



David and Bathsheba

- I. Introduction. 2 Samuel 9-10 record two stories about David's loyalty to family and friends. Chapter 11 records the ultimate act of disloyalty in David's entire life. No sin happens in a vacuum. Here are five factors that Satan used to seduce David into sin.
 - A. Success- 11:1. God gave David great success. David was in a place in his life where he didn't have to go to war. He could send Joab and stay home. We often talk about the hardest thing a person will ever manage is success. Why is this true? What was it about David's success that set him up for a big fall? What are some things you do to stay spiritually sharp especially during times of success?
 - B. Boredom- 11:2. David was napping and strolling. That is not a good habit for a warrior. Boredom is a huge contributor to sin. "An idle mind is the devil's workshop." Why is boredom dangerous for a driven person? How do you address your down time and leisure time to ensure you do not open yourself up to sin?
 - C. Lack of accountability- 11:2. Where were David's friends and those who hold him accountable? They were at war. David had no one to hold his feet to the fire. In what ways are loneliness and isolation contributing factors to sin? What accountability structures have you set up in your life to keep you from sin?
 - D. Access- 11:2. "As he looked down over the city..." David was bored, his buddies were all out working, and he had access to the entire city. That is when he noticed Bathsheba. People don't wake up one morning and decide to have an affair. It is a slow fade, and the gateway to an affair or any sin is access. The conversation over coffee, the glance in the hall, or the "personal" conversations all create access for Satan to seduce. What are your "access" areas that you must protect in order to be a person of integrity? What boundaries have you put in place to avoid walking through access points that lead to sin?
 - E. Beauty- 11:2. David saw her. She was beautiful. The Hebrew word for "saw" means that he gazed upon her with lust. There is a time factor involved. He looked, he stared, he lusted, and then he acted. This is the same process for all sin. All sin begins with lust, and the eyes are the gateway to lustful thoughts. Job 31:1 says, "I have made a covenant with my eyes to not look with lust upon a woman." In a beauty filled, highly sexualized culture, how do we control our eyes?

II. The Sin

- A. The sin was intentional- 11:3-5. David sent someone to find out her identity. He received a report that included whose daughter she was, that she was married, and that her husband was one of his best warriors on the battlefield. David sent for her and had sex with her. Think about how many opportunities David had to do the right thing. This process had to have taken a lot of time. David had many “outs” during this time and refused to take them. What does this say about the power of lust? What happens to the mind once the flesh is engaged?
- B. The sin was disloyal- 11:3-5. David knew she was married and may have known her husband. David slept with her anyway. In 1 Thessalonians 4:6, Paul says in reference to sexual impurity, “Never cheat a Christian brother in this matter by taking his wife...” In what way is sexual sin disloyalty to others? Who gets hurt in situations of sexual sin?

III. The Cover-up. David was willing to do anything to hide his sin. We have the same desire and capacity to cover our sin.

- A. Step 1- 11:6-9. David told Joab to send Uriah home. When Uriah arrived, David inquired about the battle and sent Uriah home to “relax”. David even gave Uriah a gift. But Uriah refused to go home and spent the night on the palace steps.
- B. Step 2- 11:10-13. David inquired of Uriah why he did not go home the night before. Uriah’s answer: loyalty to David and Israel. That must have burned deep within David’s soul, but David was in a mess and he was determined not to get caught. David threw a dinner party for Uriah and got him drunk so he would sleep with Bathsheba. Uriah refused to be disloyal and again slept all night at the palace entrance.
- C. Step 3- 11:14-25. David sent a letter by Uriah to Joab at Rabbah instructing Joab to put Uriah in the front line of the fiercest battle and withdraw from him so he would be killed in battle. Joab obeyed and Uriah was killed. Joab sent a messenger to David to report that Uriah and several other Israelites had been killed in combat. David sent a message back to Joab not to be discouraged because casualties are a natural part of war. David instructed Joab to go conquer the city.
- D. Step 4- 11:26-27. After the customary period of mourning was over, David married Bathsheba. The child would now be presumed legitimate and David believed he had successfully covered his sin. The final words of this chapter: “But the Lord was very displeased with what David had done.” David was willing to pay any price to hide his sin. What do you notice about the four steps of David’s cover-up? What are some things you have done to hide your sin? What are the consequences of hiding sin?

