

(2-11-24) Rebellion Meets Mercy

2 Samuel 11:1-27.

Topic: Sin, Repentance, Consequence

Big Idea of the Message: No one is immune from the temptation to sin, not even a king.

How many weeks until Easter? (7 weeks)

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. James 1:14-15

“Our greatest battles don't usually come when we're working hard; they come when we have some leisure, when we've got time on our hands, when we're bored” (Charles Swindoll, quoted Thomas L. Constable)

David had been through so much; but things were finally going well for him- He was destroying all his enemies and building a strong Kingdom. David is an example to us of what happens when we let our guard down. David put himself on some wrong paths- It began with adultery. We are all tempted, so how do we avoid falling into sin?

If I had the opportunity, I would ask David a few questions.

1. Why didn't you go out to war?

- **Read 2 Samuel 11:1.**
- In the spring, Kings went off to war. David had been going to war for years- what made this time different? Scholars have different thoughts of why; but they all have the same conclusion- It was a bad decision to stay home.
- He was getting too old. At this point in his life, David was in his 50's. Maybe, because he was getting older, he was not interested in going to fight. Are you avoiding obeying God because you are getting older, and you just don't want to bother anymore?
- Maybe he was too tired. David had been fighting for a long time. He was tired. He had no interest in putting his body through everything that going to war required. It was easier for him to stay in the comfort of his Palace than it was to have to fight during the day and spend the night in a tent or cave. Are you tired of serving God?
- Spoiled? David had it good. He did not want to leave his life of luxury. He had others doing his fighting for him. We live in a Nation where we are very spoiled.
- **Read 2 Samuel 11:2.**
- David got up from bed and was walking around on the roof. At this point, he had done nothing wrong; but then he noticed a woman bathing. Instead of walking away and going back to bed, he stared at her long enough to notice how beautiful she was. David proved that the 2nd look will get you in trouble every time.

2. Why did you inquire about Bathsheba?

- **Read 2 Samuel 11:3.**
- David should have stopped; but he would not. When he found out that she was a woman of prestige because of her Grandfather Ahithophel, (One of David's closest advisors); and her

husband Uriah was one of David's top ranked soldiers; he should have left her alone. Instead, he treated Bathsheba like a trophy to be won.

3. Why did you take advantage of her?

• Read 2 Samuel 11:4-5.

- If you want to see some interesting opinions about something in the Bible, study this question. Some scholars say that Bathsheba knew what she was doing- Her husband was at war, and she knew that the King would be looking down at her.
- There are others who believe that David summoned her, and she had no choice but to go to the King. It does make sense that she had to go and once she got there, David basically raped her. Even a woman of influence did not have much say so.
- There are some who believe that there is some truth to each one. They believe that Bathsheba tempted him; and he had her sent over and they slept together.
- What I do know is, David did not have to have her brought to him. He could not say no to his fleshly desires. David committed adultery with Bathsheba, and she became pregnant. When she figured out that she was pregnant, she told David that she was pregnant. She wanted David to know that he had a problem and that while people couldn't notice yet, they would soon; and they would know that the child was not Uriah's.

David put himself on some wrong paths- It began with adultery. David followed that up with deceit. David had a plan to make all of this go away.

Read 2 Samuel 11:6-8.

I. Changed the Narrative.

- David knew that Bathsheba was pregnant and that under the Law, the punishment for adultery was death by stoning. So, instead of admitting what he had done, he continued the sin. He came up with a plan to deceive everyone about who the father of the baby was.
- In our News Media, this is called "Changing the narrative". You make the story fit your desired outcome- It happens all the time. David had Uriah brought from the battlefield to him. He asked him how things were going, and then told him to go home and stay for the night. Uriah had not seen his wife in a while, so this seemed like the perfect plan. Unfortunately for David, Uriah was a man of principles.

Read 2 Samuel 11:9-11.

What happens when changing the narrative doesn't work? Uriah was not going home when the entire army was camped out in the country. Instead, he stayed outside of David's Palace with the servants. Oftentimes, as good as our plan seems, it does not work. Why? There are consequences to our sins; and regardless of who you are, you will have to face them at some point. Although that plan did not work, David had a Plan B.

II. Change the Conditions.

• Read 2 Samuel 11:12-13

- Since David's 1st plan did not work, he decided to up his game. David had him stay another day, and he took him to his Palace to eat and drink with him. David got Uriah drunk, thinking that he could get him to go home and sleep with his wife.

- People will do anything sometimes, to get you to do things out of character. That is why we are to be sober and in control. Now understand that Uriah could not turn down David's food and drinks. Not just anyone could dine with the King; and you partook in whatever they did. Even while drunk, Uriah did not go home. David's plan was ruined again.

David put himself on some wrong paths- It began with adultery. David followed that up with deceit. David had a plan to make all of this go away. David's plans had not worked and so as they say, "Desperate times call for desperate measures." David lost in his sin, felt there was no other choice but to get rid of Uriah.

Read 2 Samuel 11:14-17.

III. Check your Motive.

- David's refusal to repent of adultery opened the door for him to commit another sin. Knowing his sin would be made known, David arranged to have a brave and loyal soldier killed. The morning after his last plan had failed, David sent a letter to have Uriah killed- In fact, he had Uriah deliver the letter. Uriah was to be placed on the front lines where the fighting was the worst. Joab knew that Uriah would not retreat- That was not who he was.
- What was David's motive? He did not want anyone to know what he had done- It would ruin his reputation. He also did not want to lose his position, power, or possessions.
- What is your motive for the things you do?

Read 2 Samuel 11:18-26.

IV. Careful with your Testimony.

- I wonder what Joab thought about his Uncle David, who publicly shamed him when he killed Abner? Joab did what David asked him to do- He placed Uriah near the gate of the city where the fighting would be the worst. Evidently it appeared to be a tactical mistake on Joab's part, so he detailed the events for David's benefit. The Ammonites attacked because Joab's men were close, then the Israelites pushed them back to the gate of the city where many good men were killed by the arrows of the Ammonite archers.
- Joab knew David understood warfare and might become upset with the apparent blunder, which resulted with the death of good men. The slain soldiers may have been out of place; but it was for a reason- Uriah was with them. If David became angry, he knew this would calm him down. Joab obediently followed David's direction, evidently trusting David in the matter.
- David received Joab's message, which was written to provide details concerning the battle and Uriah's death. It contained information concerning the war- It appeared like a typical wartime message. This was done to prevent anyone questioning what had occurred. It contained information concerning the Ammonite archers killing many good soldiers, including Uriah. At this point, David should have been upset with the loss of good men and should have mourned for them; but the King seemed pleased. David encouraged Joab to continue the battle and to take the city.
- Once Bathsheba was informed of her husband's death, she mourned his loss, (most likely for 7 days). There is no indication that she knew of David's scheme or was involved. After her time of mourning, Bathsheba became David's wife. It was not unusual for a King to take a widow to wife

immediately after the death of her husband. It was viewed as charitable since the King would provide for her provisions and protection. In this case, it occurred immediately to hide their sin of adultery. David appeared to be successful. His sins remained unknown, and he married Bathsheba.

Read 2 Samuel 11:27.

V. Consider your walk with God.

- David displeased the Lord. His sin might have been hidden from the world; but it was not hidden from God. He committed adultery and murder. Although he did not kill Uriah with his own hands, the Lord held him accountable for his death. David has been remembered for his sin.

Conclusion

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. James 1:14-15

We all need to check our motives, watch our testimony, and consider our walk with God. And often this begins by being honest with ourselves and asking ourselves tough questions.

Getting to the bottom of the why. It's no one else's fault but our own. Avoid changing the narrative, (gas lighting) or changing the conditions, or twisting the truth. Yes, the truth hurts. But God can only restore us when we respond truthfully.

We have all witnessed those individuals who cannot accept any correction or revealed truth. They change the narrative, start blaming others, deflecting, and projecting on others. When faced with truth, they choose to deny and blow it up worse because they can't accept that they sinned.

News flash, no one is perfect we all sin. We would be better off owning it and learning from it.

We could all learn from a man after God's own heart. How did he respond when he got confronted? We will talk about it next week. But God's Word shows you how he handles it, read **Psalms 51**.