief verses show the unfolding of a tragedy that need not have occurred.

A Lurid (Shocking) Thought: (vv.2-3) – *“... he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful”* (v.2). The Bible doesn’t pad descriptions. When the record says *“very beautiful”* it means just that. Apparently he had begun staring... lust does that. Israel’s sweet singer and king had allowed God to become unreal, and his desire for the creature rose above everything else. With heated desire David *“sent someone to find out about her”* according to **verse 3**. It was brought to his attention that his interest was in a married woman (the wife of Uriah the Hittite). It is doubtful David hear or remembered, for more than few seconds, Uriah’s name.

A Lustful Act: (v.4) – The description of the encounter is brief, but complete. Notice that there appears to be neither struggle nor surprise on Bathsheba’s part, *“⁴ Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her. (She had purified herself from her uncleanness.) Then she went back home.”* Just like that... but tragically there followed...

A Lingering Result: (v.5) – The inevitable occurred. Within a matter of a few weeks, she found she was pregnant. David was caught in his sin. Hearing of the news of Bathsheba he had a decision to make. The options were limited... he could call in his counselors and, in open integrity, admit that he had done wrong... acknowledging the same before God, then before his countrymen... or he could choose to engage in deception and cover-up.

Some Truths About Sin that Emerge From David’s Sin:

1. Our sin comes from a sin nature in us that has an insatiable (ravenous, unquenchable) appetite – Perhaps in no one else in all of Scripture is this more apparent than with David... and this may be something that you never really knew about David. **Verse 2** tells us that David, *“... arose from his bed”* and went out on the roof. At first glance this might seem like an innocent little phrase, but remember that David rose from a bed that had an unquenchable sexual appetite. At this point in David’s life (David was about 50 years old) he already had 7 wives to fulfill his sexual needs and that didn’t include his numerous concubines (see chart on previous study). David didn’t need another sexual partner, but sin is like that... it has an insatiable, ravenous, voracious, unquenchable appetite... and just as a side note sexual sin is perhaps more so like this than any other. One sexual exploit for David, lead to another, and another, and another until it finally lead to this catastrophic event

- in his life that he really never quite recovered from physically (Spiritually he found forgiveness, but this sin set in motion some things that haunted him the rest of his life) **NOTE: This is one of the reason that pornography and sexually immoral behavior is so dangerous. It is extremely addicting and insatiable.**
2. **Our sin never affects just us, even when we think no one else is hurt by it** – David’s sin, in the privacy of his own bedroom, affected not only himself, Bathsheba and Uriah, but Bathsheba’s family (Eliam, her father and Ahithophel, her grandfather), David’s family (Absalom), David’s wives/concubines (whom Absalom essentially raped). Not to mention the entire nation of Israel.
 3. **Our sin always... always has consequences** – For David those consequences began the moment he sinned adultery, a resulting pregnancy, deceit and trickery (the cover-up), murder, the death of a child, and a sword that never left his house. The Apostle Paul stated this same truth this way in Galatians 6:7-8a, ⁷ *Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.* ⁸ *The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction...* And lest you think that is the New Testament and maybe David didn’t know that Bible verse, before David’s time Job 4:8 said it like this, ⁸ *As I have observed, those who plow evil and those who sow trouble reap it.*
 4. **Our sin will often lead us to act and react in ways that are unstable and lack sanity** – David’s sin led him into panic mode, and he began to try to hide and cover it up, which led to more sin and deceit, and ultimately murder.

III. A PANIC PLAN (2 Samuel 11:6-21)

Again hearing of the news of Bathsheba he had a decision to make. The options were limited... (1) *he could call in his counselors and, in open integrity, admit that he had done wrong... acknowledging the same before God, then before his countrymen...* or (2) *he could choose to engage in deception and cover-up.* He chose the latter option and in verses 6-21 David’s panic plan is put into action.

Deception and Hypocrisy: (vv.6-13) – David had Joab send Uriah back to Jerusalem. When he arrived, David disarmed him with hypocritical conversation – they talked of Joab, the soldiers, and the state of the battle (v.7). Sending Uriah home. Verse 8 says, ⁸ *Then David said to Uriah, ‘Go down to your house and wash your feet.’ So Uriah left the palace, and a gift from the king was sent after him.* David’s aim was to get Uriah to go down to his wife so that he would sleep with her. The plan failed, however, because Uriah refused to leave his military duty at that particular moment, and faithful to his duty spent the night at David’s door (Uriah was much more faithful and conscientious than David had been... that is the contrast that Scripture wants you to see). Finally, David attempted to get him drunk enough that he would go home and sleep with his wife (vv.12-13). What happened to the “man after God’s heart? Why his actions? Living with the wages of sin, he had become spiritually schizophrenic.

Violence and Murder: (vv.14-21) – Via Uriah’s hand, David sent the man’s own death notice to Joab. The plan was that Joab was to “place Uriah in the front line of the fiercest battle... and withdraw from him so that he (might) be struck down and die” (v.15). Thus it happened, and the lives of a number of others were needlessly spent in the process.

NOTE: *Not only did Uriah die at David's hand from David's attempt to try to conceal his sin, but many others of David's fighting men were killed with him all in order to make it look just another casualty of war. Wow!*

What The Insanity of Sin May Lead Us To Do: *Don't ever think that it can't happen to you. None of us are above falling and falling hard. If it can happen to David, a man after God's own heart, it can certainly happen to you.*

1. Deception -
2. Hypocrisy -
3. Violence -
4. Murder -

IV. A COMPLETE COVER-UP (2 Samuel 11:22-27)

²² The messenger set out, and when he arrived he told David everything Joab had sent him to say. ²³ The messenger said to David, 'The men overpowered us and came out against us in the open, but we drove them back to the entrance to the city gate. ²⁴ Then the archers shot arrows at your servants from the wall, and some of the king's men died. Moreover, your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead.' ²⁵ David told the messenger, 'Say this to Joab: 'Don't let this upset you; the sword devours one as well as another. Press the attack against the city and destroy it.' Say this to encourage Joab.' ²⁶ When Uriah's wife heard that her husband was dead, she mourned for him. ²⁷ After the time of mourning was over, David had her brought to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing David had done displeased the LORD.' – 2 Samuel 11:22-27

Before the Troops: (vv.22-25) – Report of Uriah's death reached David (vv.22-24). As if he knew nothing of the plot, David told the messengers, "... say this to Joab, 'Don't let this upset you, the sword devours one as well as another...'" (v.25). In other words, "Don't worry Joab! You win some and you lose some! That's just war for you!" How callused?

Before the Nation: (vv.26-27) – On the surface, everything appeared normal. A burial followed, then days of mourning, flowers, chants, and exchanging of condolences. When it was all over according to verse 27, *²⁷ After the time of mourning was over, David had her brought to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing David had done displeased the LORD.*" Total cover-up, except in the sight of the Lord, who regarded it as evil.

2 Things Strangely Missing from this Episode from the Life of This Man After God's Own Heart: *Reviewing this dark episode from David's life recorded in 2 Samuel 11 there is a couple of things missing from this famous man of God's life.*

1. Not one instance of prayer – He had lost touch with His God
2. Not one moment of seeking forgiveness or counsel – He had lost sight of right and wrong

V. SOME LINGERING THOUGHTS ABOUT SIN

It's hard to end a study on such a negative note and in such a dark place, particular when dealing with one who is consider a great hero of faith, David. After all David is known as "a man after God's own heart." At this point in his life, however, it was not God's heart David was seeking, his own heart-appetites he was seeking... and that is sin. This terrible dark chapter from David's life (2 Samuel 11) leaves us with many lingering thoughts, warning, and lessons concerning sin, but here are two biggies we must not forget.

2 Lingerin Thought About Sin:

- 1. You may be successful in hiding your sin from others, but you can't hide your sin from God –**
- 2. You may be successful covering up your sin for a time, but at some time in some way it will eventually come out –** In other words, it will reap a harvest! Again, sin always has consequences. You will eventually reap what you sow! Certainly David did!