

The things we examined in Lesson 11 truly pictured David at his best, where he most exemplified Christ. After dealing with various conflicts and bringing Israel to peace, David was able to pursue his covenant with his friend, Jonathan. David learned there was one son left, Mephibosheth, a crippled man. David demonstrated a heart of kindness and compassion in reaching out to this man, expressing godly kindness to him. David continued to demonstrate kindness to Mephibosheth and his household.

Some may see a parallel between how David came to Mephibosheth and how Christ came to us. Mephibosheth was dwelling in a dry and empty place without much hope, until his king reached out to him in grace and kindness. This is similar to how Christ reached out to us, bringing us to dine at His table forevermore. We closed out the study by examining how we can show this type of godly compassion to others.

In 2 Samuel 10, a new leader had arisen over the Ammonites. This leader humiliated the ambassadors of peace that David sent to this man. The Ammonites hired the Syrians to help them fight against Israel. David and his troops then defeated them by faith—although the remaining Ammonites still held out in their capital city. At this point our current lesson begins.

Sadly, we go from seeing David at his best to seeing him at his very worst: an object of failure and sin. We can learn much through examining this dark spot in David's life. In doing so we learn how to avoid and overcome similar sins. This author freely admits entering into this topic like the Apostle Paul did to Corinth, "In weakness, in fear, and in much trembling" (1 Corinthians 2:3 NKJV). The reason for this is because it is such a vital subject for 21st century believers. As Alan Redpath well observed, "May this study be a stab from the Spirit of God to grip our hearts and consciences with conviction."¹

DAY 1

David the Adulterer 2 SAMUEL 11:1-13

Please Read 2 Samuel 11:1-13 and answer the following questions.

[1] After victory over the Syrians and Ammonites through great acts of faith in 2 Samuel 10, the remaining Ammonites were besieged in their capital city, Rabbah.

Where was David while his army faced the battle there, and what happened (vv. 1-2)?

Notes: Rabbah was about 24 miles east of the Jordan River, opposite Jericho.² The NLT translates the description of Bathsheba as a woman with unusual beauty.

[2] David inquired about this woman and discovered that she was married, as well as the daughter and wife of national heroes (2 Samuel 23:34, 39 list them as among David's mighty men)!

Yet what did David do, and what was the unplanned result of all this (vv. 4-5)?

[3] David panicked at this news and schemed about how to cover up his sin. He decided to have Uriah come back from the battlefield to hopefully go home and be with his wife, thus covering up the pregnancy.

What resulted, and how did Uriah prove himself to be a better man than David at this time (vv. 9–13)?

EXPANDED QUESTIONS

David's downfall started long before these events. It was the fruit of the last twenty years as he multiplied wives to himself contrary to the law of God.³ No one becomes an adulterer or fornicator over night. David's love for women had desensitized him step by step, making way for falling into full-fledged adultery. In the same way, we can become desensitized to such sin through such things as music, TV, movies, reading, and by what we see in our sex-crazed society. Through this we sometimes become numb to sin—much like David.⁴ As Alan Redpath well said, "Satan specializes in making sin popular."⁵ All the more, we must learn to avoid the things that brought David down, and how to live so that we don't end up in disgrace and defeat like he did.

There are four steps that David took to committing adultery. We'll consider the first two today.

[1] David's first error was being in a place he should have never been, where he was easy prey for temptation, separated from service and fellowship. The path toward sin begins where we neglect our duty, taking off the spiritual armor designed to protect us.⁶ He relaxed his guard, becoming vulnerable to temptation instead of trying to maintain a godly heart in all things.⁷

What should he have been doing instead (Ephesians 6:10–11; Jude 1:20–21)? Also, how would following the command in Hebrews 10:23–25 help in our battle against sexual temptation?

[2] David didn't just take a passing look at Bathsheba. He kept on looking, and this turned into a burning, illogical lust that he acted on. "His look became a sinful stare and then a burning, libidinous, sweaty leer. In that moment David, who had been a man after God's own heart, became a dirty, leering old man. A lustful fixation came over him that would not be denied."⁸

What did Jesus warn about the dangers of this (Matthew 5:27–28; Mark 7:21–23)?

[3] How does James 1:13–15 tie in with this?

Daily Life Point: God takes our marriage vows seriously. He emphasizes this from Genesis to Revelation, warning repeatedly about the dangers of sexual relations outside of marriage. We tend to forget that God created sex for the purpose of unity in the marriage relationship, and it is a good thing.⁹ The sins that David committed were punishable by death according to the Mosaic Law (Leviticus 20:10; Deuteronomy 22:22–24; John 8:1–6). "Out of control, he said no to all the things he should have said yes to, and yes to all the things he should have said no to."¹⁰ In our leisure as well as busy times, we need to plan to win over sexual temptation. The best offense is a good defense, and as Steve Arterburn and Fred Stoeker point out, we must set up a defensive perimeter around our eyes, heart, and mind.¹¹

Let's work on putting that into practice this week. Read the following two passages and then record some ways that you can better protect what you allow to enter into your eye gate.

Job 31:1: "I have made a covenant with my eyes; why then should I look upon a young woman?"

Psalms 101:3–4: "I will set nothing wicked before my eyes; I hate the work of those who fall away; it shall not cling to me. A perverse heart shall depart from me; I will not know wickedness."

MEMORY PASSAGE

This week we will memorize 2 Timothy 2:22. Review the passage several times throughout each day. By the end of the week, you should have it memorized.

Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. (2 Timothy 2:22 NKJV)

DAY 2

David the Murderer
2 SAMUEL 11:14–25

Please Read 2 Samuel 11:14–25 and answer the following questions

[1] David should have dealt with his sin immediately and appropriately, but he continued illogically trying to cover it. To what unbelievable extent did David go to in trying to cover his sin (vv. 14–17)?

[2] Joab sent messengers to let David know the deed was done. He had prepped them as to what to say to keep David from exploding in anger over such a military blunder. What did they tell David (vv. 22–24)?

[3] What was David's pathetic and hypocritical reaction to this (v. 25)?

EXPANDED QUESTIONS

First, David disobeyed God by coveting, lusting after, and having adulterous sex with Bathsheba. He then added to the breaking of God's commandments by committing murder. David could have avoided all this if he had only followed God's Word. Let's look at David's next step into sin—the sin of willful ignorance.

[1] David ignored God's warnings in Scripture and in his own conscience. David knew this was all wrong, but ignored the very things God was doing to wake him out of his lustful stupor.¹² David should have taken a clue when the messenger told him about Bathsheba. Her name meant "daughter of an oath,"¹³ while David ignored the oaths they had made to their spouses. *Eliam* means "God of the people,"¹⁴ and David was acting to bring shame to God's people. *Uriah* means "Yahweh is light,"¹⁵ yet David turned from God's light to walk in darkness.

How can a conscience unhardened by sin actually help us in dealing with temptations (Acts 24:16; 1 Timothy 1:5, 18–19)?

[2] In the following passages, what are some of the warnings God has given us about sexual sin?

Romans 13:12–13

1 Corinthians 6:13, 18

1 Thessalonians 4:3–5

2 Timothy 2:22

Daily Life Point: We need to set up a good defense against sexual temptations in our minds. The mind is an incredible data storage device. Sometimes it's too good, allowing memories to dominate our lives. We need to dominate our thoughts and memories, as 2 Corinthians 10:3–5 says.¹⁶ We must make the choice day-by-day to renew our minds in Christ.

As Josh McDowell well points out, sexual things become "programmed" into our minds, and we must choose to let God help us "reprogram" them properly.¹⁷ David didn't do that. He let his mind run wild, which resulted in stupid actions.

Brainstorm and discuss in your group how to program your minds for righteousness. What do you need to do to guard your thoughts and avoid David's mistake?

MEMORY PASSAGE

Fill in the blanks by memory. Then review the passage several times throughout the week.

**Flee also youthful _____; but pursue _____, faith,
love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a _____ heart.**

(2 Timothy 2:22 NKJV)

DAY 3

David the Despiser
2 SAMUEL 11:26-12:12

Please Read 2 Samuel 11:26-12:12 and answer the following questions

[1] When the wife of Uriah (notice the passage doesn't even call her by her name at this point) heard the news, she mourned for her husband. What happened next, and what does verse 27 say about this?

[2] God decides to take action to bring his servant back to himself, but not until He allowed David to stew in his own misery of unconfessed sin for almost a year after the birth of their son!¹⁸ The Lord sent Nathan to David with the parable recorded of a rich man taking a poor man's only ewe lamb and offering it for dinner to a visiting traveler.

What was David's angry response to this, and what bombshell did Nathan drop about this (vv. 5-8)?

Notes: The sentence that David wanted for this man was extreme and beyond what the Law demanded in such a situation (Exodus 22:1). As we'll see in subsequent studies, David would be spared from death, but he did pay back fourfold for his sin: the death of his child, the rape of his daughter by her step brother, the murder of that stepson, and then the rebellion of his son, Absalom.¹⁹

[3] How serious was David's sin, and how serious was its result as he reaped it's consequences (vv. 9-12)?

EXPANDED QUESTIONS

David's fourth step to adultery was that he did not take sin seriously. We saw that to reject God's Word by sinning against Him displeases Him (in Hebrew this means to shake in a state of displeasure and distress²⁰). Eugene Peterson well paraphrases this as he "treated the Word of God with brazen contempt."²¹ His sin also allowed occasion for the enemies of God to blaspheme (v. 14). So his sin had great consequences.

[1] Joseph certainly set the example of how to view the seriousness of sexual sin. Read about his struggles in Genesis 39:7-12 and record what positive steps he took in dealing with these temptations. Remember that this refusal cost Joseph prison, yet God was with him; David gave into sin, costing him far more than Joseph ever experienced—especially the removal of God's blessing in his life.

[2] It does cost us to turn away from these things, walking according to God's Word rather than our flesh, and training ourselves to walk in obedience.²² Think about this:

As Bathsheba was precious to Uriah, your wife is your precious one, your only one . . . She's to be cherished, not because of what she does for you, but because of her essence, her value to God as a child born in His image. You've been entrusted with the priceless essence of another human soul, so precious to God that at the foundation of the world He planned to pay His dearest price to buy her back again.²³

For the Married Man: What do 1 Corinthians 7:1–5, Ephesians 5:25–29, and Hebrews 13:4–5 remind you about the importance of cherishing and protecting your wife and the sexual bond you have with her?

For the Single Man: How do Romans 6:11–14 and Galatians 5:16–24 help you walk in and cherish your personal purity and victory over sexual sin? How did Daniel, a young single man, decide to live purely for God (Daniel 1:8)?

Daily Life Point: As Warren Wiersbe well said,

Before you yield to temptation . . . look back and recall God's goodness to you; look ahead and remember the wages of sin; look around and think of all the people who may be affected by what you do; look up and ask God for the strength to say no.²⁴

David failed to take sin seriously enough. We must not make the same mistake. We need to put hedges and barriers around our hearts. We need to protect and cherish our marriages and purity. We must do things such as refraining from becoming verbally intimate with members of the opposite sex, not touching, not being alone with members of the opposite sex, and avoiding flirting.²⁵

What practical steps will you take in your own work, social life, church life, and family life, to honor God and your commitment to your spouse? How about establishing accountability with another godly person (of the same sex!), so you can keep each other honest in the area of sexuality and family relationships? Share some thoughts here and with your group.

MEMORY PASSAGE

Fill in the blanks by memory. Then review the passage several times throughout the week.

Flee also youthful _____; but pursue _____, faith,
_____, peace with those who _____ on the Lord out of a
_____ heart. (2 Timothy 2:22 NKJV)

DAY 4

David the Repentant
2 SAMUEL 12:13-23

Please Read 2 Samuel 12:13-23 and answer the following questions

[1] David at last admits his sin. Nevertheless, what would be the sad result of all this (vv. 13-15)?

Note: At this point, notice that the writer of 2 Samuel still refers to Bathsheba as "the wife of Uriah"

[2] David pleaded before the Lord for the life of this child. He fasted, wept, and mourned, but to no avail. The servants worried that David may actually become suicidal when the child actually died. What was his unexpected reaction (vv. 19-20)?

[3] Why did David react in this way (vv. 21-23)?

EXPANDED QUESTIONS

We mustn't overlook the awesome grace of God. He is willing to forgive us when we sin. When Nathan told David that God had "put away" his sin, he used a Hebrew word meaning "to pass by, or to make it pass away and disappear, or to remove it."²⁶ All the pleading and praying in the world didn't remove the consequences that David suffered. 1 John 1:9 is a great promise, but it is not an excuse for sin. Remember, there are sad consequences of forgiven sin.²⁷ David's mistakes also included taking advantage of the grace of God, failing to remember that with his position came greater accountability.²⁸

[1] Solomon had much to say about the dangers of falling to the trap of sexual sin. Read the following passages from Proverbs, and write out what they say about avoiding sexual sin.

Proverbs 5:3–14, 21–23

Proverbs 6:23–29

Proverbs 7:21–27

[2] We must also realize that God is willing to forgive sins and help you to repent from them. As Charles Swindoll points out, genuine repentance can happen for those who have fallen, and it will be marked by an open admission of our sin, desiring to make a complete and total break from it, and humbly claiming God's forgiveness.²⁹

What wonderful things do Psalms 32:5–7; 130:3–4; Proverbs 28:13; Isaiah 55:6–7; and 1 John 1:9 tell us about this forgiveness?

Daily Life Point: We must do all we can to avoid these steps toward failure. This is a testimony of how much we need to be in prayer for the personal purity of those in spiritual leadership over us. Satan does all he can to tear down and discredit the work of God.

Let's work on a special project the rest of this week. This project is to develop a "Think List" based on Philippians 4:8. Meditating on this list will hopefully help you renew your mind. Follow these simple steps and meditate on your "Think List" today.

1. On a separate piece of paper, or better yet a small notebook that you can continue to add to, list several of the Scripture passages that have helped you avoid sexual sin.
2. Next, write down positive things God has done for you in your life. Look at these things for when you are tempted to focus on sexual temptations.
3. If you are married, list several positive things about your marriage and spouse, and how you can better cherish those things. If you're single, write out several things you are thankful for in your life—and how you wish to pursue maintaining godly, single living.

4. Review this list at least once a day. Add to your list and use it to stand strong against the things Satan would use to tear you down. You might want to read your list and pray instead of turning on that TV show, looking at that Web site, going into that chat room, reading that magazine, or other borderline activities that have led you into lust and sexual sin.

MEMORY PASSAGE

Fill in the blanks by memory. Then review the passage several times throughout the week.

Flee also youthful _____; but pursue _____, faith,
_____, _____ with those who _____ on the
_____ out of a _____ heart. (2 Timothy 2:22 NKJV)

DAY 5

David the Restored **2 SAMUEL 12:24-31**

Please Read 2 Samuel 12:24-31 and answer the following questions

[1] How did God show Himself gracious to David and Bathsheba and demonstrate His blessing on their lives again (vv. 25-26)?

Notes: The name *Solomon* means either "peace" or "his replacement."³⁰ The name God gave Solomon, *Jedidiah*, means: "beloved of the Lord."³¹

[2] Not only was David's family somewhat restored, God worked to restore his leadership and victories. What are some of the main details about this victory over the Ammonites in verses 26-30?

Notes: The NLT translates the talent of gold meaning it weighed 75 pounds! Obviously David didn't wear this for more than a brief moment. This is the last recorded battle that David was actually involved in,³² and sadly, we see no significant exploit of David's recorded after this.³³

[3] How did David treat the Ammonites after the victory (v. 31)?

Note: It's possible that the end of this chapter can be translated that David actually tortured these people, as the NASB translates it, just like they had done to others.³⁴

EXPANDED QUESTIONS

[1] We must not forget that God allows a new beginning. There is hope for the new believer who had committed sexual sin prior to their conversion as well as the believer who has fallen to the temptations of the flesh.³⁵ As we confess and forsake our sins in the power of His Spirit, God will make things peaceful again. Yet, the consequences of sin would remain for David, as we'll see in our next study.

What do the following passages tell us about His ability and desire to restore and renew us when we seek Him?

Psalm 32:1–2, 10–11

1 Corinthians 6:11

Ephesians 2:1–3; Hebrews 4:14–16

[2] When we have failed, it doesn't mean we should quit. We confess our sins, get back on the path of righteousness and service. We need to forgive ourselves as well, because we can be our own worst enemy in trying to recover from sexual failure. David had to choose to get up and join in the battle or succumb to guilt over his failure. This is just as we have to get back up and into the spiritual battle and seek to serve Him anew.

The church of Ephesus was one that failed in the most important thing of the Christian life—keeping Christ as their first love. What did Jesus tell them to do about it, and how does that tie in with what we are talking about (Revelation 2:5)? What else does Hebrews 10:35–38 exhort us to do?

Daily Life Point: What are some of the experiences you have had in feeling like you've failed God and others? What did you do wrong or right in those situations, and what did you learn from them? Are you willing to get up and start again, or will you succumb to guilt and misery?

Please share some thoughts on how examining David's restoration has helped you personally. By the way, how are you coming on that "Think List"? You might want to add some examples of men who failed God and were restored, such as David, Moses, Elijah, and others. This way you won't succumb to Satan by giving in and becoming completely useless for God's kingdom.

MEMORY PASSAGE

From memory, write out this week's passage below. Then review the passage throughout the day.

2 Timothy 2:22 NKJV:

DAY 6

Pursuing God's Heart

We as common, every day people look at someone like David and think that if he can fall like this, then we are toast! Remember, take the steps to build a good defense against Satan's attacks, and never take off that armor God has given us.

On the following checklist, indicate which areas of defense that David failed in that you need to build yourself up in all the more. Discuss these areas with your group and pray for one another for victory in them. Remember, James 5:16–17 says, "Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much" (NKJV).

Area's of David's Failure

- [1] David had been sowing seeds of this sin through more subtle compromises, becoming desensitized to sexual sin. _____
- [2] David allowed himself to be in a place he should have never been, where he was relaxed and vulnerable to temptation. _____
- [3] David failed to put up a barrier around his eyes, allowing his eyes to freely roam and take in this sight, allowing lust in his heart to be activated. _____
- [4] David ignored the warnings of both Scripture and his own conscience, eventually becoming willfully ignorant of them. _____
- [5] David failed to reprogram his mind for righteousness, this eventually led to acting upon ungodly thoughts. _____
- [6] David did not take sexual sin seriously enough, despite the cost for such behavior. _____
- [7] David failed to confess and turn from his sin, allowing God to restore him for a lengthy period of time. _____

Secondly, please record and share some of your effective methods in dealing with sexual temptations and sins, or which of the suggestions in this study are most helpful for you in properly handling them. After all, it should be the cry of our heart, like F. B. Meyer so well put it,³⁶

The psalmist, the king, the man, the lover of God, all trampled in the mire by one dark, wild, passionate outburst. Ah me! My God, grant that I may finish my course without such a rent, such a blot! Oh, to wear the white flower of a blameless life to the end!

MEMORY PASSAGE

From memory, write out this week's passage below. Then review the passage throughout the day. Be prepared to share the verse with your group.

2 Timothy 2:22 NKJV:

PARTING THOUGHTS

David clearly wrote Psalm 32 and 51 at the time of dealing with his sin. We already looked at several passages of Psalm 32, so we'll close this week in meditating on Psalm 51. This psalm describes the awful state David was in before he dealt with his sin. It is also amazing to think that these words were recorded for private and public meditation, serving as a warning for all of its hearers.³⁷

Psalms 51

To the Chief Musician. A psalm of David when Nathan the prophet went to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.

Have mercy upon me, O God,
According to Your lovingkindness;
According to the multitude of Your tender mercies,
Blot out my transgressions.
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
And cleanse me from my sin.

For I acknowledge my transgressions,
And my sin is always before me.
Against You, You only, have I sinned,
And done this evil in Your sight—
That You may be found just when You speak,
And blameless when You judge.

Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,
And in sin my mother conceived me.
Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts,
And in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom.

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
Make me to hear joy and gladness,
That the bones You have broken may rejoice.
Hide Your face from my sins,
And blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
And renew a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from Your presence,
And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,
And uphold me by Your generous Spirit.
Then I will teach transgressors Your ways,
And sinners shall be converted to You.

Deliver me from bloodshed, O God,
The God of my salvation,
And my tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness.
O Lord, open my lips,
And my mouth shall show forth Your praise.
For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it;
You do not delight in burnt offering.
The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit,
A broken and a contrite heart—
These, O God, You will not despise.

Do good in Your good pleasure to Zion;
Build the walls of Jerusalem.
Then You shall be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness,
With burnt offering and whole burnt offering;
Then they shall offer bulls on Your altar.

NOTES

- 1 Alan Redpath, *The Making of a Man of God* (Old Tappan, N.J.: Revell, 1962), p. 195.
- 2 John MacArthur, ed., *The MacArthur Study Bible* (Nashville: Word, 1997), p. 441.
- 3 Redpath, *The Making of a Man of God*, p. 198.
- 4 R. Kent Hughes, *Disciplines of a Godly Man* (Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway, 1991), p. 23.
- 5 Redpath, *The Making of a Man of God*, p. 196.
- 6 Warren W. Wiersbe, *With the Word Bible Commentary* (Nashville: Thomas, 1993), p. 395.
- 7 Hughes, *Disciplines*, p. 24.
- 8 Ibid.
- 9 Josh McDowell, Paul Lewis, *Givers, Takers, and Other Kinds of Lovers* (Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale, 1980), p. 29.
- 10 Charles R. Swindoll, *David, a Man of Passion and Destiny* (Dallas: Word, 1997), p. 187.
- 11 Stephen Arterburn, Fred Stoeker, *Every Man's Battle* (Colorado Springs: WaterBrook, 2000), p. 104.
- 12 Hughes, *Disciplines*, p. 26.
- 13 James Strong, "A Concise Dictionary of the Words in the Hebrew Bible with Their Renderings in the Authorized English Version", in *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* (Nashville: Abingdon, 1890 Reprint), p. 24.
- 14 "Biblical Cyclopedic Index" in *The Open Bible* (Nashville: Nelson, 1985), p. 117.
- 15 Ibid., p. 309.
- 16 Arterburn, Stoeker, *Every Man's Battle*, p. 105.
- 17 McDowell, Lewis, *Givers, Takers*, pp. 57-58.
- 18 Ivor Powell, *David, His Life and Times* (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Kregel, 1990), p. 243.
- 19 H. L. Willmington, *Willmington's Guide to the Bible* (Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale, 1984), p. 111.
- 20 Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Old Testament* (Chattanooga, Tenn.: AMG, 1994), p. 2324.
- 21 Eugene Peterson, *The Message: The Bible in Contemporary Language* (Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2002), p. 531.
- 22 Arterburn, Stoker, *Every Man's Battle*, pp. 56-57.
- 23 Ibid., p. 197.
- 24 Wiersbe, *With the Word*, p. 396.
- 25 Hughes, *Disciplines*, p. 30.
- 26 Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study*, pp. 2346-2347.
- 27 Wiersbe, *With the Word*, p. 397.
- 28 Gene A. Getz, *David, Seeking God Faithfully* (Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 1995), p. 164.
- 29 Swindoll, *David*, pp. 206-207.
- 30 MacArthur, *The MacArthur Study Bible*, p. 444.
- 31 *The New Scofield Study Bible*, נקל (Nashville: Nelson, 1989), p. 382.
- 32 Willmington, *Willmington's Guide*, p. 111.
- 33 Powell, *David*, p. 237.
- 34 MacArthur, *The MacArthur Study Bible*, p. 444.
- 35 McDowell, Lewis, *Givers, Takers*, pp. 67-82.
- 36 F. B. Meyer, *The Life of David* (Lynwood, Washington: Emerald, 1995), p. 168.
- 37 C.H. Spurgeon, *The Treasury of David*, vol. 1 (Nashville: Nelson, Undated Reprint), p. 401.

