

2 Samuel 11 - The Anatomy of Temptation

Jas 1:14-15 NIV but each person is tempted when they are **dragged** away by their own evil desire and enticed. 15 Then, after desire has **conceived**, it **gives birth** to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, **gives birth to death**.

- **Enticed** = like a snare; **Dragged** = like a fish in a net
- Like a seed **conceived**, giving birth, and matures to **give birth** to death

Desire enticed him and dragged him away

2Sa 11:1 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, "She is Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite."

Temptation can arise during the normal course of life...

- "walking around on the roof"

While TEMPTATION is not sin, it can grow into sin based on what we do with it

- David saw a beautiful woman

David's temptation grew into sin

- **He saw and LUSTED He didn't see it from God's perspective**
 - Eve's temptation was similar...she saw the apple - but she did not view it in the same way God did...He said if you eat it you will die, she saw "the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom"

David's temptation is being CONCEIVED- He sent someone to find out about her

- If he had seen it God's way he may not have taken this next step

When he found out about her - it should have been enough to give him pause - but he is being DRAGGED

- Eliam and Uriah were each one of David's Mighty Men (2 Sam 23:34 & 39)

Desire conceived - it gives birth to sin

But he took the next step

2Sa 11:4 Then **David sent messengers to get her**. She came to him, and he slept with her. (Now she was purifying herself from her monthly uncleanness.) Then she went back home.

It matures and gives birth to death

THE CONSEQUENCE

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

- Gal 6:7-8 NIV Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. 8 Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.
- **Wonder what would have happened if she had not become pregnant?**

THE COVER-UP

2Sa 11:6-13 So David sent this word to Joab: "**Send me Uriah the Hittite.**" And Joab sent him to David. When Uriah came to him, **David asked him how Joab was, how the soldiers were and how the war was going.** 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.** But Uriah slept at the entrance to the palace with all his master's servants and did not go down to his house. David was told, "Uriah did not go home."

- Deception, Lies & Bribery

THE COVER-UP CONTINUES

So he asked Uriah, "Haven't you just come from a military campaign? **Why didn't you go home?**" Uriah said to David, "The ark and Israel and Judah are staying in tents, and my commander Joab and my lord's men are camped in the open country. **How could I go to my house to eat and drink and make love to my wife? As surely as you live, I will not do such a thing!**" 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. **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.

I wonder if this psalm is based on his personal experience

- Psa 36:1-4 NIV For the director of music. Of David the servant of the LORD. I have a message from God in my heart concerning the sinfulness of the wicked: There is no fear of God before their eyes. 2 In their own eyes **they flatter themselves too much to detect or hate their sin.** 3 The **words of their mouths are wicked and deceitful;** they **fail to act wisely or do good.** 4 Even on their beds **they plot evil;** they **commit themselves to a sinful course and do not reject what is wrong.**

Murder

2Sa 11:14-25 NIV In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it with Uriah. 15 In it he wrote, "**Put Uriah out in front 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.

- **Uriah carried his own death sentence**

The Aftermath

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 Abimelek son of Jerub-Besheth? Didn't a woman drop 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, 'Moreover, 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 of 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." When Uriah's wife heard that her husband was dead, she mourned for him. 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.**

David probably thought he has finally done it...all is in the clear

Summary

David was a man after God's heart - yet he fell so dramatically

- 1Co 10:12-13 NIV So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!

Temptation comes to all of us -- the question is how will we handle it?

- 1Co 10:13 NIV No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And **God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear.** But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.
- Heb 4:15-16 NIV For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but **we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet he did not sin.** 16 Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

If we sin, we should confess, not cover

- 1Jn 1:9 NIV If we **confess** our sins, **he is faithful** and just and will **forgive** us our sins and **purify** us from all unrighteousness.
- Pro 28:13-14 NIV Whoever **conceals** their sins **does not prosper**, but the one who **confesses** and renounces them **finds mercy**. 14 Blessed is the one who always trembles before God, but **whoever hardens their heart falls into trouble.**
- Jas 5:16 NIV Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

David's sin should be a warning to us all - **any one of us could fall**

David's forgiveness should be a comfort to us all - nothing is beyond the LORD's ability to forgive