

2 Samuel 11:1-4 - Thursday, February 5th, 2015

- At this point in David's life, he's likely about 50-years old and has been reigning as king over all Israel for some twenty-years.
- This will prove to be significant as we're about to see as it seems that David wants to sort of take it easy and rest on his laurels.
- Tragically, it will be the first in a long line of mistakes that he makes on his way to sexual temptation that he ultimately falls into.

Charles Spurgeon - "We now come to that mournful occurrence in David's life, which changed his whole career from prosperity to sorrow."

G. Campbell Morgan - "In the whole of the Old Testament literature there is no chapter more tragic or full of solemn and searching warning than this."

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.

- Here we're told that David makes the catastrophic decision to remain in Jerusalem when the season of battle had resumed.
- Back in that day, they would discontinue warfare during the winter because the weather would hinder their ability to battle.
- Then, when spring came and the ground dried up, they would return to the battlefield. However, David as king stays behind.

- I suppose it probably goes without saying, but had David gone out to battle, as kings would do, none of this would've happened.
- I can't help but wonder how differently David's life might have been, had he made the decision to go out to battle with his army.
- Herein lies our first of a number of take-away's as it relates to temptation, namely, that of being idle instead of going to battle.

Charles Spurgeon - "Perhaps he had begun to indulge himself in ease, and therefore left the battles of his country to be fought by others. If so, we are hereby taught that indolence is the nurse of vice."

- The reason that laziness is the nurse of vice, as Spurgeon says it, is because we become a sitting duck for the Devil to tempt.
- Like with David here, we will end up being in the wrong place at the wrong time, and as such, it ends up being a matter of time.
- When it comes some how thinking that you've paid your dues, especially for leaders, you are putting yourself in great danger.

- One of the most valuable lessons that I've been learning in my Christian walk is that I must stay busy about the things of God.
- Actually, it's when I'm walking according to the Spirit, busy in the Spirit, that I don't have the time to fulfill the lusts of the flesh.
- Conversely, if I don't stay busy in the Spirit, I become susceptible to the flesh, such that I can get in the flesh and not the Spirit.

- Be that as it may, it's been suggested that David has fostered a proclivity to lust for many years as evidenced by all his wives.
- In other words, whenever he desired a beautiful woman, David would marry them in order to indulge the lusts of his desires.
- The reason I mention this is because David's fall didn't happen overnight, such that, it was over a process of a number of years.

Alan Redpath - "As I think of what happened, of this I am sure, that it did not happen all at once. This matter of Bathsheba was simply the climax of something that had been going on in his life for twenty years."

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.

- This is interesting for a number of reasons not the least of which is that at this point, it's not too late for David to run from this.
- Sadly, unlike Joseph, who was arguably in a much more tempting situation with Potiphar's wife David doesn't run he just stares.
- To me this is textbook in the sense that when one is tempted, they haven't sinned until desire is conceived giving birth to sin.

James 1:13-15 (NKJV) — 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.

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?"

- Even though David has already been enticed and committed adultery in his heart, he could have still ran away at this juncture.
- However, instead of David running from her, he's inquiring about her. This because of what I call the component of curiosity.
- Let me explain, Satan will exploit our curiosity under the banner of thinking I'm not doing anything wrong, or hurting anybody.

- The fact of the matter is not only is what David doing wrong on every level he will indeed be hurting a number of people as well.
- I think we would do well to take note of something here, as it will be germane to our understanding of what David will do next.
- Notice how that we're told Bathsheba is the daughter of Eliam, and perhaps more importantly, the wife of Uriah who is a Hittite.

- It's important to know, Eliam was one of David's mighty men, Ahithophel was his chief counselor, and Uriah was her husband.
- In other words, David is about to devastate a number of people who are close to him not to mention the murder of her husband.
- I point this out because I'm of the belief that in spite of God warning David by revealing who she was, David just ignores all of it.

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.

- Couple of thoughts here concerning this devastating verse, the first of which is that David is now beyond the point of no return.
- By that I mean, everything has come together and in so doing it's created the perfect environment for David to commit adultery.
- The second thought has to do with Bathsheba who I would contend is not blameless by virtue of her willingness to go to David.

Adam Clarke - "We hear nothing of her reluctance, and there is no evidence that she was taken by force."

- While this certainly does not excuse David's sin, it does in some way explain it, in that, it takes two to tango as the saying goes.
- One has to wonder what would've happened had Bathsheba simply refused to come to him when his messengers came to her.
- In all fairness to her one might argue that she's an innocent victim who could not refuse a request of this nature from her king.

- Perhaps there is some merit to this argument, however, my question would be, why would she bathe nude in full view of David?
- I can't imagine she didn't know how close in proximity she was to the king's palace. Also, she had to know that David stayed.
- The reason I say that is because her husband Uriah did go and was already on the battlefield without King David with the army.

- Here's where I'm going with all of this, women have to be so careful when it comes to how they dress and how they act to men.
- Sometimes I ask myself if women really knew how much of a propensity they had to stumble a man, would they dress like that?
- Now, I am keenly aware that for some women, it is quite deliberate, however, this is unbecoming and immodest, for Christians.

- Please know I'm in no way placing blame on Bathsheba, it's just had she not did what she did this might have never happened.
- That's not to say that David wouldn't have committed adultery with someone else, it is to say that he couldn't do it without her.
- Again, this in no way places the blame on Bathsheba for being the only one who was wrong, rather, she was in her part, wrong.

I like how one commentator explained it, "There is little doubt that this woman (later called by the name Bathsheba) acted immodestly. Though it was evening and apparently the time when most people were asleep, certainly she knew that her bath was visible from the roof of the palace. Any immodesty on Bathsheba's part did not excuse David's sin, but she was still responsible for her wrong.

- In just these first four verses here in 2 Samuel 10, we see four critical steps that ultimately lead to David's fall.
- Verse 1 - He stayed
- Verse 2 - He saw
- Verse 3 - He sent
- Verse 4 - He sinned
- Step #1 - Remaining idle
- Step #2 - Being enticed
- Step #3 - Pursuing curiosity
- Step #4 - Ignoring warnings

- In the remainder of our time together I would like to present a contrast between David and Joseph, both of whom were tempted.

David	Joseph
Stayed behind (2 Samuel 11:1)	Stayed busy (Genesis 39:2-5)
Entertained temptation (2 Samuel 11:2)	Resisted temptation (Genesis 39:7-10)
Ignored warnings (2 Samuel 11:3)	Heeded warnings (Genesis 39:8-9)
Sent for her (2 Samuel 11:3)	Caught by her (Genesis 39:11-12)
Sinned with her (2 Samuel 11:4)	Ran from her (Genesis 39:12)

Kindly allow me to close with some interesting quips and quotes concerning temptation:

- "Temptation, if not resisted, soon becomes necessity."
- "Watch out for temptation—the more you see of it the better it looks!"
- "Few speed records are broken when people run from temptation."
- "One-half the trouble of this life can be traced to saying yes too quick, and not saying no soon enough."
- "It is easier to suppress the first desire than to satisfy all that follow it."
- "He that labors is tempted by one devil; he that is idle, by a thousand."

Lastly, I want to share with you a letter to Dear Abby written by a pastor Walter Cowen, "Since I am a pastor with 43 years' experience, I'd like to offer this suggestion to the inexperienced young minister who didn't know how to handle a very bold woman in his congregation who had designs on him. "Whenever I noticed a romantic twinkle in the eye of a woman in my congregation, I always checked to make sure it wasn't caused by a reflection from the gleam in my own."