

GAME OF THRONES

THE REIGN OF DAVID

David's Great Sin

Key idea:

Deceived by the privileges of power David fell into an ever-deepening and increasingly destructive spiral of sin.

Key text:

2 Samuel 11

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.

²One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful, ³and David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, "Isn't this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite?" ⁴Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her. (She had purified herself from her uncleanness.) Then she went back home. ⁵The woman conceived and sent word to David, saying, "I am pregnant."

⁶So David sent this word to Joab: "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent him to David. ⁷When Uriah came to him, David asked him how Joab was, how the soldiers were and how the war was going. ⁸Then David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house and wash your feet." So Uriah left the palace, and a gift from the king was sent after him. ⁹But Uriah slept at the entrance to the palace with all his master's servants and did not go down to his house. ¹⁰When David was told, "Uriah did not go home," he asked him, "Haven't you just come from a distance? Why didn't you go home?" ¹¹Uriah said to David, "The ark and Israel and Judah are staying in tents, and my master Joab and my lord's men are camped in the open fields. How could I go to my house to eat and drink and lie with my wife? As surely as you live, I will not do such a thing!" ¹²Then David said to him, "Stay here one more day, and tomorrow I will send you back." So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day and the next. ¹³At David's invitation, he ate and drank with him, and David made him drunk. But in the evening Uriah went out to sleep on his mat among his master's servants; he did not go home.

¹⁴In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it with Uriah. ¹⁵In it he wrote, "Put Uriah in the front line where the fighting is fiercest. Then withdraw from him so he will be struck down and die." ¹⁶So while Joab had the city under siege, he put Uriah at a place where he knew the strongest defenders were. ¹⁷When the men of the city came out and fought against Joab, some of the men in David's army fell; moreover, Uriah the Hittite

died. ¹⁸ Joab sent David a full account of the battle. ¹⁹ He instructed the messenger: “When you have finished giving the king this account of the battle, ²⁰ the king’s anger may flare up, and he may ask you, ‘Why did you get so close to the city to fight? Didn’t you know they would shoot arrows from the wall?’ ²¹ Who killed Abimelech son of Jerubesheth? Didn’t a woman throw an upper millstone on him from the wall, so that he died in Thebez? Why did you get so close to the wall?’ If he asks you this, then say to him, ‘Also, your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead.’”

²² The messenger set out, and when he arrived he told David everything Joab had sent him to say. ²³ The messenger said to David, “The men overpowered us and came out against us in the open, but we drove them back to the entrance to the city gate. ²⁴ Then the archers shot arrows at your servants from the wall, and some of the king’s men died. Moreover, your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead.” ²⁵ David told the messenger, “Say this to Joab: ‘Don’t let this upset you; the sword devours one as well as another. Press the attack against the city and destroy it.’ Say this to encourage Joab.”

²⁶ When Uriah’s wife heard that her husband was dead, she mourned for him. ²⁷ After the time of mourning was over, David had her brought to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing David had done displeased the LORD.

Key points:

1. After so much success and growing power, David began to abuse the privileges of power and neglect his responsibilities.
2. David’s lust led him to seize the wife of a trusted friend, Uriah the Hittite, and commit adultery.
3. David was led in a downward spiral of sin, from abusing the privileges of power, to lust, to adultery, to deceit, getting Uriah drunk, conspiring to have Uriah put to death - all in an attempt to cover his sin.
4. Sin hardened David’s heart so that he showed no concern that his sin led to the death of many innocent people.
5. David appeared to get away with his sin for quite a period of time, but it never escaped God’s notice, and He was very displeased with all David had done.

Questions for discussion/application:

1. What part of Sunday’s text and teaching stood out most to you? Why?
2. Why are power and the privileges it brings such a temptation for us? Can you think of examples in your own life where a position of power or privilege led you into sin?

3. Bret said, “Sin often begins with a glance or chance meeting, grows into a strong desire which leads to actions, which produce habits that become virtually impossible to resist.” What does this tell you about how temptation and sin work in your life - and how to resist it?
4. How different is the character of David in this chapter from what we have seen of him previously? What does that tell you about the deceitful and hardening effects of sin? Can we sin without it changing our character over time?
5. Does it seem as if David got away with his sin? Have you ever sinned and seemed to get away with it? Does this mean our sin escapes God’s notice?
6. Hebrews 3:13 says “But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.” How does this verse characterize sin and its effects? In what ways is sin deceitful? In what ways does it harden our hearts? Can you see these effects in David in 2 Samuel 11?
7. According to Hebrews 3:13, what is one major safeguard against the deceitfulness and hardening effects of sin? Can you name several people who have a relationship that encourages you away from sin and towards righteousness?
8. Did David have anyone who could hold him accountable? How might this story have been different if someone had spoken up and reminded David of God, His Word, and His standards? Do you have people in your life who can challenge your behavior and hold you accountable?
9. What other steps might you take to protect you from deceitfulness of sin? What concrete plans do you have to protect you from your own temptations and weaknesses?

Preview of next week:

Title: The Prophets Rebuke

Text: 2 Samuel 12