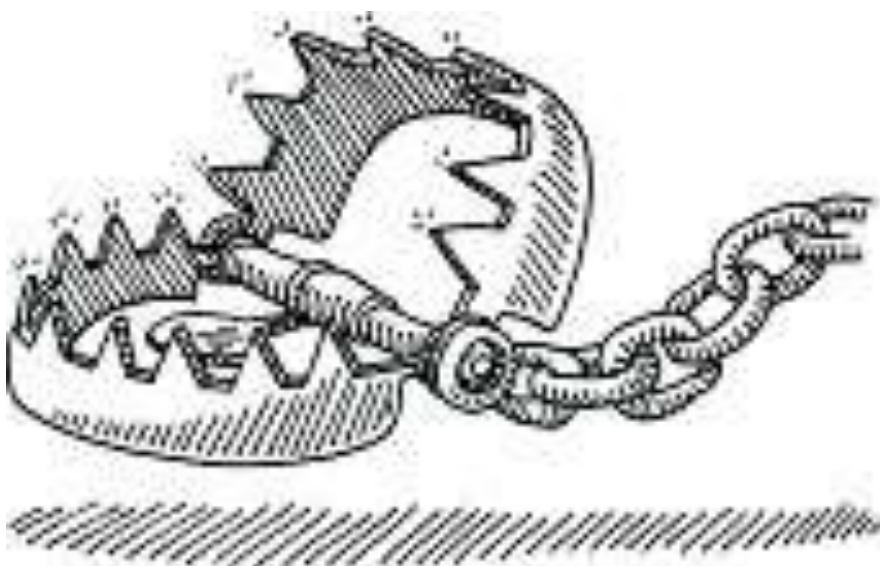


How to

Avoid

SIN



How to Avoid Sin

2 Samuel 11:1–18.

“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 inquired after the woman. And one said, Is not this Bath-sheba, 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.

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.”

God always tells the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. In his word God records the lives of His greatest Saints and tells it, just like it is. God covers up nothing. I once read about Abraham Lincoln, who was having his face painted, the painter said Mr. Lincoln, I can remove that wart from this portrait if you would like. Lincoln said paint the picture wart and all. This is how God does it. He doesn't cover anything. He tells it like it is. We all can learn from this.

No sin except maybe the sin of Adam and Eve has received more press than the sin of David and Bathsheba. Movie makers exploit this passage. Books have been written, sermons have been preached down through the centuries. This is no doubt the darkest day of David's life. David was a man after God's own heart, but he was a man who was capable of sinning. The man who conquered the giant was the man who was conquered by a woman by his own desires. What I want to say to you, as well as myself year is beware. Here is a clear warning to each of us. **1 Corinthians 10:12.**

“Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.” You can never be too watchful in garden against evil, or flesh is equally weak, unless we take heed our flesh will lead us into a similar sinful experience and our consequences and grief will be as bitter as his.

I. Remain Busy During God's Will. Vs 1-2.

David is about 50 years old and has been King for about 20 years. He had distinguished himself as a man of God, as a composer of Psalms, as a faithful Shepherd, a valiant warrior on the battlefield and as a leader of his people. It is a time when kings go to battle that David sent Joab. David did not go to battle, no, he stayed home in bed. This is not good. Being idle is never a good thing. It used to be said idleness was the devil's workshop. Had he been where he belonged with his troops in the battle this would never have happened. You see, your greatest battles don't usually come when you are busy but when you are bored.

A. Time had Lapsed.

David did not fall suddenly; no it was over a period of time. He neglected his duty, his popularity had grown. I mean, he was a huge success in battle, having never lost one battle. He was a great King and he had position and power. The path of sin is often step by step in degrees downward, little by little. Dean Weaver said. “David put his soul over a slow heat for years and here it boiled over”. David fed his sexual desires for 20 years like feeding a pet

tiger. What I mean, God said there were certain things a king should not do. We read this in **Deuteronomy 17:14-17**. “When thou art come unto the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, and shalt possess it, and shalt dwell therein, and shalt say, I will set a king over me, like as all the nations that are about me; Thou shalt in any wise set him king over thee, whom the LORD thy God shall choose: one from among thy brethren shalt thou set king over thee: thou mayest not set a stranger over thee, which is not thy brother. But he shall not multiply horses to himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt, to the end that he should multiply horses: forasmuch as the LORD hath said unto you, Ye shall henceforth return no more that way. Neither shall he multiply wives to himself, that his heart turn not away: neither shall he greatly multiply to himself silver and gold”.

There were three things that a king should not do

1. Don't multiply horses. 2. Don't multiply wives. 3. Don't multiply an increase in gold. David did two of those. But in one he failed he did multiply wives he was a passionate man for women. In **2 Samuel 5:13**. “**And David took him more concubines and wives**”.

Dr. George Truitt said, “the perils of middle age are great”. He called it the most perilous period in one's life. David was there; maybe he wanted to be young again. David's lust and polygamy had eroded his integrity. David was playing with sin.

How could this happen to someone so spiritual?
Now let me tell you some of the people that you wonder about how they fell so far. The truth is you did not know how low they were living.

B. Temptation had Lingered.

David gets out of bed in his palace, a bedroom only a king could afford. It was a beautiful spring afternoon and he goes out on the patio roof as he walked around on the roof of the king's house, he heard splashing of water, perhaps some humming on the lips of a beautiful woman living just beyond the palace in the clear sight of his back yard. What David saw was a real temptation to him.

Verse two says that **she was a very beautiful woman to look upon**. She was a knockout physically beautiful beyond description. I mean, rarely does the Scripture use the word very like here. She was very beautiful. Here was a very beautiful woman bathing in full view. Modesty had been forgotten by her. So don't tell me she had no part here. When you dress in such a way to draw attention to you, your body parts, you are part of the problem. Yes, David was at fault as well. He could have turned his head. He did not have to stop and start and lust after her. He lost control.

I read of the Great Wall of China, etc.

Temptation works like this. 1. Attention. What you see affects you. You will go in the direction you are looking. **Psalms 101:3. "I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes".**

Job 31:1. "I made a covenant with mine eyes;

why then should I think upon a maid?" 2.

Arousal. What gets your attention like here David's flesh was aroused. You are enticed. Like is described in **James 1:14. "But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed"**. The devil is no fool. When it comes to packaging his wares. 3. Action. Temptation causes you to do something wrong. It is no sin to be tempted but when you follow the temptation to action. You have sinned.

II. Receive God's Warnings. Vs 3-5

Under the influence of the flesh, and a heavy temptation to sin; David sent to inquire about this particular woman and he found out she was the wife of Uriah. That means she is taken she is off limits. This was a warning from God to stop his pursuit.

A. He Forgot God.

Now when they told David she was the wife of Uriah that was God's warning to David saying stop stay away! Here is where the problem comes. You do not listen to God. David stood on the roof of his palace in the night air with no one else around. He lost all sense of who he was or what would happen if he fell into sin. As the smoldering desire down inside burst into flames. God became distant and unreal to him. He forgot that he was God's man. He forgot all the lessons he had learned during the days of his youth and watching sheep for his father. He forgot everything he was over powered by lust; blinded by the desire, engulfed by imagination. He

wanted this woman. He forgot God and everything.
The power of lust!

B. He was Found Out.

Now David sends for Bathsheba, knowing she was a married woman, in his out-of-control moment he sent for her to come to him, and she did. I didn't read of any resistance, like Queen Vashti in the book of Esther when the drunken King called for her to come and show her beautiful body. She said no. It must have been that she was flattered by the ideal that the King wanted her to come to the palace. Now David was romantic and a handsome and yes the king. Any women would have been flattered at this invitation, maybe she dreamed of such a night. Now I agree with the Scripture, there is pleasure in sin for a season. But it is a passing pleasure. Yes, **Proverbs 9:17** “**Stolen waters are sweet**”.

Reality will set in a matter of weeks Bathsheba sent word to David saying “I am pregnant”. You remember what you sow, you must reap. Yes, all your wild oats will be reaped. The devil never shows you the backside of sin after the ecstasy, the excitement is gone. What then? Look at the hospitals, the emergency rooms. Look at the accidents on highways because of drugs, the broken homes. Prisons are full, and diseases are spreading like wild fire. Make no mistake about it. The Bible warns us that our sins will find us out.

III. Remember God's Watchfulness. Vs 16, 27

David quickly devises a scheme to cover up his sin. He orders Joab to bring Uriah home. When David got the news about Bathsheba he went into a panic. Now he could have taken one of two courses. He could go before God and declare himself completely sinful and guilty and confess it all. He could have said I have sinned. Obviously, that is exactly what he should have done. Or he could go the route of deception and hypocrisy. We all know which one he chose and the truth is, most take the same road today, either blaming someone else or cover it up and act like nothing is wrong. David panicked and thinks up a scheme to cover up his sin. Do you wonder who helped feed him this plan?

A. A Devised Cover-up. Vs 6.

David has a plan to cover up his sin. He sent for Uriah to come home. When he came home David make some small talk about Joab and how the war was going. Then he tells Uriah to go home for the night so it will appear Uriah is the father of Bathsheba's baby. However Uriah is such a man of integrity, he feels it would be dishonorable to sleep with his beautiful wife while his fellow soldiers are staying in tents and dying on the battlefield. He does not go home. He sleeps at the king's palace door. David discovers his scheme has failed so he moves to Plan B. He invites Uriah to dinner and he gets him drunk hoping to weaken his character so he will go home and sleep with his wife. But it doesn't happen! Thinking his plans has failed he is

exhausted and he tries to escalate everything. David is willing to kill Uriah, so he writes a letter to Joab and send it by Uriah he told Joab to place Uriah on the front line and rollback so he would be killed. What did Joab think about this? Did he know of Uriah's beautiful wife? He did what David told him to do and Uriah was killed along with many others. The word was sent back to David the job was done. After some time of mourning David sent after Bathsheba and acted as though he would rescue her from her pain and married her.

B. A Divine Condemnation. Vs 27

David's actions displeased the Lord. God condemns adultery. **Ex 20:13-14. "Thou shalt not kill. Thou shalt not commit adultery"**. God condemns murder. What David did was sin and no matter who David was God would condemn sin. This would bring much trouble into the life of David. Christian there is no cover up with God. He can see past our deceptions. For 12 months David failed to face up to his sin, and during that time he suffered from an inner torture. **Proverbs 28:13. "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy"**. Nothing good could happen to David. He had to be willing to confess his sin and seek God's mercy. There will be mercy for those who is willing to confess. **1 John 1:9. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness"**.

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