

Sunday Night Message

May 24, 2020

2 Samuel 11 – David and Bathsheba – The Causes of Sin

Topics – David; Bathsheba; Adultery; Uriah the Hittite

Series – 2 Samuel

Introduction

The story of David's adultery with Bathsheba, and his subsequent murder of her husband, Uriah, is familiar to most of us. Tonight, we will read through the story in order to refresh our memories of all that transpired, but we will then focus our attention on the causes of David's sins. How did David go from being Israel's hero and a man after God's own heart to committing adultery and murder? If we could better understand the underlying, root conditions that are often in place before a sin takes place, then we can also learn to recognize them and hopefully take the necessary steps to fix them before a major fall takes place in our own lives.

Next week, in chapter twelve, we will examine the consequences of David's sin with Bathsheba.

Tonight, we will examine three root causes that led to David's fall. We will also learn that these three root ingredients are not unique to David, but are almost always seen in the lives of those that crash today.

Before we begin, let me remind all of us that we are all capable of doing what David did. We are all sinners, and we can all fall. The first thing that you want to do is stay humble. Don't be haughty and think it could not happen to you. It can. The whole reason we discuss these Old Testament accounts is to learn from the examples of these Old Testament characters:

*"Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. **Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.** There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." (1 Corinthians 10:11-13)*

"Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness." (2 Peter 3:17)

First, let's read through the entire story:

I David was Away from God.

A fall like David's does not just happen overnight. It begins with a weakening in our relationship with God – a slow and gradual slipping away from the center of God's will. Often, the movement away from God is so slow and subtle that it isn't even noticed until after the fall takes place.

Illustrate – The City of Refuge

Read Galatians 5:15 – 26

Every one of us has a flesh, a sinful nature that we were born with that desires to live independently of God. Your flesh desires to sin.

"Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him. Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death." (James 1:12-15)

Paul recognized this inner struggle within himself:

Turn to Romans 7:14 - 25

The greatest protection that we have to keep us from falling tragically out of the will of God and into sin is our daily walk with God.

"Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure." (Philippians 2:12-13)

Time spent with God causes us to desire – to will not to sin.

A Feasting from His Word

"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." (Romans 10:17)

Faith is the opposite of sin – According to Romans 14:23, "...whatsoever is not of faith is sin"

Faith is strengthened through time spent in the Word of God.

"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." (Psalm 119:11)

When we stop feasting on His Word, we usually start feasting on the world's philosophies, which weaken us even more spiritually and pull us further from the will of God.

B Fellowshiping through Prayer

Prayer is our declaration of dependence upon God. When we can go about our daily lives without recognizing our need for God, we are operating in our flesh - our own strength; and our human strength is not strong enough to withstand even the smallest temptations in life.

II David was Alienated from the Right People. (No accountability)

David surrounded himself with people who would not stop him from doing wrong.

"Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." (Hebrews 10:23-25)

When our relationship with God is not right, we alienate ourselves from God's house and God's people for three reasons:

- 1 We don't want to hear from God's Word.
- 2 We don't want to be accountable to God's people.
- 3 We don't want to fulfill God's will. (We don't want to serve God.)

Question – Was there a time when you were more faithful to God's house than you are now? If the answer to that question is yes, then ask yourself another question: Has God's House changed or is it me that has changed?

Illustrate – I am not being fed? Yet, the meals are the same as when you first came. Maybe your appetite has changed.

III David was not Active in Fulfilling God's Will.

David was supposed to be on the battlefield with his army, but instead he was home on his rooftop with nothing productive to do.

The prophet Ezekiel once strongly denounce the People of Judah and actually compared them with the people of Sodom and Gomorrah, the cities that God had destroyed because of their wickedness.

"As I live, saith the Lord GOD, Sodom thy sister hath not done, she nor her daughters, as thou hast done, thou and thy daughters. Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride,

*fulness of bread, and **abundance of idleness** was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy." (Ezekiel 16:48-49)*

I believe that one of the reasons that America has become a cesspool of immorality and filth is because we simply have too much time on our hands, and all of this spare time is spent pursuing pleasure instead of advancing the cause of Christ.

Staying busy will help keep us from falling into sin.

You say, "I'm tired." Tired people built the world.

Conclusion

Three fences that will keep the devil from getting in, and you from getting out of God's will are:

- 1 Your relationship with God – Are you walking daily with the Lord?
- 2 Your connection to the right people – and your avoidance of the wrong crowd.
- 3 Your staying busy fulfilling the will of God.

Pastor Clark always says that the devil checks your back door every night looking for the one time that you forget to lock it.

Keeping these three fences up in your life will keep your spiritual back door locked tightly where the devil cannot get to you.

Remember, the devil cannot force you to do anything; he can only tempt you. He likes to prey upon spiritually weak Christians – ones who have walked away from God, God's people, and God's will.

Closing Illustration

Recent fall of many pastors.

BATTLES DURING DAVID'S REIGN

- City
- City with an uncertain location
- ← Philistines attack David in the Valley of Rephaim, near Baal-perazim (2 Sam. 5:17ff)
- ← David repels Philistine attacks (2 Sam. 5:25)
- ← David attacks Hadadezer, king of Zobah (2 Sam. 8:3ff)
- ← Edomites threaten David at Valley of Salt (2 Sam. 8:13)
- ← David decisively defeats the Edomites (2 Sam. 8:14)
- ← Ammonites, aided by the Aramean mercenary forces of Zobah, Beth-rehob, Maacah and Tob, challenge David near Rabbah (Amman) (2 Sam. 10:1ff)
- ← David's forces defeat the Ammonite-Aramean confederation (2 Sam. 10:7ff)
- ← Hadadezer, king of Zobah, leads an Aramean army against David at Helam (2 Sam. 10:15ff)
- ← David defeats Hadadezer's Aramean confederation at Helam (2 Sam. 10:17ff)
- ← David is expelled from Jerusalem by his son Absalom (2 Sam. 17:21ff)
- ← David dispatches a census team throughout his realm (2 Sam. 24:1ff)
- ★ Battle scene

