

# SERMON NOTES

By Pastor John Paul Miller

## *David... A Man After God's Own Heart*

### Character Studies on the Life of David

#### 2 Samuel 11 - "David's Sexual Sin"

Although David was a man after God's own heart, he was a man. And because he was a man, he was not immune to temptation and sin.

Sadly we come today to perhaps the darkest chapter in David's life.

David commits adultery with Bathsheba and murders her husband Uriah to cover his sin.

But let's be careful not to be too hard on David, what he did was sinful, and it displeased the Lord; and we wish it would never have happened, but its recorded in the Bible for our warning and learning.

J. Oswald Sanders – The Bible paints men in true colours. Nothing that will benefit tempted men in future generations is withheld.

Paul said in 1 Corinthians 10:12, "*Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.*"

Notice that wedged between the words 'stand' and 'fall' are the words 'take heed' (the main lesson today).

Some of God's greatest saints have fallen into sin.

And if not for God's Grace so could we.

Notice, its sexual sin!

How?

What were the circumstances?

I. The circumstances that led to David's sin (2 Samuel 11:1-4)

2 Samuel 11:1-4, "*And it came to pass, after the year was expired, at the time when kings go forth to battle, that David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and*

*all Israel; and they destroyed the children of Ammon, and besieged Rabbah. But David tarried still at Jerusalem. And it came to pass in an eveningtide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king's house: and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon. And David sent and enquired after the woman. And one said, Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite? And David sent messengers, and took her; and she came in unto him, and he lay with her; for she was purified from her uncleanness: and she returned unto her house."*

David is now about fifty years of age, he has been on the throne around twenty years.

David is at a dangerous point in his life. Like neglected sea wall constantly barraged by the tide and the waves. His foundation has begun to crumble and will soon fall.

1. Disobedience: Deut. 17:17, "*Neither shall he multiply wives to himself, that his heart turn not away: neither shall he greatly multiply to himself silver and gold."*

The king was not to multiply wives to himself (also houses and silver and gold)

Why? "...*that his heart turn not away*"

David disobeyed 2 Samuel 5:13, "*And David took him more concubines and wives out of Jerusalem, after he was come from Hebron: and there were yet sons and daughters born to David."*

Polygamy began to erode David's integrity.

Even though his wives and concubines increased, his passion was abated.

Why?

It wasn't God's will.

We too weather by neglect or refusal, we disobey God's Word.

Are you a doer of the Word?

2. Self-confidence – David is now enjoying about twenty years of prosperity. He has reached the peak of his power, land, popularity. He has money and great authority.

It's like an arrow shot up into the clouds...

This is where David's like takes a turn downward.

Charles Swindoll – Our most difficult times are not when things are going hard. Hard times create dependent people. You don't get proud when you're dependent on God. Survival keeps you humble. Pride happens when everything is swinging in your direction. When you've just received that promotion, when you look back and you can see an almost spotless record in the last number of months or years, when you're growing in prestige and fame and significance, that's the time to watch out.

3. Idleness (vs. 1) He wasn't out fighting the Lord's battles,

Not serving God – indulgence

4. Carelessness (vs. 2-4)

David was in bed, he should have been in battle.

Notice it was a sensual scene.

It was spring time, it was eveningtide.

He rises from his bed, walks out on his balcony and - what happened?

1. He saw (vs. 2) a "*very beautiful*" woman bathing herself.

Was she guilty of immodesty or setting a trap?

Lesson: be careful!

It's not a sin to see.

2. He lusted (vs. 2) "*look upon*"

Jesus said in Matthew 5:28, "*But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.*"

When he looked lustfully he no longer saw God.

R Kent Hughes, *Disciplines of a Godly Man* – ...When lust takes control, God is quite unreal to us. What a world of wisdom there is in this! When we are in the grip of lust, the reality of God fades. The longer King David gazed, the less real God became. Not only was his awareness of God diminished, but in the growing darkness he lost awareness of who David was -- his holy call, his frailty, and the sure consequences of sin.

That is what lust does. It has done it millions of times. Lust makes God disappear, at least in the lust-glazed eyes of those involved. Here, fellow servants, we must once again ask some

questions: Is god fading from view? Were you once walking close with him, but now, because of creeping sensuality, he seems but a distant phantom? If so, you must take decisive steps to guard your heart. You must terminate the intake of lustful words and images – whether they be gotten reading, or the media, or an acquaintance. If you do not, God will fade and you will fall.

Jesus said, “*And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.*” (Matthew 5:29)

3. He inquired (vs. 3) He-s playing with fire

Notice that God makes the way for David to escape

(vs. 3)” *...the wife of Uriah the Hittite*”

4. He yielded (vs. 4)

- it was the sin of adultery
- its sinful and harmful
- its not God's will (1 Thessalonians 4:3-8)

1 Thessalonians 4:3-8, “*For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God: That no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter: because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified. For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness. He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his holy Spirit.*”

- sex is for marriage (1 Corinthians 7:1-5)

1 Corinthians 7:1-5, “*Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman. Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband. Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband. The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife. Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and*

*prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency."*

James 1:13-18, "Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. Do not err, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures."

What should have David done?

Illustrations:

Joseph

Jesus – "It is written..."

Ephesians 6:13-17, "Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:"

But David didn't, he fell!

He should have confessed his sin and God would have forgiven him.

But note this, sin always has consequences.

## II. The Cover up of David's Sin (2 Samuel 11:5-27)

2 Samuel 11:5-27, "And the woman conceived, and sent and told David, and said, I am with child. And David sent to Joab, saying, Send me Uriah the Hittite. And Joab sent Uriah to David. And when Uriah was come unto him, David demanded of him how Joab did, and how the people did, and how the war prospered. And David said to Uriah, Go down to thy house, and wash thy feet. And Uriah departed out of the king's house, and there followed him a mess of meat from the king. But Uriah slept at the door of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and went not down to his house. And when they had told David, saying, Uriah went not down unto his house, David said unto Uriah, Camest thou not from thy journey? why then didst thou not go down unto

*thine house? And Uriah said unto David, The ark, and Israel, and Judah, abide in tents; and my lord Joab, and the servants of my lord, are encamped in the open fields; shall I then go into mine house, to eat and to drink, and to lie with my wife? as thou livest, and as thy soul liveth, I will not do this thing. And David said to Uriah, Tarry here to day also, and to morrow I will let thee depart. So Uriah abode in Jerusalem that day, and the morrow. And when David had called him, he did eat and drink before him; and he made him drunk: and at even he went out to lie on his bed with the servants of his lord, but went not down to his house. And it came to pass in the morning, that David wrote a letter to Joab, and sent it by the hand of Uriah. And he wrote in the letter, saying, Set ye Uriah in the forefront of the hottest battle, and retire ye from him, that he may be smitten, and die. And it came to pass, when Joab observed the city, that he assigned Uriah unto a place where he knew that valiant men were. And the men of the city went out, and fought with Joab: and there fell some of the people of the servants of David; and Uriah the Hittite died also. Then Joab sent and told David all the things concerning the war; And charged the messenger, saying, When thou hast made an end of telling the matters of the war unto the king, And if so be that the king's wrath arise, and he say unto thee, Wherefore approached ye so nigh unto the city when ye did fight? knew ye not that they would shoot from the wall? Who smote Abimelech the son of Jerubbesheth? did not a woman cast a piece of a millstone upon him from the wall, that he died in Thebez? why went ye nigh the wall? then say thou, Thy servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also. So the messenger went, and came and shewed David all that Joab had sent him for. And the messenger said unto David, Surely the men prevailed against us, and came out unto us into the field, and we were upon them even unto the entering of the gate. And the shooters shot from off the wall upon thy servants; and some of the king's servants be dead, and thy servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also. Then David said unto the messenger, Thus shalt thou say unto Joab, Let not this thing displease thee, for the sword devoureth one as well as another: make thy battle more strong against the city, and overthrow it: and encourage thou him. And when the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she mourned for her husband. And when the mourning was past, David sent and fetched her to his house, and she became his wife, and bare him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD."*

#### Lessons:

##### 1. We see how one sin leads to another

- It was the breaking of the tenth commandment, coveting his neighbor's wife, that led David to commit adultery, thus breaking the *seventh* commandment.
  - Then, in order to steal his neighbor's wife (thereby breaking the *eighth* commandment), he committed murder and broke the *sixth* commandment.
  - He broke the *ninth* commandment by bearing false witness against his brother.
  - This all brought dishonor to his parents and thus broke the *fifth* commandment.
- In this way he broke all the commandments that relate to loving one's neighbor as oneself. And in all of this he dishonored God as well. *There is no such thing as a simple sin!*

2. We see how sin affects others (2 Samuel 12:10)

2 Samuel 12:10, *"Now therefore the sword shall never depart from thine house; because thou hast despised me, and hast taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be thy wife."*

- Uriah was dead
- The child born to Bathsheba would die
- David's daughter Tamar would be raped by her half brother Amnon
- Amnon would be killed by Tamar's brother Absalom
- Absalom would rebel against his father David

3. We see how sin affects us

Psalms 32:3, *"When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long."*

David lost joy – Psalms 51

Psalms 51:8, *"Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice."*

Psalms 51:12, *"Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit."*

4. We see how our sin displeases the Lord (vs. 27)

David had covered his sin, and concealed it from the public's eye. But the eyes of the omniscient Lord saw everything and He was displeased.

- David's sin and ours too displeases and dishonors God – it grieves the Holy Spirit.
- The real problem: No fear of God!