

[SCREEN 1] THE COMEBACK – Week 4

"After the Fall" | Primary Text: 2 Samuel 11-12; Psalm 51

You are never one repentance away from God's grace, but you are always one compromise away from disaster. Your worst decision doesn't have to become your final identity. God can restore a broken believer, but restoration always begins with repentance.

INTRO

How many of you have ever made a decision that took about five seconds...and spent five years dealing with the consequences?

I've discovered something. Most people don't destroy their lives overnight.

They destroy them one little compromise at a time. The affair wasn't David's first mistake.

It was simply the first mistake everyone could see. That's how sin works.

We've spoke about this the past 3 weeks. Sin shows up in:

- one compromise...becomes another compromise...becomes another compromise...

until suddenly you're standing in a place you never thought you'd be.

This morning we're talking about one of the greatest men who ever lived...

...and one of the greatest failures in Scripture.

Because if David can have a comeback...there's hope for every person in this room.

Maybe today you need to hear this: **[SCREEN 2] God is better at rewriting stories than Satan is at ruining them.**

[SCREEN 3] WHO WAS DAVID?

Most people know David for one story. David and Goliath.

But David was so much more.

- Young shepherd.
- Musician.
- Warrior.
- Poet.
- King.
- Leader of Israel.
- **[SCREEN 4] Acts 13:22 God calls David "A man after My own heart."**

Think about that. God didn't say that about Moses. Or Elijah. Or Abraham.

He said it about David.

- David loved God.
- David worshiped God.
- David wrote Psalms we still sing today.
- David united Israel.
- David defeated enemies.
- David expanded the kingdom.
- And David loved God deeply.

David wasn't just another king. He was **THE KING**.

If there was ever someone you'd expect to finish strong...It was David.

But here's the scary truth...

[SCREEN 5] You can love God deeply... and still make devastating decisions if you stop depending on Him.

That's why this story matters. Because if David could fall...So can we.

Israel Was Winning... But David Wasn't

[SCREEN 6] Samuel 11:1: 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.

"In the spring, when kings go off to war....David remained in Jerusalem."

Don't skip that verse. That's the entire sermon.

David wasn't where he was supposed to be. He stayed home.

That sounds like a throwaway detail...It's not.

Spring was when kings went to battle. David should have been leading.

Instead...He stayed home. His army was out fighting. Joab was leading.

The nation was winning. But David was sitting on the couch.

Can I tell you something?

[SCREEN 7] Some of the biggest battles you'll ever fight won't happen out there... they'll happen when you stop showing up where God has called you to be..

- Success made David comfortable. Comfort made David careless.
- Carelessness opened the door for temptation.

1. [SCREEN 8] SUCCESS CAN BECOME YOUR GREATEST VULNERABILITY

The biggest battles in life usually begin after your biggest victories

Elijah defeated 850 prophets...then wanted to die.

- Noah survived the flood...then got drunk.
- Samson defeated armies...then lost to Delilah.
- Peter preached Pentecost...then struggled with hypocrisy.
- David defeated Goliath...then lost to lust.

[SCREEN 9] Never confuse past victories with present obedience.

Illustration

How many of you own a chainsaw?

A chainsaw isn't dangerous while hanging in the garage. It's dangerous when it's running.

The Christian life is the opposite. We become most vulnerable when we stop moving.

Idle Christians become vulnerable Christians.

Idle hands...Idle minds...Idle hearts....are dangerous places to be.

David's hands, mind and heart became idle.

Then David Saw Her

One evening David walked onto the roof of his palace.

Because the palace sat higher than the surrounding homes...He could see into the city.

That's when he saw Bathsheba. Now let's clear something up.

Bathsheba wasn't trying to seduce David.

She was actually completing a ceremonial purification required by God's Law.

She had no idea the king was watching.

- David had the position.
- David had the power.
- David had the choice.

And instead of turning away...He stared. Then he asked who she was.

His servants answered..."That's Bathsheba... the wife of Uriah."

Game over, right? Wrong. David knew exactly who she was.

- He knew she was married.
- He knew her Father Eliam, and her husband Uriah.
- He knew what was right but did the opposite.

And he chose to ignore every warning. Instead: **[SCREEN 10]**

- David stares at her.
- David sends for her.
- David sleeps with her.
- David lies.
- David murders.

One small compromise after another.

2. **[SCREEN 11] SMALL COMPROMISES = BIG COLLAPSES**

Pay attention to this order:

- David **Saw**.
- David **Sent**.
- David **Took**.
- David **Lied**.
- David **Manipulated**.
- David **Committed Adultery**.
- David **Arranged Murder**.
- David **Covered it Up**.

Notice something? God gave David multiple exit ramps.

None of that happened in one afternoon. Every sin made the next sin easier.

"Sin starts small." Say it with me. **[SCREEN 12] "Sin starts small."**

Satan never sells the whole package. He only advertises the first step.

- One compromise...
- One justification...
- One secret...
- One click...
- One conversation...
- One text...
- One bad decision at a time.

David could have stopped after seeing, stopped after asking, stopped after learning she was married.

Instead...He kept saying yes to the next compromise.

That's how sin works.

[SCREEN 13] Sin always promises freedom. It always delivers slavery.

Satan always advertises the pleasure...Never the payment.

The fall usually starts long before the crash.

One decision. A lifetime of consequences.

Illustration

Dominoes. Nobody fears this. (Knock it over.)

But if you line up 500 of them...one tiny piece...creates a massive wave of destruction.

Sin **always** overpromises. **Always** underdelivers. **Always** costs more than advertised.

3. **[SCREEN 14] ONE LOOK BECAME A LIFETIME OF PAIN**

Let's pivot back. Uriah Wasn't Just Any Soldier

Here's what makes the story even heavier.

Uriah, Bethsheba's husband wasn't some random guy. He was one of David's Mighty Men.

One of David's most loyal warriors.

The kind of guy who had risked his life protecting David.

Imagine betraying your best friend.

Imagine stealing from someone who would have taken a bullet for you.

That's what David did. Sin always hurts more people than we think.

4. **[SCREEN 15] SUCCESS CAN BECOME YOUR GREATEST SPIRITUAL DANGER**

When you're climbing...You depend on God.

When you've arrived...You start depending on yourself.

Success has a strange way of making us believe we don't need God as much anymore.

The battle David lost with Bathsheba...Actually began months before...

When he quit fighting spiritually.

Illustration

Ever notice that boats don't sink because they're in water?

Boats sink because water gets inside.

Christians don't fail because they're in the world. They fail when the world gets inside them.

David didn't lose because Babylon came to Jerusalem.

David lost because temptation entered his [heart](#). He was comfortable

[SCREEN 16] The greatest danger isn't being busy. It is becoming spiritually comfortable.

Four Words Changed Everything

Then in **[SCREEN 17]** 2 Samuel 11:5, Bathsheba sent David a message. "I am pregnant."

Everything David wanted hidden...Was about to become public.

Instead of confessing...David covered.

And whenever you choose covering over confession...Things only get worse.

[SCREEN 18] What the Cover-Up Looked Like

David calls Uriah home from the battlefield. His plan is simple.

"If Uriah goes home to his wife... everyone will assume the baby is his."

But Uriah refuses. Why?

Because his fellow soldiers are still sleeping in tents and fighting for Israel.

Listen to the irony. The man David betrayed...Had more integrity than the king.

David even gets him drunk. Still doesn't work.

So David writes a letter. Hands it to Uriah.

And unknowingly...Uriah carries his own death warrant.

David tells Joab...Put Uriah on the front line.

Then pull everyone else back. Uriah dies.

David didn't swing the sword...But he absolutely committed murder.

Then after Bathsheba mourned...David married her.

To everyone watching...The scandal was over.

The secret was buried. Nobody knew. Except God.

5. [SCREEN 19] GOD WILL PURSUE YOU EVEN WHEN YOU RUN

At this point, David probably believed he had successfully covered everything up. The child would simply appear to have been born to David and his new wife.

Then comes one of the most chilling transitions in Scripture:

[SCREEN 20] "But the thing David had done displeased the Lord." 2 Samuel 11:27

Immediately after that, **[SCREEN 21] 2 Samuel 12:1: "And the LORD sent Nathan to David."**

Nathan shows up. Nathan doesn't begin by accusing David.

Nathan doesn't attack David. He tells a story about

A Rich man. A Poor man. A Little lam in **[SCREEN 22] 2 Samuel 12:2-4.** "The rich man had a very large number of sheep and cattle, ³ 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.

⁴ "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 gets furious and says **[SCREEN 23] "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."**

Nathan says... **[SCREEN 24] "You are the man."**

Imagine that silence. No excuses. No arguments. No blaming. Just conviction.

Can you imagine David's face?

[SCREEN 25] What was hidden wasn't hidden anymore. But notice...

- God didn't expose David because He hated him.
- God exposed David because He loved him.

Sometimes the most loving thing God does...is refuse to let you stay comfortable in sin.

One of the sobering realities of this story is that **David had plenty of time to repent before Nathan ever arrived.**

Think about everything that happened:

- The affair & the pregnancy
- Uriah returning from battle
- Uriah's death, and funeral
- Bathsheba's week of mourning
- The wedding, and likely weeks or months of pregnancy afterward.

At any point, David could have confessed. Instead, he chose silence.

That's why Nathan's arrival is so powerful. God wasn't reacting impulsively - He had given David time to repent. When David refused, God lovingly intervened through Nathan.

[SCREEN 26] God's patience is immense, but His holiness means He will not ignore persistent, unrepentant sin.

6. [SCREEN 27] REPENTANCE: MORE THAN SAYING "I'M SORRY"

David says five words. **[SCREEN 28]** "I have sinned against the Lord."

No excuses. No blame. No justification. Then Psalm 51 happens.

Listen to the words in **[SCREEN 29] Psalm 51:10-12: "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit."**

David isn't apologizing. It's David surrendering.

He doesn't pray..."Fix my image." He prays..."Fix my heart."

There is a huge difference between remorse...And repentance.

Judas felt remorse. Peter repented.

One cried because he got caught. The other cried because he broke God's heart.

Notice...David never asks for his crown back. He asks for God's presence back.

Because mature believers know...God's presence matters more than God's blessings.

[SCREEN 30] Repentance you change direction.

Application

Some of us keep asking God to bless what we're trying to hide. God loves us too much for that.

[SCREEN 32] Because concealed sin becomes cancer. Confessed sin becomes healing.

But Pastor Gran, if I confess my sin, does that mean I won't have to deal with the consequences?

No matter how much I try to get rid of the stain of our past, the stain is still visible...The consequences still exist...

But forgiveness changes your standing before God.

Jesus didn't come to pretend sin never happened. He came to wash sinners. Then came the cross...

8. **[SCREEN 33] FORGIVENESS DOESN'T ERASE CONSEQUENCES - IT RESTORES RELATIONSHIP**

David was forgiven. Completely. But consequences remained.

- His family suffered.
- His child died.
- His household experienced violence.
- The sword never departed.

Important truth: Grace removes guilt. Grace doesn't always remove consequences.

That's why sin is never worth it. But...

[SCREEN 34] Consequences are not evidence God stopped loving you. They're evidence choices matter.

GOSPEL

David deserved judgment. We deserve judgment.

Yet another King would come through David's family line. Jesus.

Think about this. Jesus came from David's broken family tree.

Jesus specializes in redeeming broken stories.

David couldn't wash himself clean. Neither can we.

[SCREEN 35] Religion says: Clean yourself up. Jesus says: Come to Me.

Religion says: Hide. Jesus says: Confess.

Religion says: Try harder. Jesus says: It is finished.

FINAL APPLICATION

Maybe today...you're David.

- You've wandered too far.
- You've compromised.
- You've hidden things.
- You've built walls.
- You've covered tracks.
- You've pretended everything is okay.

Listen carefully. Nathan pointed a finger. Jesus stretches out nail-scarred hands.

There's a difference.

[SCREEN 36] Jesus isn't exposing you to shame you. He's exposing you to heal you.

ALTAR INVITATION

No one accidentally drifts closer to Jesus. We intentionally return.

David's comeback didn't begin when he became king again.

His comeback began... the moment he stopped defending himself.

- "What have you been hiding?"
- "What compromise have you justified?"
- "What secret is stealing your joy?"

(Invite people to bow their heads. Pray through Psalm 51 language.)

Psalm 51:10-12: "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit."

Today, this altar isn't for perfect people. It's for people who are tired.

People carrying shame. People who know Jesus...but know they've wandered.

[SCREEN 37] Your failure may have changed your story, but it doesn't have to determine your ending.

God is still in the business of writing comeback stories. Today, maybe...just maybe, can be the beginning of your comeback.