

2nd Samuel Ch 11:1-5

The bible clearly demonstrates an important principle when it comes to God's accomplishing of His plans and purposes. And that is that God uses *imperfect* people to bring to pass His *perfect* will. And I for one am glad that God in His word doesn't gloss over the sins and shortcomings of these our heroes of faith, but He's careful to record their humanity, their frailties and their faults. We know that Ab had a problem being honest, and he sought to pass Sarah off as his sister more than once to cover his own neck. Jacob was a liar and a deceiver, Noah got drunk, Moses murdered a man and misrepresented God when he struck the rock when in reality he was only to speak to the rock to bring forth water for the people. And of course we're all quite familiar with this ch that lies before us and how David, the man after God's own heart committed adultery and murder to seek to satisfy and cover the desires of his own flesh.

And in God's recording of these things it teaches me an important principle. And that is, "*Where sin abounded, grace abounded much more.*" Rom 5:20 There's nothing I can do, no sin that I can commit that's so heinous but that God can't forgive me and use my life for His glory. But if I stop with that understanding and leave it there I've erred greatly. The message that God *does not* want to send out is, "Go ahead, sin all you like, I've got it covered." No, "*How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?*" Rom 6:2 You see, to be *alive* in Christ, is to be *dead* to self, absolutely God wants us to know that He loves us, and can forgive us, and take those things that the enemy has sought to utilize, or those times we've given way to the destruction of our own flesh, and He can turn those things and bring out of those times something to His own glory and good. But the primary lesson that I believe God would have us to glean is this, there is a more excellent way than having to try and gain something good out of the rubbish, and mess that we've created in our lives, due to our own disobedience and sin. And that is this, don't even go there in the 1st place, if God can do great things in the life of someone who's really blown it, imagine the distance He'll take the individual who's completely sold out to Him! The one who's careful to maintain a walk of intimacy *with* Him, you see the reason that God recorded these things wasn't just so that we could say, "Look, I can mess up to and God will forgive me." That may be true, but it's to miss the point entirely. The bible says, "*Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.*" 1 Cor 10:11 These things were recorded for our admonition, or as a warning to us, that we would learn from their mistakes and be careful not to repeat them.

This is that pivot point in David's life where he goes from "Triumph," to "Tragedy," and from this point on David will have a whole fist full of "Troubles" for the rest of his life. And the word of the Lord to us tonight is, "Learn from David's mistake that you be careful not to repeat it." If the man after God's own heart can fall so tragically, then what makes me and you think we're so impervious? Are we more spiritual than David? I don't think the book of "Jeff" will ever find it's ways into the pages of scripture, I doubt that any worship song I've ever written will one day be inserted into the Psalms of the bible. What's the point? "*Let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.*" 1 Cor 10:12

Vs1

And of course this last sentence is the one that begins to prepare us for David's downfall, setting the stage for his fall. But we recall that in Ch 10 the king of Ammon had died, and so out of compassion, and in order to try and comfort the king's son who was ascending to the throne, David sent some ambassadors to extend his kindness in some way.

But the king's counselors didn't buy it, told the king that he was in reality sending spies to search out his land and overthrow it. And so the king humiliated these guys, treated them disgracefully and sent them back. It was a proverbial slap in Israel's face and in reality a declaration of war, and so they prepared themselves for war, and hired some Syrian mercenaries as insurance. Well, David sent Joab and his mighty men to deal with the matter and God preserved them in the battle, but there was no decisive victory, the Syrians were driven back and the Ammonites fled, but there was no ground gained, no ramifications to the people of Ammon's actions. And so David himself saddled up and went out to war, faced off the Syrians and defeated them utterly so that they refused to help Ammon anymore and made peace with Israel.

Now God was trying to teach David something in that. And that was, that David's place was on the battlefield. When Joab went out with the men, God preserved them, but there was no real victory, the victory came when David was on the battlefield. What's the lesson, "David you need to be in the fight." But David didn't get it. Now at the end of Ch 10 winter was upon them and so they waited to deal with Ammon until the spring, but when it was open season upon enemy territories, David stayed behind, refusing to be apart of the battle that was raging on.

And because he wasn't busy about what God would've had him to be, he's got time to be busy about what God wouldn't have had him to be. And I wonder just how many of us this may be a word for tonight, because the battle is raging on, now you have a choice, you can engage in the battle, and in the advancing of God's kingdom, or do your own thing and let others fight for you. But the thing we need to see here is that if David would've had his attention where God *wanted* it, he would've never been in the position to put his attention where God *didn't* want it. Now we know that with us it's not a matter of flesh and blood, a physical battlefield, the warfare of the believer is in the realm of the spirit. And the principle at work here is that which is found in Gal 5:16, "*Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.*" If David were involved in the battle, he wouldn't have been in the position to get involved with Bathsheba. It's amazing how quickly the tide can turn to being busy about the devil's business, when we're not busy about our Father's business. And as Joab was besieging Rabbah, Satan was laying siege to David's heart, but unfortunately David's heart fell much quicker than the city of Rabbah.

But, you guys, we shouldn't think that all this trouble that's about to befall David began when David stayed home. The dominos were set up long before this, David knew that the word of God said that kings weren't to multiply wives, yet what did he do, he let his passions rule him in that area. He already has 7 wives or so, but apparently that wasn't enough, David should've learned long ago the lesson we learned Sunday morning, you drink from the waters of this life, and you'll thirst again. The flesh is never satisfied, and believe me when I tell you that what's about to happen in David's life is simply the fruit of that seed of corruption sown in his heart long ago. His lack of restraint when it came to the desires of his flesh in this area are preparing to catch up to him, this propensity has been in him for a long time, and his being there at home rather than in the fight simply provided him with the opportunity to indulge his desire. The laying down of his armor brought about defeat in his life.

Vs2

Of course David's dilemma isn't difficult to discern, it's a picture of the principle that James laid out for us when he said, "*Each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.*" James 1:14-15

Everything about vs 2 is still innocent on the surface, now things are beginning to happen in David's mind, but as for this chance encounter where David saw something he shouldn't have, that wasn't a premeditated act.

It was common for people in that culture to nap during the heat of the day and then get up in the evening and spend time out on their decks (which for them was their flat rooftops) just enjoying the evening breeze. But we notice this word, "Walked," because it speaks more literally of pacing back and forth. David was preoccupied and uneasy, why? Because he wasn't where God desired him to be, he was at home taking life easy instead of out there in the fight with the people of God, and it's always a difficult and uneasy thing when you know your not where God would have you to be. And you're sort of kicking against the goads in that respect, and so he's out there pacing back and forth, worried about the war, wondering how things are going. And as he comes to the edge of his balcony (so to speak) he looks out and down there in plain view is this knock out for a gal and she's bathing.

Now, guys I'll speak to you in a minute, but 1st I'd like to address you ladies. Because there's little to no doubt in my mind that Bathsheba knew that her window, or her bathing quarters were in plain view of the kings rooftop terrace. And any lady knows, that she knew that where she was bathing that if the king so chose he could enjoy the show. Now there's no way she could've known for certain that the king would be out there, but she knew it was certainly a possibility, and about what time people went out for some fresh air having retired during the afternoon. Now I'm in no way going to justify David, because the bible readily holds him accountable for his own choices, but the fact is that Bathsheba is not with out blame here.

And surely her immodesty was an occasion for sin, let me keep it brief and to the point. Ladies when you dress immodestly, you need to know that (not only is it sin on your part) but it can be an occasion for sin in somebody else as well. Be mindful of your dress (or lack thereof), when Paul was exhorting men to pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands he said, *“In like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation.”* 1 Tim 2:9 Now you say, what does, “modest apparel” mean? I’m not going to pretend to know the details of what that means, so here’s what I suggest. If you want to know if what you have on, or what you where in general is modest, what you *shouldn’t* do is ask a man. Find another lady, whom you trust to be godly, someone who doesn’t care what the latest fad or fashion is, and ask them if you’re a generally modest person when it comes to your attire, they’ll tell you.

Now as for the guys, you need to know that there are going to be times when some gal dressed immodestly is going to cross your path, David seen Bathsheba in her immodesty. But that wasn’t where the sin was at, how can you help when something comes into view in front of you? The problem came in when David chose to linger there and began to feast his eyes upon her and fix his thoughts upon her. The 1st look is innocent, when you don’t know what’s there, it’s the 2nd look that becomes sin, it’s that fixating of my eyes upon that which is forbidden, being enticed by my own desires. You can choose to fixate your eyes upon that which you have no business looking at, or you can look away and place your mind on something else entirely. David wasn’t content with that which God had given him; the lusts of the flesh are never satisfied.

But understand this as well, and this I suppose is for all of us. Bathsheba’s was tempting no doubt; if something wasn’t alluring to us we wouldn’t even entertain the unhealthy persuasion, the pleasures of sin are like the bait on a hook. But the real power of temptation lies more with in the condition of the heart of the one being tempted. The steps leading to David’s downfall had been prepared for a long time, Bathsheba may’ve been beautiful, but the problem was in David’s heart. His temptation was nothing compared to that of Joseph who had Potiphar’s wife literally tugging at him daily, eventually tearing off his robe and seeking to force him to lay with her. But Joseph’s heart was tuned in to God’s and so he was able to withstand the temptation and flee the scene.

David gazed upon a beautiful woman and just went for it of his own accord, so it wasn’t that his temptation was too strong. The bible says, *“No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.”* 1 Cor 10:13 So was the problem in the temptation? No, the problem was in the condition of David’s heart, God gave David warning after warning, window after window of escape, instead he ran every red light with reckless abandon until he crashed. The bible says, *“For by means of a harlot A man is reduced to a crust of bread; And an adulteress will prey upon his precious life.”* Prov 6:26. And that’s exactly what unfolded in David’s life, he was reduced to nothing because of his lack of self-control, couldn’t crucify the flesh.

Vs 3

Now as if David's own heart wasn't already working on him regarding the danger of what he was doing this vs flags warning after warning. As if his lusting after this woman from his terrace wasn't bad enough, it could've ended right there. David could've walked away, said, "What am I thinking, God forgive me for even entertaining impure thoughts." And surely the Holy Spirit was prompting him all along to just walk away, turn around and walk away. But he pressed through his 1st conviction and sent to inquire of her, "Hey, find out who this woman is." Warning #2, "David, you're a married man, you've got 6-7 wives, what are you doing inquiring of another woman?" This only intensified the temptation, "I've got to know who this lady is!" Then the news comes to David, "It's Bathsheba, Eliam's daughter, Uriah's wife." Warnings # 3, 4, and 5, 1st of all she's a married woman, and as if the rest of what's happened shouldn't have, that little bit of information should've quenched it right there. But then 2^{ndly} it's Eliam's daughter, now who was he; he was one of David's mighty men according to Ch 23 of this book. And there you also learn that Eliam was Ahithophel's son, now who was *he*? He was one of David's chief counselors, one of his trusted and closest associates, kinda begins to put the pieces together as to why Ahithophel sided with Absalom when he committed treason, David had really violated him and his family. And we also learn in Ch 23 of this book that Uriah was one of David's mighty men as well. So this woman is one who is associated with David's most trusted and closest men and she's married to one of them on top of it.

But instead of seeing all of these things as working as warnings *against* him, and ways of escape *to* him, he starts to rationalize in the flesh and how this thing could really work *for* him. He's thinking, "Eliam's away, Uriah's on the battlefield, she's all alone, I could get away with this!" And each step heightens the sense of temptation, David's pursuing his temptation. And he's beginning to think, "Nobody will ever know." He's already committed adultery with her in his heart up on that roof, but now he's pursuing it practically. And it's important to point out how much worse actually following through with the act is than letting it go and repenting of the thought. Now obviously our limited vocabulary makes it difficult to articulate because sin is sin, and Jesus said very plainly, "*You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.*" Matt 5:27-28. And because of that Satan likes to twist those words at that very point and he whispers to a man's heart, to a woman's heart, "You've already committed the sin in your heart, you may as well commit the crime if you're going to do the time. You've already sinned, you may as well follow through with it now!"

But that's a lie from the pit of hell, because though sin is sin, common sense tells us that *practicing* sin brings about far worse *ramifications* than contemplating sin. Does that justify contemplating sin? God forbid, but contemplating sin *definitely* doesn't justify practicing sin. But notice vs 4

Vs 4

So in this one act the man after God's own heart went well against God's own heart. And he knew it, he knew what he'd done was wrong, and you think, "What was he thinking?" But that's the problem, he wasn't thinking, if he'd have thought about it, he would've considered the ramifications, right now all they're thinking is, "We got away with it."

But David didn't get away with anything, and again I'd have you notice that there's no mention of any resistance by Bathsheba whatsoever. There's no hint of reluctance or hesitancy from her; we read that she was cleansed from her impurity which tells us two things. #1 She wasn't already pregnant by Uriah, and #2 it was about 14 days after her cycle which made her ripe for pregnancy, don't think she didn't know that. Kinda brings further speculation into the matter concerning her own motives doesn't it? But again that brunt of the issue the bible is clear, lies with David who should've thought things through before he engaged in an evening of illicit pleasure. If only David would've known, if he only could've considered the possible ramifications. The results of this evening brings about an unwanted pregnancy, the murder of a trusted friend who's out there even at this point in the text on David's behalf. The baby that's conceived here will die, David's own daughter will be raped by a ½ brother, David's son, another son who commits treason, and another son who will wind up taking David's passions and lack of self-control to the nth degree and wind up leading most of Israel away from the Lord in idolatry!

Hope you enjoyed the evening David, hope you find it was all worth it. Of course it wasn't worth it, and in retrospect David would've done things differently. You remember how we began our time, "*Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.*" 1 Cor 10:11 The point becomes obvious, we need to think before we act, not move on impulse or emotion, the bible says we've been given the mind of Christ and we're to be careful to use it. Will we learn from these situations we have before us, or will it take bitter experience before we get the point?

Ungodly decisions will destroy your life, and my life. In keeping with the context of adultery, don't think that this doesn't reap this same type of destruction in people's lives today. Families are ripped apart, destroyed, the integrity of the one who's fallen is shredded before the one who's been violated, they feel as though any platform of influence for good has been ripped out from under them and the enemy utilizes that situation to sterilize and paralyze everyone involved. And so though David had lived a life that was upright before God, now he takes his seat in the shadows of obscurity, and just kinda finishes out his life in ambiguity, troubles follow him the rest of his days. And it happens the same way today, Satan seeks to destroy families today through adultery, and ungodly decisions just the same as he did with David. And finally for tonight.

Vs 5

Ah Oh, Busted. I think it was Charles Spurgeon who said that God doesn't allow His children to sin successfully. The world may get away with such things, but not you. David knew the law, the law called for each of them to be stoned to death. And it's just a matter of time before people begin to realize that she's pregnant and the numbers begin to add up, "Didn't she visit the palace that one night?" So David's wheel's begin to turn, "Now what am I going to do?" And we want to say, "Humble yourself David, Cry out to God, confess it all and beg for mercy and forgiveness." But will David do that? We'll see next time. "*Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.*" 1 Cor 10:11