

DEAL WITH PERSONAL SIN

2 Samuel 11:2-5, 14-15; 12:7a, 10-14; Psalms 51:1-4

Even the most sincere Christian can and will fall to temptation. When we do fail, our tendency is to try to cover up our sins or to blame somebody else when we get caught, just as Adam and Eve did. The right response, however, is to take responsibility for our sin, confess it, and repent of it before God.

God holds us accountable for our sins and we need to take responsibility for our personal sins and failures.

Bible always tells the truth about people. It should encourage us to know that even the best men and women in the biblical record 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. Noah was a man of faith and obedience, and yet he got drunk. Twice Abraham lied about his wife, and Jacob lied to both his father, Isaac, and to his brother Esau. Moses lost his temper when he struck the rock, and Peter lost his courage and denied Christ three times.

This lesson describes the stages in David's experience. As we study, let's remember Paul's admonition, "Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall" (1 Cor. 10:12)

RECOGNIZE THAT TEMPTATION LEADS TO SIN (2 Sam. 11:2-5, 14-15)

Why is lust dangerous?

The Ammonite army had fled to the walled city of Rabbah (10:14), and Joab and the Israel troops were giving the people time to run out of food and water, and then they would attack. David sent Joab and the troops to lay siege to Rabbah, but he himself remained in Jerusalem.

It was probably April or May and the winter rains had stopped and the weather was getting warmer. Chronologists calculate that David was about fifty years old at this time. He could have been with his troops to help develop the strategy and give moral leadership. Whatever the cause, good or bad, that kept David in Jerusalem, this much is true: "Satan finds some mischief still for idle hands to do."

Idleness isn't just the absence of activity, for all of us need regular rest; idleness is also activity to no purpose. When David was finished with his afternoon nap, he should have immediately moved into some kingdom duty that would have occupied his mind and body, or, if he wanted to take a walk, he should have invited someone to walk with him. "If you are idle, be not solitary," wrote Samuel Johnson; "if you are solitary, be not idle." Had David followed that counsel, he would have saved himself and his family a great deal of heartache.

Vs 3-David knew what the law said about adultery, so why did he send to inquire about the woman? Because in his heart, he had already taken possession of her, and now he was anxious to have a rendezvous with her.

He learned that Bathsheba was a married woman, and that fact alone should have stopped him from going on with his evil plan

David knew the law and should have remembered it and applied it to his own heart. "You shall not covet your neighbor's wife" (Ex. 20:17); "You shall not commit adultery" (Ex. 20:14).

David also knew that the palace servants saw and heard everything that went on and reported it to others, so there wasn't much chance he could escape detection.

Did Bathsheba even know why David wanted her?

If so, didn't she stop to consider that, having just finished her monthly period (v. 2), she was ripe for conception?

First Kings 1 reveals that Bathsheba was more a tiger than a housecat.

Did the young wife construct the situation?

There is more than suspicion that she spread the net into which David so promptly fell.

Whatever Bathsheba's lack of discretion – there is no justification for David's actions.

David and Bathsheba sinned against God, for it is God who established marriage and wrote the rules that govern it.

God takes seriously the marriage vows brides and grooms make, even if they don't.

Vs 5 – "I am with child" . These are the only recorded words of Bathsheba in the entire episode, but they were the words David didn't want to hear.

APPLICATION:

- 1 – Temptations come in unexpected ways
- 2 – Temptations are not sins, but they can lead to sins
- 3 – Even people of faith are vulnerable to temptation and sin
- 4 – Trying to cover up sin often leads to worse sin.

REALIZE THAT SIN MUST BE CONFRONTED (2 Sam. 12:7a, 10-12)

David's adultery with Bathsheba was a sin of passion, a sin of the moment that overtook him, but his sin of having Uriah killed was a premeditated crime that was deliberate and disgraceful. This may be why 1 Kings 15:5 emphasizes "the matter of Uriah the Hittite" and says nothing about Bathsheba. But the Lord judged both sins and David paid dearly for his lust and deceit.

The sword did not depart from the king's household, and his wives were taken and violated just as he had taken Bathsheba. Indeed, David did pay fourfold, for Bathsheba's baby died, and his sons Amnon, Absalom, and Adonijah were slain.

David's beautiful daughter Tamar was raped by her half brother (chap. 13), and David's concubines were humiliated publicly by Absalom when he captured the kingdom. For the rest of David's lifetime, he experienced one tragedy after another, either in his family or in the kingdom. What a price he paid for those few minutes of passion with his neighbor's wife!

APPLICATION

- 1 – God confronts believing sinners by the convicting power of His Word
- 2 – God speaks His word to us through friends that are concerned for us – or by preachers and teachers.
- 3 – Even though we confess our sins and God forgives us That doesn't mean we won't suffer consequences.

REJOICE THAT SIN CAN BE FORGIVEN (2 Sam. 12:13-14; Ps. 51:1-4)

The condemned prisoner knew that the verdict was true and the sentence was just, so without any argument, he confessed: "I have sinned against the Lord" (v. 13). Nathan assured David that the Lord had put away his sin. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9 nkjv).

But there was a "however" in Nathan's reply, for though God in His grace had forgiven David's sins, God in His government had to permit David to experience the consequences of those sins, beginning with the death of Bathsheba's baby.

Psalms 51 describes a believer who had lost almost everything—his purity, joy, witness, wisdom, and peace—a man who was afraid God would take the Holy Spirit from him as He had done to Saul. David went through intense emotional and physical pain, but he left behind two prayers that are precious to all believers who have sinned.

APPLICATION

1 – When believers delay confessing their sin, they lose their joy.

Sins are personal but it has consequences on many people.