



Zoom Bible Study – The Life of David, Lesson 5
December 14, 2021

2 Samuel 11:1 – 5

In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king's men and the whole Israelite army. They destroyed the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained in Jerusalem. One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful, and David sent someone to find out about her.

The man said, "She is Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite." Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her. (Now she was purifying herself from her monthly uncleanness.) Then she went back home. The woman conceived and sent word to David, saying, "I am pregnant."

Galatians 5:16: So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

If David had his attention where God wanted it, he would never put it where God *didn't* want it. This matter of Bathsheba was simply the climax of something that had been going on in his life for twenty years.

How can a believer fall into such terrible sin? A man after God's own heart? The fact is, there is no such thing as a spiritual blowout; there are only slow leaks.

There is not one word in Scripture about Bathsheba's part in this adulterous act. We can only guess.

David's sin was not in *seeing* Bathsheba. David's sin was in *choosing* to keep his eyes on an alluring image after the sight came before his eyes.

Do you think David would have sent for Bathsheba if she had been old or overweight or not so pretty? It was her beauty that tempted him. Jesus said:

Matthew 6:22: "The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light."

This is true physically and spiritually. What you choose to look at has more lasting impact on you than what you hear.

It's also true with your spiritual eyes—what you focus on for your soul. Do you focus your inner eyes on Jesus, on his Word, on good things? When you put good things in through your spiritual eyes, you reap a good harvest.

The pleasures of sin deceive us. They look good—why else would we be tempted if sin didn't look good to our eyes. But how does that sin look to God? And how disappointing and deceptive is what we are attracted to?

Think of another man of God who was truly tempted to commit adultery—Joseph. He fled temptation!

1 Corinthians 10:13: No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

Proverbs 4:25 – 27: Let your eyes look straight ahead; fix your gaze directly before you. Give careful thought to the paths for your feet and be steadfast in all your ways. Do not turn to the right or the left; keep your foot from evil.

David should have received the news of the woman's identity as a warning. He should have fled, like Joseph, but instead he embraces the temptation.

If David only knew the destruction this illicit pursuit of pleasure would directly or indirectly result in:

- An unwanted pregnancy.
- The murder of a trusted friend.
- A dead baby.
- His daughter raped by his son.
- One son murdered by another son.
- A civil war led by one of his sons.
- A son who imitates David's lack of self-control, leading him and much of Israel away from God.

The same kind of ruin comes of adultery today. Think about all the children who go to bed every night without daddy in the house because of adultery.

The fact that Bathsheba was purifying herself confirms that she had recently had her period and was NOT already pregnant. When she sent word to David that she was pregnant (and you wonder who was the messenger?), she was appealing to him to take the necessary steps to avoid the consequences of their sin. The law required that both adulterer and adulteress should be put to death.

2 Samuel 11:6 – 11

So David sent this word to Joab: "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent him to David. When Uriah came to him, David asked him how Joab was, how the soldiers were and how the war was going. Then David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house and wash your feet."

So Uriah left the palace, and a gift from the king was sent after him. But Uriah slept at the entrance to the palace with all his master's servants and did not go down to his house. David was told, "Uriah did not go home."

So he asked Uriah, "Haven't you just come from a military campaign? Why didn't you go home?"

Uriah said to David, "The ark and Israel and Judah are staying in tents, and my commander Joab and my lord's men are camped in the open country. How could I go to my house to eat and drink and make love to my wife? As surely as you live, I will not do such a thing!"

David did what most unrepentant sinners do: he tried to hide his sin. God is never involved in cover-ups.

As soon you are conscious of sin, don't reason with the sin or try to rationalize it, but confess the sin to the Lord, there and then.

What do you think about Uriah and his behavior?

2 Samuel 11:12 – 17

Then David said to him, "Stay here one more day, and tomorrow I will send you back."

So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day and the next. At David's invitation, he ate and drank with him, and David made him drunk. But in the evening Uriah went out to sleep on his mat among his master's servants; he did not go home. In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it with Uriah. In it he wrote, "Put Uriah out in front where the fighting is fiercest. Then withdraw from him so he will be struck down and die."

So while Joab had the city under siege, he put Uriah at a place where he knew the strongest defenders were. When the men of the city came out and fought against Joab, some of the men in David's army fell; moreover, Uriah the Hittite died.

David commanded the death of Uriah, just as surely as if he had killed him personally. We know that David's plan was carried out, Uriah was killed in battle, and David then married Bathsheba when her period of mourning was over.

2 Samuel 11:26 – 27

When Uriah's wife heard that her husband was dead, she mourned for him. After the time of mourning was over, David had her brought to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing David had done displeased the LORD.

2 Samuel 12:1 – 14

The LORD sent Nathan to David. When he came to him, he said, "There were two men in a certain town, one rich and the other poor. The rich man had a very large number of sheep and cattle, but the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb he had bought. He raised it, and it grew up with him and his children. It shared his food, drank from his cup and even slept in his arms. It was like a daughter to him. "Now a traveler came to the rich man, but the rich man refrained from taking one of his own sheep or cattle to prepare a meal for the traveler who had come to him. Instead, he took the ewe lamb that belonged to the poor man and prepared it for the one who had come to him."

David burned with anger against the man and said to Nathan, "As surely as the LORD lives, the man who did this must die! He must pay for that lamb four times over, because he did such a thing and had no pity."

Then Nathan said to David, "You are the man! This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. I gave your master's house to you, and your master's wives into your arms. I gave you all Israel and Judah. And if all this had been too little, I would have given you even more. Why did you despise the word of the LORD by doing what is evil in his eyes? You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your own. You

killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.'

"This is what the LORD says: 'Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity on you. Before your very eyes I will take your wives and give them to one who is close to you, and he will sleep with your wives in broad daylight. You did it in secret, but I will do this thing in broad daylight before all Israel.'"

Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD."

Nathan replied, "The LORD has taken away your sin. You are not going to die. But because by doing this you have shown utter contempt for the LORD, the son born to you will die."

Nathan confronts David a year after David's sin. If you read Psalm 32, you will get a picture of the intense conviction during this time and that all the joy in David's life had evaporated away. David knew the stress and agony of living a double life. He found no relief until he repented. David pays a very heavy price for a short season of sinful pleasure.

Even though David is the King chosen by God, his power and reputation has no influence over God's condemnation of his sin.

Power is a gift from God, but the temptation to use it for our own selfish gain is ever-present and endlessly enticing. Those entrusted with power must look to the Son of God, Jesus Christ, as the shining example for the faithful practice of power.

The good news about this last story of David and his sin is that God always, always, always offers us forgiveness.

Psalm 32:1-5

Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

Blessed is the one whose sin the LORD does not count against them 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 on me; my strength was sapped as in the heat 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.