



2 SAMUEL 11

The description of the fall of David is as tragic as it is gripping. This chapter and the one that follows details for us how easily a servant of God can find himself bound up in sin. It is a chapter that is deep and dark because of the significance of David – he was the man after God’s own heart ((1 Samuel 13:14), the man chosen to be king (1 Samuel 16:1-13). But it is also deep and dark due to the nature of sin. Sin is a violation of the way God has told us to live. It breaks the rules. It violates the trust. It destroys love.

1. The Circumstances

The earlier chapters of 2 Samuel have described David’s activities in battle, particularly with the Ammonites. But all that changes here. After perhaps a decade of activity and success in which David’s name grows in popularity and esteem, something happens to him on the inside. Outwardly, few, if any, suspect a problem; but inwardly coldness of heart has gripped David and he is vulnerable to a fall. Was it pride? Was it greed? Was it belief that he was invulnerable?

The Circumstances

- A. A Time of Neglected Duty. The opening verse sets the scene and the problem: it is a time when kings go off to war! It is spring and wars were fought at seasons most conducive to battle. The King stays behind and sends Joab to take care of the battle at Rabbah. The point here is that David’s focus was not in the proper place. His mind was not on his people or on military strategy.
- B. It was also a time of neglected devotion. Times of neglected duty are invariably accompanied by temptations for which we are unprepared and unarmed. There is no record of David’s fight against spiritual temptation because there was none. We often kid ourselves that things JUST HAPPEN. *Lust will seek fulfillment while all the while insisting on a victim status.*

2. The Progress of Enticement

Sin follows a well defined course. The writer uses certain verbs to capture it: “He saw...sent for...slept” (vs. 2-4). What happened? It is what happens when sin is progressing. James

outlines it for us: “each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full grown, , gives birth to death” (James 1:14-15).

David THOUGHT lustful THOUGHTS. When he SAW Bathsheba, He lost SIGHT OF GOD. The same morphology is evident in the story of Achan in Joshua. “When I SAW in the plunder a BEAUTIFUL ROBE from Babylon, two hundred SHEKLES and a WEDGE OF GOLD weighing fifty shekels, I COVETED them and TOOK THEM. I HID THEM – Joshua 7:21

Short term gratification filled his vision. His mistake? He did not ask how long this would last or where this would lead. Sin deceives, just as it did in the Garden of Eden when it promised the earth. As soon as it raises its head, sin needs to be dealt with.

3. The Complexity of Sin

David becomes like a man taken by an octopus; all its tentacles wrap around him.

-COVETOUSNESS: He desired what was not his to have

-ADULTERY: He slept with her

-THEFT: David knew she was Uriah’s wife

-FALSEHOOD: He hoped and planned that people would think the baby was Uriah’s. Try as he might, David could not get Uriah to go home

-MURDER: David wanted to make Uriah’s death to look like an accident. Five times the writer tells us that David’s intention was Uriah’s murder (15, 17, 21, 24, and 26)

When life is placed under God’s microscope we begin to understand what Paul said: “Sin is seen to be exceedingly sinful” (Romans 7:13).

4. The Heart of His Failure

Two little statements bring us to the essence:

- (1) What happened in David’s heart – 2 Samuel 12:10 – HE DESPISED THE LORD – He counted his own satisfaction of greater worth than God’s worth and honor. Stuart Briscoe: “The world is littered with the debris of what sexual lust has promised but never fulfilled.”

(2) What happened in God's heart – IT DISPLEASED HIM

The tragedy is that this was a man after God's own heart.

I truly believe after David repented he had some lessons imprinted on his mind:

1. **We must constantly guard our minds....**

How can a young man keep his way pure?

By living according to your Word

I seek you with all my heart

do not let me stray from your commands

I have hidden your word in my heart

that I might not sin against you (Ps. 119:9-11)

2. **The Law is Helpful**

The law is given to defend and protect us. It is the way God helps us to know where the boundaries are. Failure to comply with notices of trespassing will lead to problems.

God lets us know where safety lies and danger lurks

3. **It is vitally important for Christians to know that even though condemnation is written all over sin, there is a way of forgiveness.**

Can we ever be the same again? Is there a condition that goes beyond failure? Are we doomed to live a second-class existence, forgiven but redundant? What does failure and success look like from a Divine perspective?

2 Samuel 12:13 – "I have sinned against the Lord."

Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man whose sin the LORD does not count against him and in whose spirit is no deceit. When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was sapped as in the strength of summer. Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD"- and you forgave the guilt of my sin. (Psalm 32:1-5)