

2 Samuel 11:6-27
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Related Topics: David; Bathsheba; Uriah; Joab; Weak Heroes;
Consequences of Forgiven Sin; Steps to a Fall; Covering Up Sin;
Nathan; Sin Is Against God; Confession of Sin; Restoration; Solomon

[2 Samuel 11](#) is the Divinely inspired record of a Great Man's Great Fall.

His "FALL" was not like some sudden trip, in reality David WALKED into this sin one step at a time

BY WAY OF ILLUSTRATION we made reference to Stone Mountain in Georgia. There is a curvature to it that is almost imperceptible UNTIL you take one step too far and you are inescapably caught in the grip of gravity.

Sin is much the same, it's downward pull is almost imperceptible. But there comes a MOMENT when you take ONE more step and suddenly you are beyond the point of escaping it's downward pull.

VERSE 1 set the backdrop for the Great Fall of this Great Man.

Israel was still engaged in the conflict with the Ammonites that had it's beginnings back in Chapter 10. Chapter 11 begins about 1 year later, and David is still FLUSH with victory over the Syrians!

Throughout the Scriptures there is a constant that we find — We are MOST susceptible to a fall following a great victory.

NOTE:

To the casual observer everything about David probably looked great. In fact, in light of Israel's military victory over Syria, and the expansion of David's rule into that region, things might have looked better than ever on the OUTSIDE!

But David remained at Jerusalem.

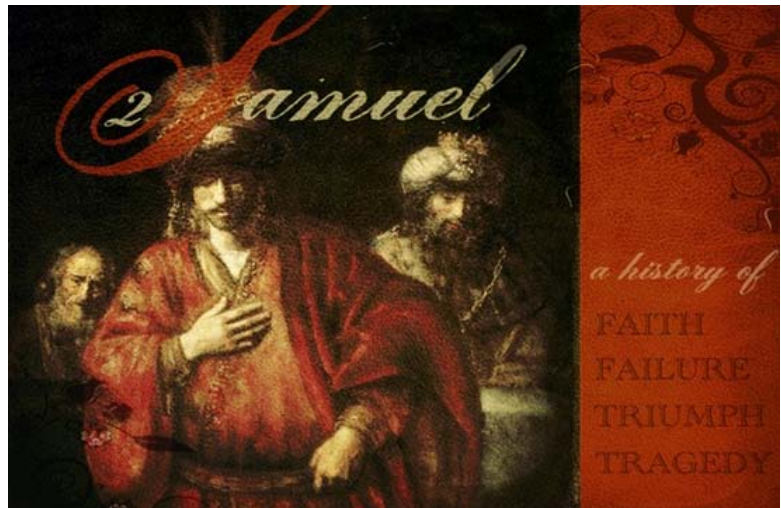
There had to be something wrong in David's heart for the Holy Spirit to record that the kings go out to battle, but this king does not. All Israel went out to battle, but Israel's leader did not.

QUOTE:

Redpath — "As I think of what happened, of this I am sure, that it did not happen all at once. This matter of Bathsheba was simply the climax of something that had been going on in his life for twenty years."

FIRST STEP to a Fall

When he SHOULD have been battling he was kicking back. There is nothing that tells us that David was LOOKING for sin! But when we are someplace where we should not be we are NOT doing things that we OUGHT to be doing, sin HAPPENS! That's why Verse 2 begins with — IT HAPPENED.



THE SECOND STEP to a Fall

David was in the WRONG place looking at the WRONG thing.

2It happened, late one afternoon, when David arose from his couch and was walking on the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful.

THIRD STEP to a Fall

Rather than FLEEING youthful lust, He FOLLOWED his lust.

3And David sent and inquired about the woman. And one said, "Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?"

David could have ended the temptation by leaving the roof top and hanging out with the ugliest male servant in in the palace, but he didn't!

CRUCIAL:

David committed adultery in his heart up on the roof, and now he knows that he has an opportunity to physically commit adultery.

4So David sent messengers and took her, and she came to him, and he lay with her.

We closed by noting that the GREAT Failure of this GREAT Man had a beginning.

Nothing has changed since the time of David. Moral failure begins with thinking that somehow YOU can play with fire and NOT get burned! That you can flirt with the idea of flirting and not get burned. Or you can take the second look and not get burned.

[Proverbs 6:27-29:](#)

Can a man carry fire next to his chest and his clothes not be burned?28 Or can one walk on hot coals and his feet not be scorched?29 So is he who goes in to his neighbor's wife; none who touches her will go unpunished.

Now Back to 2 Samuel:

5And the woman conceived, and she sent and told David, "I am pregnant."

NOTICE:

David commits adultery with Bathsheba, resulting in her pregnancy.

Then we read:

6So (in light of the news) David sent word to Joab, "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent Uriah to David.

How different the flow of this story would be if it said:

"So, in light of the news, David was BROKEN over his sin and went before the Lord and CONFESSED and

REPENTED.”

When David heard the disastrous news of Bathsheba’s pregnancy he should have used it as a prompting to repent. Instead, David did what most unrepentant sinners do: hide his sin. He wanted to draw Uriah back home to have relations with Bathsheba to give a reason for her pregnancy.

As we look at the sin of David circa 1,000 BC, we see that things had not changed with man since the FIRST sin. The NATURE of sin is still the same. In the very first sin man placed his own desires over and above the desires of God. Mans RESPONSE to his sin is still the same. Following the very first sin man attempted to COVER his sin and HIDE from God.

When David heard the disastrous news of Bathsheba’s pregnancy he could have and should have seen it as the reason to repent. INSTEAD, David did what every son of Adam has done, he attempted COVER up the CONSEQUENCE of his sin in order to make it appear that he had never sinned in the first place.

He asked Joab to pull Uriah, the husband of Bathsheba, away from the battle and to send him home. It was not so David could humbly confess to Uriah that he had so slept with his wife. Rather, it was in hopes that Uriah would come home and have sex with his wife and thus give the impression that Bathsheba was pregnant by Uriah and thus COVER David’s sin.

CRUCIAL INSIGHT:

The whole concept of hiding our sin is deceptive on a number of levels.

1. Our sin is never hidden before God

[Hebrews 4:13](#) *And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.*

- HIDING sin does not mitigate against the impact of sin upon our conscience, substance abuse, and/or unbridled abandonment to sin is mans way of dealing with guilt.
- IF you are a child of God and you are attempting to COVER your sin, you will PAINFULLY discover that your supposedly hidden sin:

a. Hinders your fellowship with God

It doesn’t destroy RELATIONSHIP with God, you are still, and forever will be, His child. But, it hinders FELLOWSHIP with Him because things are WRONG between you and your savior.

Where you used to open the Bible to enjoy fellowship with Him, to learn of Him, and to hear Him speak to you, you now begin to avoid times in the Word because from the pages of Scripture you sense His eyes gazing into your soul with the light of His truth.

Quote:

“This book will keep you from sin ... Sin will keep you from this book.” Unknown

b. Hinders your fellowship with others

You avoid people that are on fire for Jesus and walking with Jesus because they CONVICT you. They can’t keep quiet about their relationship with Jesus while you have nothing to share because you are no where with Him. You begin to hang out with the lukewarm and the carnal

c. Is a barrier to spiritual life and power.

The entire Christian life is Trinitarian in nature.

It is BY the Spirit, THROUGH the Son, TO the Father. Your un-confessed sin GRIEVES the Holy Spirit who is THE source of power in the Christian life.

HERE is the ULTIMATE deception in the matter of attempting to cover sin: Jesus PAID for that sin. It is finished! God is QUICK to forgive.

[Exodus 34:6](#) "The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, 7keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin"

He never runs out of mercy

[Lamentations 3:22](#) The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; 23 they are new every morning

The Child of God must realize that CONDEMNATION is the tool of the enemy to DRIVE you away from the Cross of Jesus, which is God's provision for our sin. You adversary the Devil WANTS you to think that you can HIDE sin from God. But ULTIMATELY, the only way he can get you to even move in that direction is by causing you to think that you stand before God on the basis of your MERIT, and that having failed God you are beyond forgiveness and therefore stand condemned.

HERE'S THE TRUTH:

*[Romans 5:1-2](#) 1Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
2Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*

On WHAT BASIS are you standing before God?

IF you are attempting to stand before God on the basis of your own merit, you will be bludgeoned with condemnation. You will irrationally try to hide what in reality can not be hidden from God.

But, IF you are standing before God on the basis of GRACE, IF you KNOW that you don't DESERVE any right standing before God, you only deserve judgment but in that undeserving state God has given to you in Jesus what you don't deserve and could never merit, the GIFT of eternal life, THEN you will respond to the work of the Holy Spirit CONVICTING you of sin.

CONDEMNATION drives you AWAY FROM the cross. CONVICTION of the Holy Spirit drives you TO the cross of Jesus

CONVICTION of sin, however, is NOT painless! We will see that in [Psalm 51](#). But it results in the BLESSEDNESS of forgiveness and restoration to fellowship with God.

7When Uriah came to him, David asked how Joab was doing and how the people were doing and how the war was going.

Here is the Giant of Israel, the man who had slain Goliath, now making this LAME attempt at a conversation with Uriah

9But 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. 10When 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?" 11Uriah said to David, "The ark and Israel and Judah dwell in booths,..."

Uriah was not a Jew by birth, he was a Hittite. But he had a passion for the glory of God

"...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."

WOW!

Uriah proved to be the man David wasn't! Uriah was man of integrity, a man whose first loyalty was to the king's interests rather than to his own pleasure, while at this time in David's first loyalty himself – gratifying his own lusts at the expense of Uriah.

12Then David said to Uriah, "Remain here today also, and tomorrow I will send you back."

David is lying through his teeth. David knows that Uriah wanted to get back to the battle front as soon as possible. He hopes that Uriah will treat the coming evening as his last before returning to battle and be with Bathsheba.

...So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day and the next. 13And David invited him, and he ate in his presence and drank, so that he made him drunk...

David makes one last attempt, hoping to get Uriah drunk enough to want to go sleep with his wife while his fellow soldiers were in pitched battle.

...But he did not go down to his house.

...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.

Some commentators believe that Uriah avoided Bathsheba because he suspected infidelity

QUOTE:

"It is like he smelt something." - John Trapp

14In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it by the hand of Uriah. 15In 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."

Having failed to cover his sin, David wanted Uriah dead. David understands that Uriah can't disown this child if he's dead!

Then there is the reality that David WANTED Bathsheba for himself!

Many adulterers secretly wish death would free them to marry the object of their adultery.

CRUCIAL:

Even if the deed is not done, David is a murdered in his heart! But the deed would be done because David had the power to act on his wish. And sent it by the hand of Uriah. THAT is what is pictured in the painting by

Rembrandt used for the cover art of this Book of the Bible.

WOW!

David trusted the integrity of Uriah so much that he made him the unwitting messenger of his own death sentence. David KNEW that Uriah would never dream of opening a letter from his king, and that he would faithfully get the letter to Joab.

QUOTE:

"This was the sum of treachery and villany. He made this most noble man the carrier of letters which prescribed the mode in which he was to be murdered." - Adam Clarke

16And as Joab was besieging the city, he assigned Uriah to the place where he knew there were valiant men. 17And the men of the city came out and fought with Joab, and some of the servants of David among the people fell. Uriah the Hittite also died.

Here the man described by the Holy Spirit as the man after God's own heart ([1 Sam 13:14](#))

He not ONLY commits adultery, but he also commits MURDER to cover it up. Though it was hidden by the raging battle, Uriah was murdered just as surely as if David killed him in his own home.

WE DO NOT WANT TO MISS THE INCREMENTAL NATURE OF DAVID'S COLLAPSE

- It BEGAN with some underlying deficiency in his spiritual life that had been festering since coming to the throne 20 years in the making, coupled with the pride that follows victory. Both of which led him to NEGLECT going to battle.
- He was NOT where he should have been. He was in the WRONG PLACE looking at a WRONG THING.
- Rather than FLEEING that lust he FOLLOWED it
- When the consequences of his adultery threatened to expose his sin, he tried to cover it at first with deception
- Finally he is so DESPERATE to cover his sin that he is willing to commit murder

THAT is a life out of control! THAT is the way it is with sin!

It COMPOUNDS itself, until before you know it, you are deeper in sin than you could ever imagine. There was a time when you said, "I could NEVER do THAT!" THEN you do THAT. "I did THAT, but I could NEVER do THAT!" THEN you do THAT other thing.

HERE'S THE POINT:

Satan could never tempt David with the entire package at once, but he could deceive him piece by piece.

*18Then Joab sent and told David all the news about the fighting. 19And he instructed the messenger, "When you have finished telling all the news about the fighting to the king, 20then, if the king's anger rises, and if he says to you, 'Why did you go so near the city to fight? Did you not know that they would shoot from the wall? 21Who killed Abimelech the son of Jerubbesheth? Did not a woman cast an upper millstone on him from the wall, so that he died at Thebez? Why did you go so near the wall?' then you shall say, 'Your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also.'" 22So the messenger went and came and told David all that Joab had sent him to tell. 23The messenger said to David, "The men gained an advantage over us and came out against us in the field, but we drove them back to the entrance of the gate. 24Then the archers shot at your servants from the wall. Some of the king's servants are dead, and your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also." 25David said to the messenger, "Thus shall you say to Joab, **Do not let this matter trouble you, for the sword devours now one and now another.***

This was a proverb regarding fortunes of war. It was a way of saying, "These things happen." No doubt David

said it to ease his own guilty conscience as much as he said it to Joab.

Strengthen your attack against the city and overthrow it.' And encourage him." 26When the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she lamented over her husband. 27And when the mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son.

We have no reason to believe that Bathsheba knew that David arranged the death of her husband. It is likely that David concealed all this from Bathsheba. At the same time, she had to in some measure be relieved to hear of her husband's death.

QUOTE:

"There is little doubt to be made but that she was inwardly glad, considering her danger of being punished an adulteress, and her hopes of being now made a queen." - John Trapp

THINK of how this looked to everyone but David and Joab! David isn't seen as the adulterer / murderer, but rather as a hero, taking the widow of one of his fallen captains to be his wife. The people see him not as a king who would murder a noble, faithful soldier. Instead, they see him as standing behind his men, taking care of their widows when they are killed in battle. "My what a marvelous king!"

FOR SURE David thought he had pulled it off and covered his tracks. But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord.

DON'T MISS THIS:

This is the first mention of God in the chapter. But that doesn't mean that He was absent or disinterested. Though He is not mentioned God had witnessed every event and read the intent of every heart. David had NOT gotten away with anything.

ILLUSTRATION:

One winter night, in Pehlham, New Hampshire, a house was burglarized. The thieves sped away and thought they had gotten away undetected. But in their hasty getaway, they backed into a snow bank and unbeknownst to them they had left a perfect imprint of their license plate in the snow!

[Numbers 32:23](#) behold, you have sinned against the Lord, and be sure your sin will find you out.

[Gal. 6:7](#) Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.

David EXPERIENCED the displeasure of God over the next year!

[Psalm 32:3-4](#) For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. 4 For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up .

He was under such intense conviction during this time and that all the joy in his life evaporated away.

CRUCIAL:

David would discover the stress and agony of living a double, false life. He found no relief until he repented and got right with God again.

QUOTE:

"The better the man the dearer the price he pays for a short season of sinful pleasure." - F.B. Meyer

David was in that terrible place where he had too much sin in him to be happy in God, but he had too much of God in him to be happy in sin.

BUT, David was a man after God's heart, God will draw David to repentance and restoration.

NEXT WEEK — Sin Confessed and Sin Forgiven

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