

2 Samuel 11:1-27

“How Did I End Up Here?”

We are in Week 4 of our 7 week series entitled After God's Heart!

A) Look at the Life of David – The man with the Unique title – A Man after God's heart

B) When you talk about David – there are two main events in his life that get the most Press! Most coverage.

1) One is an awesome Display of FAITH AND VICTORY – we know as **David and Goliath**.

C) The other we know as a sad Display of Failure – We know as David and Bathsheba!

ONE was a high point in David's celebrated life – It was a bold symbol of his Faith in God & love for God – Dependency upon the Lord

A) The OTHER is a horrible reminder of how **Far someone can fall** – how easy it can be to give into temptation.

B) **THE STAIN THAT WOULD SIT UPON HIS LIFE FOREVER.**

1) Especially in the eyes of those who choose not to serve or follow God

C) Today brings us to that particular story in the life of David!

Begin by setting the scene : David is now around 50 yrs old (Never too old) – he has been the King of Israel for almost 20 yrs

A) He has distinguished himself as a man of God / a composer of Beautiful Psalms / a Kind & Caring Shepherd – first of sheep, now of God's people

B) He has been a Valiant Warrior / Israel has **Flourished under his leadership** – Many military Victories

1) They enlarged their boundaries 60,000 square miles under his leadership

C) David's approval rating would have been a strong 95-100%

D) And personally the King was doing well – Nice new home / Rich / the people like him – everything seemed Perfect

E) But this picture of David's life should be a reminder to us that we never arrive – never reach a place where – beyond temptation

1) And in reality **David had set himself up for this Horrible Fall**

Read Ch. 11:1-4

Have you ever awakened from a deep sleep and NOT KNOWN WHERE you are?

A) I remember traveling on a mission trip – Woke up thinking – Where am I and how did I get here?

B) That is often the reaction of someone who has fallen into sin!

1) Finally are confronted and wake up – the blinders – Sin Blinds

C) The Reaction is often – **How did I end up in here?**

1) Never sudden – always a gradual decline – always steps

Today I want us to consider the steps that led to David's failure!

A) Now before you dismiss this story because you have never committed adultery, never even been tempted to commit adultery - can't relate at all.

B) You definitely have never committed murder - even though you have wanted to a few times

B) NOTE THIS: The steps that lead to David's Sin, are THE SAME steps that can lead you to cheat on your taxes,

1) Steal from your company

C) Cause you to murder someone's reputation with your tongue - **Multitude of other sins**

Scripture warns in: 1 Corinthians 10:12

“Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.”

C) Notice between the word stands and the word fall are the words – TAKE HEED!

Three steps that led to David's fall.

#1 Casual Compromise!

A) Compromise in David's life Started long before this moment!

B) David's area of Compromise: 2 Samuel 5:13
And David took more concubines and wives from Jerusalem, after he had come from Hebron. Also more sons and daughters were born to David.

C) Although this was the common practice of the Kings of other nations / it was something God had forbidden for the kings of Israel

D) 3 Things they were forbidden to Multiply

Duet.17: ¹⁶But he shall not multiply horses for himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt to multiply horses, for the LORD has said to you, 'You shall not return that way again.' ¹⁷Neither shall he multiply wives for himself, lest his heart turn away; nor shall he greatly multiply silver and gold for himself.

Horses speaks of Power – in those days an army was judged by the size of its horses & Chariots

A) God didn't want the kings of Israel to stockpile horses & Chariots because he wanted their dependency to be upon him & not those things

B) God didn't want the kings to stock pile Gold & Silver so that they would continue to look to him as their Supplier

C) God didn't want the Kings to multiply wives for themselves – because he had instituted marriage as a Union between – one man & one woman

D) Marriage relationship would always be a picture of Christ and the Church

Now what is interesting about David is he didn't multiply horses

A) 2 Sam. 8 we saw that after a great victory he hanstrung the horses

B) And David didn't multiply silver & gold / 2 Samuel 8 again we saw after the Battle he took the silver & gold & dedicated it for the Construction of the temple

1) WELL But David must have thought that 2 out of 3 isn't Bad – because when it came to women – David had many

C) David had a wandering eye!

When we come to 2 Samuel 11 – David now has nine wives!

A) NOTE: little compromises grow into big compromises.

Aa) Those things that you rationalize – not a big deal – not hurting anyone – GROWS

1) Remember - DAVID IS IN HIS 50'S

B) EASY FOR YOUNG GUYS TO THINK – GETTING OLDER THIS LUST PROBLEM IS GOING TO GO AWAY!

1) Need to Wake up – not true

Bb) A young man said to Alan Redpath when Redpath was 86 yrs old – what does it feel like to no longer be attracted to women - Redpath responded – I will let you know when it happens. - 86

C) Listen the desire for sexual intimacy is a God given desire – It is a God given appetite.

1) Appetites and Desires are not sinful – They can become sinful if you don't use them right.

Truth about appetites

- Appetites will rule you if you don't rule them
- Appetites are never satisfied
- Appetites whisper now never later

David's failure started long before this moment! – Fed his appetite for lust in the wrong way.

A) Women became objects of his affection

B) What do you have an appetite for? Ambition, power, position, to be known

C) Possessions – latest and greatest -

D) Have there been little compromises in your life – feeding that appetite?

E) Little compromises 99% of the time lead to bigger compromises!

Now before we go any further in the story of David and Bathsheba –

A) I think Bathsheba often gets thrown under the bus in this story –

B) Some even characterize her as an evil seductress – who was guilty of seducing the king.

1) **Those who do that pay little attention to the text**

C) For instance – there are those who say: What was she doing bathing on the roof top in plain view anyway.

D) The text doesn't say that Bathsheba was on the roof top bathing – It says David was on the roof.

Common to bath outside –

A) They didn't have indoor plumbing in those days – Bathing happened outside.

B) Bathsheba's case – She was the daughter of Ahithophel a high ranking official in the Kingdom 1) and the wife of Uriah – one of David's key Military leaders

C) This **would mean that she probably lived near the Palace in a home that would have a private courtyard** where bathing would take place.

D) David's palace was on a high place in the city – giving him a good view into the houses down below

Also note: But the way they bathed in those days was different

A) Don't picture a Bathtub with Candles and flowers – Kenny G playing in the background.

C) The Bathing they did was more of a pat down – **v.4 tells us that Bathsheba was cleansed from her purification**

1) This was the ritual washing that a woman would go through after her period was over –

D) **Even the time of the bathing shows discretion** – She is bathing in the evening –

The text tells us in v. 2 David had gone to bed – unable to sleep he goes out on his balcony for an evening stroll. –

A) Plus most of the men in the kingdom were off at War

B) **SOME PROTEST** - There is no sign that Bathsheba resisted!

C) True but the text also doesn't tell us – the messengers came saying – **Bathsheba David sent us to fetch you because he wanted to have sex with you.**

D) Who knows what she was thinking when she was being summed

1) She might have been thinking – Did something happen to my husband

Another thing that is interesting about Bathsheba that I think supports her innocence in this story.

A) Nothing negative or condemning is said about her in all of Scripture.

B) Genealogy (Matthew 1:6) **and Jesse begot David the king, David the king begot Solomon by her who had been the wife of Uriah**

1) **Why wasn't Bathsheba mentioned here by name?**

B) Tamar, Rahab and Ruth are all mentioned by name but Bathsheba is referred to as the wife of Uriah." (Not the adulteress that David slept with)

C) It was to show that Uriah was dead when Bathsheba married David and conceived Solomon.

1) It was to give both Bathsheba and Solomon legitimacy according to the law.

Lastly – Bathsheba ends up being honored by the Lord!

A) She ends up having four children as David's wife –

B) God picks her son – above many of David's other sons – God picks her son Solomon to be the successor to the throne –

1) Blessing of Building the temple – Solomon in fame and impact – becomes Israel's most impactful king

C) Scripture supports Bathsheba's innocence here –

D) Scripture puts the entire weight of this sin on David - Began with Casual Compromise

1) Began with **Casual Compromise - David Multiplying wives**

#2 Rational Complacency! V.1 "It happened in the spring of the year, at the time when kings go out to battle, that David sent Joab and his servants with him, and all Israel; **But David remained at Jerusalem."**

A) This was the time when David is supposed to be in the Battle: Kings went out to war

Bb) Instead he is kicking back at home -

B) In that part of the world, wars were not normally fought during the winter months because of rains and cold weather

C) The winter conditions made travel and campaigning difficult. So In the spring, fighting would resume

1) So it was time for kings to go out to war but David stays home / this was a time when David should have been fighting – instead taking a break

His thinking probably went something like this,

A) "I have fought my battles, I have won my victories, I have been a warrior from my youth up, it's time for someone else to take my place.

B) They did write some good songs about me – arthritis is flaring up – I think I will sit this one out.

1) **There are more important things for the king to do."**

C) I think an Easy thing to do when you get older is to ease up in the fight

D) **AMERICAN MINDSET - We crave comfort**

1) Technology driven – Productivity – ease
Traveling across USA – 4-6 months – today 5 hrs ...

Something we need to understand is that our most VULNERABLE times are not when things are going hard

A) Hard times create dependent people – hard times cause us to pray & seek the Lord

B) You don't get proud when you are dependent on the Lord – Survival keeps you humble

1) But Pride happens when everything is going well / when life seems easy

C) We are not the most Vulnerable when we are working hard or hard at battle / but when we have some leisure / got time on our hands

D) When David was in the battle, he was trusting God, he was seeking God for His plan and strategy, he was using his gifts in the power of the Holy Spirit

E) God hadn't designed David to watch from the sideline, he needed to be in there mixing it up.

1) When David was at war, there was no room for temptation, there was no room for sin.

ENTITLEMENT: I DESERVE A BREAK – I HAVE DONE ENOUGH – I DESERVE MORE!

Understand You can go on vacation –

THE DEVIL NEVER DOES!

So David can't sleep – he takes a stroll and sees Bathsheba

A) The Bible does a really good job of setting this up for us. **It tells us that she was very beautiful to behold.**

B) The Bible doesn't pull any punches, when it says **that someone is beautiful, they are beautiful,**

1) When it says that someone is VERY beautiful, they are an absolute knock out.

C) So here is this absolute knock out bathing right in David's line of sight.

1) Now David has a choice here, he can see this and turn away, or he can see it and dwell on it.

D) To put this into the language of temptation, Bathsheba was the bait, David would either see the bait for what it was and flee, or he would be mesmerized by the bait and start to go after it.

But David's sin was not in seeing Bathsheba but in choosing to look after the initial sight came before his eyes/ the 2nd look

A) Behold means to take a good long look – to Gaze longing at something

James shares some insight on this, James 1:12-15

Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.

14 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. 15 Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

Truth about appetites

- Appetites will rule you if you don't rule them
- Appetites are never satisfied
- Appetites whisper now never later

B) Enticed = being caught in a lure or a baited hook !

C) If you are a fisherman, you know exactly what this is talking about.

1) When you fish, you figure out the bait that the fish that you are going after really likes/ then you figure out how to take that bait and hide a hook in it.

D) Then you drag that bait in front of your prey, knowing that if they catch wind of it, they will not be able to resist it and they will bite.

1) When they do, you have got them.

E) That is what Satan has done here with David, he knows that **this is David's weak point, he knows that this is the bait that David can't refuse,**

1) So he dangles it right in front of his face.

Satan knows there are things that we can be enticed by:

A) Lev 11 – **Stay away from eating pelicans / and Bats – NO PROBLEM – BAT STEW - PELICAN**

B) But there are other things – totally get my attention: **GOLF TOURNAMENT FRIDAY – COOKIES THERE**

C) That is the way that sin works – We are the most prone to temptation when we are not in the battle.

Are you in the battle? – Are you engaged in Service – or are you just cruising spiritually.

A) Is your zeal the same – Passion diminished?

B) Honest look at your spiritual condition today – Complacency ?

B) Rationalized – I deserve a break – I have done enough?

C) David's fall was marked by:

#1 Casual Compromise

#2 Rational Complacency

#3 Ignored Conviction

Holy Spirit convicts of sin and of righteousness

A) Convicts us of **SIN** - things that are wrong – don't do.

Aa)ALARM GOING OFF IN OUR HEADS AND HEART – FLEE – fire alarm –

B) **FLEE YOUTHFUL LUST - FLEE – FUGO – fool go!**

1) **Billy D. – Ran out of the car**

C) Convicts us of **RIGHTEOUSNESS** things that are right – we need to do. 1) **CALL YOUR WIFE – Turn off TV – Word - Serve START TITHING -**

The Holy Spirit speaks to our hearts – internally - Holy Spirit also will speak through human messengers

A) David is not listening to the inner voice – God Speaks through a human voice

B) David asked his servant: **Who is that woman?**

C) **"David, this is Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam"**

1) Stop right there, Bathsheba was the grand daughter of David's most trusted advisor, Ahithophel, Eliam was his son.

This in itself should have been warning enough for David to stay away. David, this woman is almost part of your family.

A) But they go on, "the wife" David's she's married.

B) This should have stopped David in his tracks, this was a married woman, this was the wife of another man,

1) This was a woman who was out of bounds.

C) And not just married, but David, she is married to Uriah the Hittite.

1) Uriah was One of David's mighty men, one of the men who was out doing what David should have been doing.

D) This message from his servants had, "don't go there" written all over it. God was faithful to warn David of his folly.

Here is what I have always found, the road to sin is always marked with stop signs and warning signs and off ramps.

A) When someone tells me that they got sucked into sin and never saw it coming, I will always challenge them on that.

B) "So there were no warning signals, no checks in your spirit, no surprise visits by people who warned you that you were going the wrong way – no Holy Spirit gut checks that told you that this was sin?"

Listen: when Satan is trying to set us up for a fall – God will always give us a way of Escape – if we take it

A) 1 Corinthians 10:13,14 **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. ¹⁴ Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.**

B) At that moment as soon as his servant said she was a married woman David should have fled – {He didn't take the way of escape

C) David instructs his servants, bring her to me.– They had relations / she became Pregnant!

Listen: Dear brother or sister: Is there something in your life that the Holy Spirit has been convicting you of? – INTERNAL VOICE? Heart/ Head

A) You have not been listening!

B) Sent you here today to Hear Me – External Voice - Stop it – Flee – turn

1) Don't **live in Compromise any longer** – Don't live in **Complacency** any longer -

Flee – Turn – get on track today.

C) Not simply an emotional stirring in the heart – TRUE REPENTANCE = CHANGE

GOD WILL NOT BE MOKCED -YOUR SIN WILL FIND YOU OUT!

(YOUNG COUPLE – SEX)

A) Bathsheba sends word – Pregnant - Now what would David do? -

B) Rather than Come Clean –

1) David – Covers up – Has Uriah Killed –

C) He marries the poor widow – HERO – what a great king!

1) NINE MONTHS DAVID LIVES – SECRET

D) God Sends Nathan to Confront – Story – Rich guy takes a another guys little lamb – house pet – David incensed

1) **DAVID YOU ARE THE MAN!**

David: Repents – He is forgiven by the Lord – but there are always consequences to sin!

A) First – V.27 **But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD.**

B) Sin is always first and foremost against God! –

1) David did in the Presence of God – never do in the presence of men.

C) Affected David's relationship with God

Affected David internally!

Psalm 32:3-4

When I refused to confess my sin, my body wasted away, and I groaned all day long.

⁴ Day and night your hand of discipline was heavy on me.

My strength evaporated like water in the summer heat.

David was wasting away: His insides ached – His vitality was gone

❖ David's son Amnon Rapes his step sister Tamar {David does nothing

- ❖ David's Son Absalom Kills Amnon {David does nothing
- ❖ Joab uses this as leverage in David's life
- ❖ Ahithophel – rebels – helps Absalom revolt
- ❖ Solomon multiplies wives – whole other level

There are always consequences to sin – there is always Cross Collateral damage.

Today – TAKE HEED

A) GOD'S WORD – KEEP US FROM SIN - CONVICTION

B) COMPROMISE - COMPLACENCY

**RENEW OUR FERVENCY – PICK UP CROSS
– FOLLOW JESUS**