

## CONFLICT WITH SEXUAL DESIRES

**Opening:** In Colonial America common entertainment included playing cards. Knowing this the British levied a tax on playing cards but it only applied to the Ace of Spades. To avoid paying the tax people purchased only 51 cards. But since most games required 52 cards, people who did this were thought to be stupid – the expression they used ... *They're not playing with a full deck.*

### Today's Text: **2 Samuel taken from Chapters 11-12**

We've come to know and admire David

1. A young man possessing incredible courage – a real life Jack the Giant killer
2. A incredible warrior and leader
3. A ground breaking king that unified the nation
4. A man of incredible passion and love for God
5. The writer of Psalms including the 23 and 91 to mention a few
6. David is the one God called; *A Man after my own heart*

But he was also a warrior who did an enormous amount of killing ... an issue that creates controversy

David's life story is about to take a nose dive off a moral cliff!

"The entire biblical story is primarily a *God* story, not a human story. And the David story – this story within the story - is God's story, too. This is the narrative of what God does to save us, not what we do to please him. ... a revelation of the ways of God among us, not a moral handbook with illustrated lessons on how to behave." E. Peterson

**"...even at his worst, David's life still reveals God at His best."** E Peterson

### **2 Samuel 11: 1-17 MSG**

When that time of year came around again, the anniversary of the Ammonite aggression, David dispatched Joab and his fighting men of Israel in full force to destroy the Ammonites for good. They laid siege to Rabbah, but David stayed in Jerusalem.

<sup>2-5</sup> One late afternoon, David got up from taking his nap and was strolling on the roof of the palace. From his vantage point on the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was stunningly beautiful. David sent to ask about her, and was told, "Isn't this Bathsheba, daughter of Eliam and wife of Uriah the Hittite?" David sent his agents to get her. After she arrived, he went to bed with her. (This occurred

during the time of “purification” following her period.) Then she returned home. Before long she realized she was pregnant. Later she sent word to David: “I’m pregnant.”

<sup>6</sup> David then got in touch with Joab: “Send Uriah the Hittite to me.” Joab sent him.

<sup>7-8</sup> When he arrived, David asked him for news from the front—how things were going with Joab and the troops and with the fighting. Then he said to Uriah, “Go home. Have a refreshing bath and a good night’s rest.”

<sup>8-9</sup> After Uriah left the palace, an informant of the king was sent after him. But Uriah didn’t go home. He slept that night at the palace entrance, along with the king’s servants.

<sup>10</sup> David was told that Uriah had not gone home. He asked Uriah, “Didn’t you just come off a hard trip? So why didn’t you go home?”

<sup>11</sup> Uriah replied to David, “The Chest is out there with the fighting men of Israel and Judah—in tents. My master Joab and his servants are roughing it out in the fields. So, how can I go home and eat and drink and enjoy my wife? On your life, I’ll not do it!”

<sup>12-13</sup> “All right,” said David, “have it your way. Stay for the day and I’ll send you back tomorrow.” So Uriah stayed in Jerusalem the rest of the day.

The next day David invited him to eat and drink with him, and David got him drunk. But in the evening Uriah again went out and slept with his master’s servants. He didn’t go home.

<sup>14-15</sup> In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it with Uriah. In the letter he wrote, “Put Uriah in the front lines where the fighting is the fiercest. Then pull back and leave him exposed so that he’s sure to be killed.”

<sup>16-17</sup> So Joab, holding the city under siege, put Uriah in a place where he knew there were fierce enemy fighters. When the city’s defenders came out to fight Joab, some of David’s soldiers were killed, including Uriah the Hittite.

<sup>26-27</sup> When Uriah’s wife heard that her husband was dead, she grieved for her husband. When the time of mourning was over, David sent someone to bring her to his house. She became his wife and bore him a son.

<sup>27</sup> But God was not at all pleased with what David had done,

**What a mess!** If things weren't bad enough Uriah was a long time companion of David's with him in all those years of running from King Saul – at the end of 2 Samuel David lists his top thirty men ... guess who was included on that list? Uriah the Hittite

→ Jen was recently given a prayer request by a friend that went something like this:

After taking a paternity test a young husband discovered his three year old son isn't his. His wife had lied to him to get him to marry her. Confused and upset the husband moved out but continued to see the little boy who he loves. The child loves him – he's the only father he knows. In the mean time - the wife is trying to block her husband's visiting rights in court, and because he's not the biological father she has a good chance. The husband is fighting it because he loves the boy inspire of the fact he's not the biological father.

Sexual misdeeds always leave a damaging trail of consequences behind

Example: Everyone remembers where they were on Sept 11 2001 (911) I was 12 sitting in Jr. Math Class when the school Principal Dr. Hoff came over the intercom

JFK was greatly admired and idolized ... The Media referred to his Presidency as Camelot

When the news later came out that JFK was a womanizer – multiple affairs it was like tearing down the Lincoln monument

David's bad turn is disturbing, not just because of depravity and deceit but because it's David, doing it.

The person we looked up to and held in such high regard

**Recap:** David is 46 years old (possibly in the midlife crisis years) He would normally be out leading troops on a military campaign but instead he's home taking an afternoon nap on his rooftop.

His casual glance down from his roof top gave him a bird's eye view of an attractive woman bathing. David couldn't or wouldn't look away.

**Dietrich Bonhoeffer**, who died in a Nazi Concentration Camp, wrote a pamphlet called *Temptation*

In our members there is a slumbering inclination towards desire which is both sudden and fierce. With irresistible power desire seizes mastery over the flesh. All at once a secret smoldering fire is kindled. The flesh burns and is in flames ... Joy in God is extinguished in us and we seek all of our joy in the creature. At this moment God is quiet, unreal to us. He loses all reality and only desire for the creature is real... Satan doesn't fill us with hatred of God but with a forgetfulness of God.

**David's innocent glance turned into full blown burning lust -**

When we let temptation take its hold ... we don't hate God, we conveniently loose track of Him

**David's Rooftop Decision** – before Bathsheba ever got into David's bed, the deed was already done - he was going to make it happen.

We fool ourselves if they think they can entertain temptation without being taken down by it.

Something as simple as flirting ...

As innocent as comforting or supporting a member of the opposite sex can morph into an attraction that leads to infidelity or premarital sexual relations. (Premarital sex is no longer the cultural taboo it was, but it's not pleasing to God)

Book of Job is the oldest book of the Bible – Job, the wisest man of his day took guarded precautions

**Job 31:1** *“I made a covenant with my eyes, not to look with lust at a young woman.”*

Potiphar's wife made continual sexual advances at Joseph. He left her clutching his cloak after she tried to force him to bed.

### **The staircase David fell down:**

- A casual glance turns into a pornographic gaze
- His decision to take it to the next level
- His casual attitude toward the sorted affair reasoning - if no one knows, *no harm no foul*
- Bathsheba reports she is pregnant

### **The Cover Up**

- Uriah is brought home on pretext he's informing the King about the battle
- Uriah doesn't play David's game – won't go home, doesn't have relations with his wife
- David is desperate – keeps Uriah another day gets him drunk – but Uriah still refuses to enjoy home and wife while his comrades are in the battle field.
- Finally David sends Uriah back to the front with sealed letter for general Joab carrying instructions for his own death
- David hopes time will ease his burden of guilt.

<sup>27</sup> But GOD was not at all pleased with what David had done,

### **Repentance and Forgiveness**

#### **2 Samuel 12: 1-9 NLT**

<sup>1</sup>So the LORD sent Nathan the prophet to tell David this story: “There were two men in a certain town. One was rich, and one was poor. <sup>2</sup>The rich man owned a great many sheep and cattle. <sup>3</sup>The poor man owned nothing but one little lamb he had bought. He raised that little lamb, and it grew up with his children. It ate from the man's own plate and drank from his cup. He cuddled it in his arms like a baby

daughter. <sup>4</sup> One day a guest arrived at the home of the rich man. But instead of killing an animal from his own flock or herd, he took the poor man's lamb and killed it and prepared it for his guest."

<sup>5</sup> David was furious. "As surely as the LORD lives," he vowed, "any man who would do such a thing deserves to die! <sup>6</sup> He must repay four lambs to the poor man for the one he stole and for having no pity."

<sup>7</sup> Then Nathan said to David, "You are that man! The LORD, the God of Israel, says: I anointed you king of Israel and saved you from the power of Saul. <sup>8</sup> I gave you your master's house and his wives and the kingdoms of Israel and Judah. And if that had not been enough, I would have given you much, much more. <sup>9</sup> Why, then, have you despised the word of the LORD and done this horrible deed?"

<sup>11</sup> "This is what the LORD says: Because of what you have done, I will cause your own household to rebel against you. I will give your wives to another man before your very eyes, and he will go to bed with them in public view. <sup>12</sup> You did it secretly, but I will make this happen to you openly in the sight of all Israel."

<sup>13</sup> Then David confessed to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD."

This is the turning point for David and for all of us because repentance brings forgiveness and restored relationship with God. God was merciful to David ...

In Jesus parable of the prodigal son... The Father, who represented God, saw his son coming and ran to meet him ... but the relationship wasn't restored until the son returned – God won't force us!

## **Consequences**

Nathan said he would not die but there would be heavy fallout ... consequences resulting of his actions starting with the death of the child.

David had committed adultery and compounded it by murdering a loyal friend.

God forgave David but that doesn't change the fact that consequences followed.

## **Don't confuse the consequence of sin with forgiveness of sin**

As a teacher of younger teens ages 13-15, I often warned them ... Watch what you say

You might feel like you hate your mother or father in a moment of anger but don't say it

Once you've said the words you can't take them back. No matter how many times you say you're sorry, the damage is done.

**All the tears in the world could not return Bathsheba to purity – could not bring Uriah back to life!**

**Psalm 51** is David's prayer of confession

His vantage point had changed ...he no longer saw his sin just affecting other people but profoundly grieving God

<sup>1-3</sup> Generous in love—God, give grace!

Huge in mercy—wipe out my bad record. Scrub away my guilt, soak out my sins in your laundry. I know how bad I've been; my sins are staring me down.

<sup>4-6</sup> you're the One I've violated, and you've seen it all, seen the full extent of my evil. (MSG)

**Psalm 32** David reflects on the contrast between burden of guilt and blessing of forgiveness

Count yourself lucky, how happy you must be—  
you get a fresh start,  
your slate's wiped clean.

<sup>2</sup> Count yourself lucky—  
GOD holds nothing against you  
and you're holding nothing back from him.

<sup>3</sup> When I kept it all inside,  
my bones turned to powder,  
my words became daylong groans.

<sup>4</sup> The pressure never let up;  
all the juices of my life dried up.

<sup>5</sup> Then I let it all out;  
I said, "I'll make a clean breast of my failures to GOD."

Suddenly the pressure was gone—  
my guilt dissolved,  
my sin disappeared. MSG

How did David make the transition from guilt to blessing? He confessed his sin in the presence of God and in this case Nathan

- Time didn't remove his guilt
- Drugs and alcohol have never solved the problem of guilt or trouble
- Self inflicted wounds trying to beat up on yourself, won't.

What will? God's unfailing Love

God's love conquers our failures – no one can fall so far down that they're beyond God's reach

The good news is that God sent his only son to become one of us. His sacrificial death paid the price for our failures

God's discipline is always connected to grace and complete forgiveness