

SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS

LESSON 8

God is
Faithful,
he will not let
YOU *be*
tempted
beyond what
YOU *can*
bear.

DAVID'S SIN AND REPENTANCE

Scripture Texts: 2 Samuel 11; 2 Samuel 12:1-14

In the previous lesson we were studying about David, the soldier, the king, and the statesman. In today's lesson we are not dealing so much with the military and political activities of David; rather we are looking into the heart of this great man, where we see revealed his weaknesses and remorse, his humility, and spiritual anguish. Furthermore, we learn that even though his sin with Bathsheba was forgiven, its effects lingered on, for David's life was full of trouble and bitter sorrow from that day on.

MEMORY VERSE: *He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.* — **Proverbs 28:13**

Allowing Temptation

2 Samuel 11:1-3 No doubt the woman was not blameless in her actions, but the Bible states that David was not in the place he was supposed to be at this time. His place was out to battle, not at home.

Israel was again at war. Joab and the army had had partial victory over Ammon and now were besieging the city of Rabbah. David at home in Jerusalem, burdened with cares, no doubt became restless and bored—a dangerous condition, indeed. He took an evening walk on the flat housetop. There the devil brought a temptation before him. David saw Bathsheba—nothing wrong with that—we all are tempted unexpectedly. But David allowed the temptation room, which was very dangerous. He thought on it and followed it by an inquiry, thus opening the door wider. He put no obstruction in the way of temptation.

Yielding to Temptation

2 Samuel 11:4-5 Having gone this far, David fell completely. He actively carried out the sin. Temptation is not sin (**James 1:13-15**), but yielding is sin. Inseparably joined with sin is trouble. In this case it followed quickly. The message came, **I am with child**. Imagine David's fear. All would now know. And Uriah—what would be his reaction?

2 Samuel 11:6-27 Sin binds and draws one deeper. So with David. He had walked in easily. To get out was harder. Sin always demands more sin in an attempt to cover it. First, adultery, then, a big lie to Uriah. No doubt it was with a feeling of desperation that he sent for Uriah. To deceive Uriah and the public was contrary to David's usual habit. Sin always leads one to stray from the game plan for his life. Sin takes everyone farther than they want to go. David was pressed by fear of detection, but his scheme failed. Uriah, ignorant of David's purpose, did not follow the pattern David had hoped for.

Now what? Sin, deeper yet. This time it was murder, murder covered to appear as an accident of war. What should be done with sin? There is only one successful covering for sin (**Luke 12:2**). Nothing of this was hidden from God. David tried to be as honorable as possible by giving Bathsheba and the baby a home with him. Still, **the thing that David had done displeased the Lord**. None of it had escaped the eye of God.

Flee Temptation

The sin of David and Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah, is a black spot on the pages of sacred history. Yet this story in the Scripture has a definite purpose. We see in it what destruction sin can bring. We see here not only the terrible remorse of a truly penitent man who seeks God's forgiveness, but also the blessed peace of one who has found God's forgiveness and who has been restored to fellowship with Him. Do not believe it when someone

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says that his sin is no one's business but his own. Each of our sins affects others' lives around us. David's sin caused several men to lose their lives unnecessarily.

Can anyone excuse his sin with, "I couldn't help it"? Perhaps it seems so at the time. It would have been easier to resist if David had made an effort earlier (**1 Corinthians 10:13**). One cannot safely nurse a temptation. How should one meet temptation? (**1 Corinthians 6:18**). David could have avoided all the trouble he had in this episode (**Matthew 26:41**). Any person, friend, relative, place, or thing that is a temptation to you, or an influence to lead you to do wrong, should be left out of your activities. Replace them with others which will be strength to your spiritual condition.

Nathan's Message

2 Samuel 12:1-9 God's method of showing man his sin today is through a message from a true man of God. To show David the terribleness of his sin, the Lord sent a parable through the prophet, Nathan. In judging the injustice of the rich man's treatment of the poor man, David judged himself worthy of death. Nathan pointed the finger of rebuke at David with the words, "Thou art the man." He was brought to see his own action in its true, horrible light. The Holy Spirit, through the power of conviction, causes us to judge ourselves when the message of God comes to us and points the finger of guilt. Sin condemns all men to death (**Romans 6:23**). David could see the sin of the man in the parable, but had to have his own sin pointed out. Is this still a problem today?

2 Samuel 12:10-12 Through Nathan, the Lord pronounced David's punishment. **Whatever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.** You have killed Uriah with the sword. **The sword shall never depart from thine house . . . I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house, and I will take thy wives . . . I will do this thing before all Israel. . . .** Oh what a payment David was to have to make!

David's Response

2 Samuel 12:13-14 I have sinned against the Lord. No waiting, no excuses, no explanations, no shifting of blame. David's repentance seems complete. **Psalms 51** shows his openhearted baring of sin. He confessed and forsook it and received mercy. **The Lord also hath put away thy sin.** Here, we see the love and mercy of God. David deserved death, but was forgiven. God saw his broken and contrite heart and did not despise it. David shows his joy and gratitude in **Psalms 32**.

David threw himself entirely on God's mercy, and he was forgiven. But, from that day on, there was to be sorrow and sadness in David's house. When our actions give occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme, they will be followed with sadness all the days of our lives, even though we repent of them. David, like all of us, had to bear the results of sin.

JUST A THOUGHT

**It is better to look ahead and prepare
than to look back and regret.**

This lesson is adapted from a lesson by Mary Lehmann.
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