

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

I. Intro - The All Too Familiar Story

- A. A powerful, popular man uses women for sex
- B. When the sin becomes known there is a predictable pattern of denial, blaming, increasing sin to cover up
- C. Examples: Harvey Weinstein, Donald Trump, Bill Clinton
- D. Recently allegations against Bill Hybels of Willow Creek
- E. These are recent examples of David's great sin
- F. What is David's sin? How did he fall so far? How can I protect myself?

II. David's Multi-Faceted Sin

- A. David's abuse of power and privilege
 - 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.** 2 Samuel 11:1
 - 1. Time of war - but David sent Joab and stayed home
 - 2. David should have been at the battle as many noted
 - 3. Sin often starts when we neglect our God-given responsibilities.
 - 4. But note the word 'sent' - a key word in 2 Samuel 11
 - ¹ David sent Joab...
 - ³ David sent someone to find out about her...
 - ⁴ David sent messengers to get her...
 - ⁵ David sent word to Joab: "Send me Uriah...."

- a. Sent occurs 12x in this chapter
 - b. Shows David in despotic power and privilege
 - c. It also shows David deceived into thinking he is above the rules, that he can use others in violation of God's law with impunity.
 - d. Whenever we think that we are above temptation and the rules that apply to others, sin is lurking at the door to enslave and destroy us.
- B. David's sexual lust and actions
- One 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,** ³ and **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?" 2 Samuel 11:2-3
- 1. The troops are at war, David is taking a long siesta
 - 2. He walks to cool off and sees a woman bathing
 - 3. She is beautiful and catches David's eye
 - 4. Rather than turning away, David is lured in and sends to get more information about her
 - 5. He finds out she is the wife of one of his mightiest and most faithful soldiers - but he is too far gone to turn back! This is because sin is deceitful and it hardens the heart.
 - 6. David commits adultery
 - So David **sent** messengers and **took** her, and she came to him, and he **lay** with her. (Now she had been purifying herself from her uncleanness.) Then she returned to her house. 2 Samuel 11:4 ESV
 - a. David commits adultery - and possibly more

- b. Sent, took, lay - powerful verbs to express David's unbridled desire that has overwhelmed his conscience

7. 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.

Each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. ¹⁵ Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. James 1:14–15

- a. It starts with a quick temptation which works on our own evil desires.
- b. If they are not destroyed, these evil desires conceive and give birth to sinful actions.
- c. Sinful actions grow into full-grown habits which destroy all they touch.
- d. But still we hang on to our sin, because sin is deceitful and it hardens the heart.

C. David's downward spiral of sin

1. The unexpected consequence - pregnancy

The woman conceived and sent word to David, saying, "I am pregnant." 2 Samuel 11:5

- a. She had just finished ritual purification from her monthly cycle - not pregnant but most fertile time.
- b. But David was not restrained because sin is deceitful and it hardens the heart.
- c. But now Bathsheba is pregnant, so surely David will wake up. Surely he will come clean about his sin.

2. David and Uriah the Hittite - a contrast in actions

- a. David sends to have Uriah come home (vv6-7)
- b. He tells Uriah to go home and wash his feet (euphemism)
- c. David expects this will give a coverup for his sin
- d. But Uriah acts with great honor and will not go home
- e. Uriah the Hittites amazing words

Uriah 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!" 2 Samuel 11:11

- 1. Uriah is a Hittite, David the anointed king
- 2. Uriah had every right to enjoy sex with Bathsheba; David had no right to that
- 3. Uriah will not - the soldiers are in the field, and so is the ark.
- 4. But none of this had stopped David - for sin is deceitful and hardens the heart

f. David gets Uriah drunk - and Uriah still won't go home and lie with his wife!

g. One would think this would finally awaken David - but sin is deceitful and it hardens the heart!

3. David decides to have Uriah murdered

In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it with Uriah. ¹⁵ In 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." 2 Samuel 11:14–15

- a. David decides righteous Uriah must die, for he will not allow his sin to be exposed

- b. He knows Uriah is so upright he can send the death command by Uriah's own hand and it will not be opened
- c. David is now implicating Joab and others in his sin
- d. Not only this, but other innocent men die as a result
When 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. 2 Samuel 11:17
- e. David's sin has produced death - which is mentioned 7x in vv15-26.
- f. David the shepherd of Israel has now become the Godfather, a murderer of innocents. This is hard to fathom, but sin is deceitful and it hardens the heart.

4. David's callous reaction to all of this

- a. Joab sends work back, many people had to die
- b. David's callous response
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." 2 Sa 11:25
 1. No big deal - people die in war; don't worry
 2. Literally "Don't let this be evil in your eyes."
 3. The shepherd no longer cares if the sheep are slaughtered for his sin, for sin is deceitful and it hardens the heart.

- c. David then callously sends for Bathsheba
When the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she lamented over her husband. ²⁷ And when the mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. 2 Sa11:26-27 (ESV)

1. The wife of Uriah - to remind us who she is. Uriah, husband 3x in this verse to underline what David had done.
2. She mourns for her husband - and David impatiently taps his feet
3. One last time - David "sends" like a despot and brings her to himself
4. Takes her to his house - the very house God had promised to build
5. She bears a son, and David believes he has gotten away with all of this - because sin is deceitful and it hardens the heart

III. Applying the Word

A. Do I see the horrible nature of sin?

But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be **hardened by sin's deceitfulness**. Hebrews 3:13

1. Sin is deceitful - and it hardens the heart!
2. Consider how sin deceived and hardened David!
 - a. What began with indulging in privileges, progressed to a lustful gaze, and ended with deceit, drunkenness, conspiracy, murder, and coverup. Sin is not contained or managed, but grows, defiles, and consumes all it touches. This is the horrible nature of sin.
 - b. The man after God's own heart has found his heart hardened to God, truth, and righteousness, and consumed with ever-growing sin. This is the horrible nature of sin.
 - c. The man who would not touch Saul (who was trying to murder him) was hardened by the deceitfulness of sin so that he was willing to murder many innocent men. This is the horrible nature of sin.

3. Consider the unforeseen consequences of sin
 - a. David thought he would simply have sex with Bathsheba and move on - until she conceived. This is the deceitful nature of sin.
 - b. Even then David thought he could cover up his sin - which only led to further, ever grosser sin. This is the horrible nature of sin.
 - c. David's own sin eventually caused the deaths of many people - certainly not what David originally intended. This is the horrible nature of sin.

4. Do I think sin can be played with and indulged with no real consequences?

5. Do I realize that sin displeases God?
But the thing David had done displeased the Lord.
2 Samuel 11:27

- a. Literally "It was evil in the eyes of the Lord."
- b. Same phrase David has sent back to Joab (v25)
- c. This is the only mention of Yahweh in the entire chapter. He has been utterly absent from David's sight - but David has not been absent from Yahweh's view.
- d. Do not be deceived, God is not fooled. We may fool others and hide our sin for a season, but God always knows, always sees.

B. Do I have others who hold me accountable?

1. Sin is deceitful - so we must be prepared!
2. We must remain in close fellowship with others
But **encourage one another daily**, as long as it is called Today, **so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness**. Hebrews 3:13

- a. The antidote in this verse is fellowship
- b. David's trouble began when he was isolated
- c. David had no one around him to hold him accountable and say no.
- d. The same thing apparently happened to Bill Hybels
- e. Are you in close fellowship to protect you from sin?
- f. Am I in a small group to build connections with others?

C. The Table of Confession, Cleansing, and Strength

1. We come to this Table to confess and be cleansed
2. We come to this Table to be strengthened against sin

David's Great Sin

2 Samuel 11
August 12, 2018
Communion
Psalm 79:9

Teaching keywords: biblical characters; sin; sexual sin; leadership; character

Help us, O God our Savior, for the glory of your name; deliver us and forgive our sins for your name's sake. Psalms 79:9

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. ² One 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, ³ and 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?" ⁴ Then 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. ⁵ The woman conceived and sent word to David, saying, "I am pregnant." ⁶ So David sent this word to Joab: "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent him to David. ⁷ When Uriah came to him, David asked him how Joab was, how the soldiers were and how the war was going. ⁸ Then 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. ⁹ But Uriah slept at the entrance to the palace with all his master's servants and did not go down to his house. ¹⁰ When 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?" ¹¹ Uriah 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!" ¹² Then 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. ¹³ At 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. ¹⁴ In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it with Uriah.

¹⁵ In 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." ¹⁶ So while Joab had the city under siege, he put Uriah at a place where he knew the strongest defenders were. ¹⁷ When 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 Jerub-besheth? 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. 2 Samuel 11:1–27