

When Sin Takes Control

2 Sam 11:1-5

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.

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

David is well established in his kingdom at this time. He reigned for 10 years from Hebron before capturing the city of Jerusalem from the Jebusites. He rules over all of Israel and is expanding his kingdom to far beyond. Eventually he will rule from Tigris river to Egypt. He reigned over what is today all of Syria, Jordan, most of Lebanon and all the Sinai.

He has seven wives beside all of Saul's wives and a number of concubines that number at least 10.

He has built a new portion onto Jerusalem called the City of David and built a place for himself there.

All of the trials of Saul and the injustices that he suffered under are past. All the difficult days that had been his lot at the beginning are gone.

Most people can handle adversity better than they can handle success. So it seems so with David. As we saw last week this humble man with such a regard for the Lord that he will not strike down Saul although Saul is pursuing his very life. Even though Saul is a ruthless murderer, killing the defenseless priest of the Lord. But yet David will not strike the Lord's anointed.

But now David takes the wife of one of his most brave and faithful soldiers and goes to bed with her. And when Uriah will not go to his home and give cover to David's sin, David sends word to Joab to have Uriah killed in battle by putting him in a dangerous place and then withdrawing, leaving this brave man exposed so that he will be killed.

It seems like a different man. And in a way it is. Many of God's servants begin well. Many are able to face the adversity of the Sauls who pursue them. But when the storm is over and the easy times come, it is then that they stumble, in the full light of knowledge.

This is one of the longest sections in the historical books. It begins here in chapter 11 and goes through chapter 20. All that happens in these few verses we read today changes the whole outcome of the remaining chapters through chapter 20.

But there is something we can learn about the Bible from this. That is that the Bible does not photo shop the heroes of the Bible. Here is David, the primary character in all the Old Testament and yet we see him warts and all.

- I. David's failures before the fall.
 - A. The text is clear that David should have been with Joab and his army.
 - B. In Jerusalem he was idle.
 - C. In Jerusalem he was without his faithful companions.
- II. The steps down.
 - A. David is idle.
 - B. He takes a second look.
 - C. He does not stop even though she is a married woman.
 - D. He betrays one of his faithful servants.
 - E. He has relations with her although it is the time of the month when she is most likely to become pregnant.
 - F. When she is pregnant and the sin is sure to be discovered he does not repent but starts the cover-up.
- III. The cover-up is a greater sin than the sin,
 - A. He pretends to be interested in the war.
 - B. He pretends to reward Uriah for bringing him news.
 - 1. Go home to your wife and enjoy an evening at home.
 - 2. But Uriah is faithful to his companions.
 - a. Uriah will not allow himself to enjoy the things that his fellow soldiers on the field cannot enjoy, so he sleeps at the king's door.
 - 3. David the next night gets him drunk, thinking that his inhibitions will be broken and he will go to his house.
 - a. But even drunk he has more self control than David had sober.
 - b. So again he sleeps at the king's door.
 - 4. Uriah's nobility and strengths are what will get him killed.
 - a. Does this sound like what happened when Saul was pursuing David?
 - b. Even though Saul and David had different motives the desired result was the same.
 - C. The letter.
 - 1. So David in trying to cover his own weakness and sin writes a letter.

2. The letter tells Joab to put Uriah in such a position in the battle that he will be killed.
3. So heartless is David that he commends the faithfulness of Uriah at the same time that he sends his a death warrant by Uriah's own hand to Joab.

D. God does not interne to prevent David's wicked plan.

1. 1Co 10:13 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.
 - a. There were several opportunities that David had to put an end to his sinful ways.
 - b. But like barriers on the road he burst right through them to destruction.
2. But God is not responsible to keep you from doing what you are set on doing.
 - a. God is not like that parent who will not let his child fall and hovers around him to keep him from sin.

E. The plan succeeds

1. As David desired Uriah dies.
2. A messenger is sent to tell David.
3. We learn that some of David's other brave soldiers who would not draw back were also killed.
 - a. But David makes so light of it.
 - b. Well you know in battle some die and some survive, that's just life.
4. After s short time of morning David sends for Bathsheba and takes her as his wife and the child is born.
 - a. Here David sins again, allowing the people to think that David is such a generous man taking this poor widow who is pregnant into his home to provide for her.
 - b. Does this seem like the David we know from last week's sermon?

IV. Life Lessons for you and me.

A. Temptation comes to everyone.

1. James 1:13-15 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. NKJV

- a. Notice that temptation is from us, from our evil desires.
 - b. And we all fight that battle.
 - c. There is none that escape from this conflict.
 - d. If you have no temptations it is because you are dead.
2. We need to guard our hearts.
 - a. Do not entertain evil thoughts and desires.
 - b. Do not allow envy or jealousy into our minds but drive it out as soon and we sense it.
- B. Be satisfied with what God has given us.
1. God tells David through the prophet Nathan that he had given him so much, why does he still want more and more.
 2. Look at all we have in the nation as compared to other places in the world and yet we are the most unsatisfied people on the planet.
 3. 1 Tim 6:6 Now godliness with contentment is great gain. 7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. 8 And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. 9 But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. 11 But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.
- C. Do not give in to temptation.
1. Temptation will take you farther than you want to go.
 2. Sin destroys lives, it does not enhance them.
 3. Nu 32:23 "But if you do not do so, then take note, you have sinned against the LORD; and be sure your sin will find you out.
- D. No one gets away with sin.
1. 2Sa 12:10 'Now therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised Me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.'

