

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Turn your bibles to 2 Samuel 11.

The chapter we are going to be studying this evening is one of the most tragic events recorded in the Old Testament.

This is the chapter where David is going to suffer his greatest defeat.

Not at the hands of the Philistines or the Ammonites –

It was a battle against his own flesh and desires that he fought within his heart.

And if you read ahead, you know that we are going to see him commit adultery against Bathsheba and he will make it worse by then trying to cover it up by murdering her husband Uriah.

And as we examine the anatomy of David's defeat, we will see that the cause of the fall and the severity of the fall are attributed to David's own decisions of walking against the will of God.

This chapter is a warning to all of us –

Let's pray...

[2Sa 11:1-27 NKJV] 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; and they destroyed the people of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem.

So a little recap at where we are -

Last week in chapter 10, David got word that the King of Ammon had died – so he attempted to show kindness toward the king's son by sending ambassadors to offer condolences on his behalf.

But, instead of receiving the ambassadors, some of the Ammonites questioned David's intentions – some of them thought that he was sending spies to scope the place.

So they proceeded to shame David's ambassadors by shaving half their beards and it eventually led to war between Israel and the Ammonites and the Syrians – who the Ammonites had hired to fight with them.

So David first sends out Joab to lead Israel in battle against the Ammonites – but he didn't finish the job as the Syrians and the Ammonites simply ran away from the battle -

However, David hears that the Syrian armies are coming together again – and David leads the army and is blessed by God with a tremendous victory over the Syrians.

So I made the point last week that God showed David where his place was supposed to be.

His job as King of Israel was supposed to be leading the army.

That was what kings were supposed to do -

And David had seen that - when he was positioned in a place where God wanted him to be at – he and the nation of Israel were blessed and prospered.

But here we find David being in a different place from where God wanted him to be.

He is vacationing in Jerusalem while his men were fighting battles against the enemy.

Church, we must remember that we are in constant spiritual warfare –

We cannot take a spiritual vacation – we cannot let our guards down because that is when the enemy strikes.

Paul warns us in – Ephesians 6

[Eph 6:10-13 NKJV] 10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual [hosts] of wickedness in the heavenly [places]. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

So one of the first errors that David makes is that he is not in the place that God wants him to be and in doing so - he lets his guard down.

And the enemy strikes.

2 Then it happened one evening that David arose from his bed and walked on the roof of the king's house. And from the roof he saw a woman bathing, and the woman [was] very beautiful to behold.

It's not uncommon for temptation to get a hold of us through the eyes.

We are visual people –

We see something we like and then we start to desire it.

And if we are not walking with God, we tend to pursue that desire while not thinking about the consequences that will occur.

There are a few examples of individuals in scriptures who did this –

In Genesis 3 it is written that Eve **saw** the fruit that it was pleasant to the eye and it was desirable. In other words, she got a good real look at the fruit, it was not a passing glance. She studied it and then she wanted it and then she took – even though God had warned them about eating from that tree.

Achan did the same thing when he took of the accursed things in Jericho (Joshua 6).

He saw that spoils of victory and he wanted them for himself and he took – even though Joshua had warned the Children of Israel that all the spoils of the victory over Jericho belonged to Him.

And here David does the same thing, he has woken from his mid afternoon nap, he is overlooking the city and he happens to see Bathsheba taking a bath.

David doesn't simply glance at her taking a bath – he got a very good look – he studied her and liked what he saw and then he desired her.

Billy Graham was correct when he said: "The first look is free. It's the second look that kills you."

You see, temptation is not a sin – when we choose to respond to the temptation by desiring it – and acting on it – that is the sin.

James warns us in his epistle –

[Jas 1:14-15 NKJV] 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.

David's mistake is that he didn't guard his eyes.

He could have easily turned away and continued to the other side of the palace –

David should have simply ran away from the temptation in the same manner that Joseph ran away when Potiphar's wife attempted to seduce him.

Both David and Joseph had the same choice to make – David makes the wrong choice

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How was Joseph able to make the right choice?

Because he was at a point in his life where he was walking and trusting in the Lord.

3 So David sent and inquired about the woman. And [someone] said, "[Is] this not Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?"

Here in verse three, David is acting upon his desires.

He is now pursuing the temptation.

Now, he wants to know more about Bathsheba –

And I asked you to make a note that Bathsheba was the daughter of Eliam – Eliam is one of the guys closest to David.

We also find in scripture that Eliam is the son of Ahithophel who is one of David's top advisors. (2 Sam 16 and 2 Sam 23)

So right away the internal alarm should have been sounding telling David to stop pursuing Bathsheba.

But then David also finds out that she is married to Uriah – Uriah is one of David's mighty men.

That means he was fully aware that he would be committing adultery.

If he was a man of honor and integrity he would have stopped pursuing her right there.

Listen to what Paul writes in 1 Cor 10:13 –

[1Co 10:13 NKJV] 13 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].

Sometimes, you may hear someone say that the temptation was just too strong for them that they really had no other choice but to pursue it –

That is not what the word of God tells us – God always makes a way out.

When David heard the report of who she was – that was God giving David a way out.

4 Then David sent messengers, and took her; and she came to him, and he lay with her, for she was cleansed from her impurity; and she returned to her house.

David had seven wives at this point in his life – and we see that they couldn't satisfy his desires.

So here, he goes after another man's wife.

Now, I asked you make a note that she was cleansed from her impurity – because under Mosaic Law, it was unclean to have intimate relations with a woman during her period.

So David here is making sure to keep himself “clean” while forgetting about the fact that he has just committed adultery. So it shows his hypocrisy.

There is another reason that it mentioned that she was no longer on her period because this tells us that she was not pregnant when she had intimate relations with David.

5 And the woman conceived; so she sent and told David, and said, "I [am] with child."

For a few weeks after their encounter – David must have thought that he had gotten away with his sin.

And then he gets word that Bathsheba is pregnant –

Bathsheba sends David the message because she wants him to do something about it because if he doesn't – their sin will be revealed – and the punishment for adultery was death.

Church, I want you to understand that David could have confessed his sin right here and repented but he chose not to.

And instead of repenting, he did the same thing that man has been doing from the beginning – he attempts to cover it up.

What did Adam and Eve do when they ate of the fruit – instead of telling God what they did – they attempted to cover their sin with what? fig leaves.

Achan, when he sinned, the first thing he did was to cover his sin by burying the items underneath his tent.

And David is going to do the same thing.

He finds a way to make a fig leaf big enough to cover up his sin and Bathsheba's sin.

Church, we must remember that our sin is never hidden before God.

We can hide our sins from each other – but we cannot hide it from God.

6 Then David sent to Joab, [saying], "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent Uriah to David. 7 When Uriah had come to him, David asked how Joab was doing, and how the people were doing, and how the war prospered. 8 And David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house and wash your feet." So Uriah departed from the king's house, and a gift [of food] from the king followed him. 9 But Uriah slept at the door of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and did not go down to his house.

David's plan is to cover up his sin by having Uriah return home and sleep with his wife. That way Bathsheba's can simply say that Uriah is the father.

Up to this time, Uriah has been fighting in the trenches this entire time.

So David sends to bring Uriah back from the battlefield –

And he sends Uriah off and sets him up to have a nice romantic evening at home with his wife.

He even has the evening catered (he sends food).

Think about the utter depravity of what David is doing here to Uriah.

He is pretending to be nice to the man whose wife he's just slept with.

And because Uriah was a man of honor and integrity – unlike David, he refused to go home.

10 So when they told David, saying, "Uriah did not go down to his house," David said to Uriah, "Did you not come from a journey? Why did you not go down to your house?" 11 And Uriah said to David, "The ark and Israel and Judah are dwelling in tents, and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are encamped in the open fields. Shall I then go to my house to eat and drink, and to lie with my wife? [As] you live, and [as] your soul lives, I will not do this thing."

David confronts Uriah about not following his order to go home and sleep with his wife.

And Uriah responds with I can't.

My fellow soldiers are out there fighting in battle – I am not going to take a day off and enjoy the comforts of home while they endure hardships out in the field.

12 Then David said to Uriah, "Wait here today also, and tomorrow I will let you depart." So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day and the next. 13 Now when David called him, he ate and drank before him; and he made him drunk. And at evening he went out to lie on his bed with the servants of his lord, but he did not go down to his house.

Uriah wants to go back to fighting the war with his fellow soldiers and David promises that he will allow him to leave the following day –

David is hoping that Uriah, knowing that he is going to go back into battle, might take the opportunity to spend time with Bathsheba before he returns.

But Uriah doesn't go home for two days.

Then David attempts to get him drunk –

Maybe if he Uriah is drunk – he will go home and stop worrying about his fellow soldiers.

But once again, Uriah did not go home.

14 In the morning it happened that David wrote a letter to Joab and sent [it] by the hand of Uriah. 15 And he wrote in the letter, saying, "Set Uriah in the forefront of the hottest battle, and retreat from him, that he may be struck down and die."

Uriah is not cooperating because he will not go home and sleep with his wife – so David comes up with another plan to cover up his sin.

He is going to have Uriah killed in battle.

So not only has David already committed adultery – now, he is about to commit murder.

He wants Joab to put Uriah on the front lines and when they go into battle, he wants Joab to pull the troops back while leaving Uriah there fighting by himself.

To make matters even worse, David is having Uriah carry his own death warrant back to Joab.

Uriah is such a man of integrity that David knows that he will not open the scroll to read its contents.

16 So it was, while Joab besieged the city, that he assigned Uriah to a place where he knew there [were] valiant men. 17 Then the men of the city came out and fought with Joab. And [some] of the people of the servants of David fell; and Uriah the Hittite died also.

Joab does exactly what David commanded him to do

So not only does David get Uriah killed – he also loses other men in the process of covering his own sin.

18 Then Joab sent and told David all the things concerning the war, 19 and charged the messenger, saying, "When you have finished telling the matters of the war to the king, 20 "if it happens that the king's wrath rises, and he says to you: 'Why did you approach so near to the city when you fought? Did you not know that they would shoot from the wall? 21 'Who struck Abimelech the son of Jerubbesheth? Was it not a woman who cast a piece of a millstone on him from the wall, so that he died in Thebez? Why did you go near the wall?'--then you shall say, 'Your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also.' "

Joab sends a messenger to give an update to King David about the war.

Upon hearing the update, Joab knows that David is going to question his military strategy.

He could hear the voice of David making a reference to a well-known battle.

And he knows that David would probably reference the story of Abimelech that we find in the book of Judges 9 –

Abimelech was one of the sons of Gideon and he was an evil man.

And Abimelech was killed in battle by a woman throwing a mill stone from the top of a wall.

So he was killed by poor military strategy –

So Joab tells the messenger that when David starts to question his military strategy – to simply remind him that Uriah was dead.

22 So the messenger went, and came and told David all that Joab had sent by him. 23 And the messenger said to David, "Surely the men prevailed against us and came out to us in the field; then we drove them back as far as the entrance of the gate. 24 "The archers shot from the wall at your servants; and [some] of the king's servants are dead, and your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also." 25 Then David said to the messenger, "Thus you shall say to Joab: 'Do not let this thing displease you, for the sword devours one as well as another. Strengthen your attack against the city, and overthrow it.' So encourage him."

So the messenger comes and gives David the update – and David's reaction can be summed up as, "Oh well Joab, you win some and you lose some"

David did not care about the update – he just cared that Uriah was dead.

David thought he had fixed the problem – but as we will find out next week – he didn't.

26 When the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she mourned for her husband. 27 And when her mourning was over, David sent and brought

her to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. **But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD.**

Bathsheba finds out that her husband is dead – and she mourns for him.

Some believe that the mourning might have been her remorse for what had occurred.

After her mourning period, David brings her into his house and marries her.

In the eyes of the people – he might have come across as a hero.

After all, this shows compassion – taking a poor pregnant widow of one of his fallen captains to be his wife.

What a marvelous king we have.

David must have thought – I did it. I got away with it.

And now God is blessing me with a new wife and a new son.

But what is not revealed here in chapter 11 – is the misery, the stress and agony that David lived with as he continued to live in sin.

Turn with me to Psalms 32.

[Psa 32:1-5 NKJV] 1 [A Psalm] of David. A Contemplation. Blessed [is he whose] transgression [is] forgiven, [Whose] sin [is] covered. 2 Blessed [is] the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity, And in whose spirit [there is] no

deceit. 3 When I kept silent, my bones grew old Through my groaning all the day long. 4 For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was turned into the drought of summer. Selah 5 I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," And You forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah

Church, David was not being blessed by God – God was simply showing him grace as he waited for him to repent.

I had you make a note of the last portion of the chapter that tells us that God was displeased with what David did – I want you to notice that this is the only time God is even mentioned in this entire chapter –

Because as David disobeyed God and tried to cover up his sin – he was no longer walking with Him.

But guess this – God was not done with David.

He will restore David – but first He will draw David to repentance.

We will see that next week.

If this tragedy can happen to David, a man after God's own heart – it can definitely happen to any of us.

Let's pray...