

2 Samuel 11-12

Sunday 4/2/2017

Amen. That was good, Logan. There is a fountain filled with blood. Every time he gets up and plays, I just keep hoping right at the end that we will hear that Trump of God and we will just get to go home. One of these days that is going to happen. He is going to be up there playing some beautiful song like he just did, and then we are going to hear it coming down from heaven and get to go home. That will be something.

I. Update on Bob's Recovery

Well, like I said, I would like to start out. I just want to give you an update on Bob, how he is doing. I know several of you have asked me this morning. Several of you were asking me last night. He went into surgery on Friday, and altogether it was probably... They said it would take about 45 minutes once they took him back to get him to sleep and prepped and ready to go. Pretty much that is exactly how long it took from the time he went back and the time they made the first incision. Altogether it was probably five, five and a half hours. Is that right, Kelly? Somewhere around there. Certainly a long day. Several of you were up there with us, and we appreciate that.

Let me just say, maybe even before I go any further, we really love and appreciate every single one of you in this church. I cannot tell you how thankful we are as a family to have a family like you guys. This church is very unique. It is not just unique because of the pastor, although he certainly is unique. He stands out in this day and age. There are not very many men alive on this earth that take the stand on the book that he does, and that love it and know it the way that he does, and that preaches the way that he does. Not coincidentally, because of the way that the Bible is taught in this church and the way that everybody eats it up in this church, there are not very many churches around that are like this. There are not very many churches that stand by each other and with each other and that love each other the way this church does.

On behalf of our family, let me just say thank you to every one of you for your prayers, for everything that you have done up to this point. There were several people that were there throughout the day on Friday, and he came out of the surgery well, and that was really the most important thing: to be able to talk to the surgeon afterwards and hear him say the surgery was a success and he is in recovery and he is awake. Those are very, very sweet words to hear when somebody that you love is having surgery for the first time, and so it was all good.

Now we are in the recovery stage, and as you know, many of you have had surgery before, many of you have had major surgery, many of you have had family members or friends that have had major surgery. He is in pain, he is in discomfort, but it is something that is going to pass for him. It is going to take some time for him to recover, so definitely continue to pray for him. Also, he absolutely loves and appreciates the visitors, and I cannot overstate this. He wants you to come and see him if you can. I promise. Many of you have talked to me and said, "Well, I was going to come today, but I thought there would probably be too many people." If the thought comes into your mind, "I think I want to come," then come. Bob's mentality is, "The more the merrier." He is

in everything that we do. He is around everything that is ever going on around here, so you cannot overwhelm him; you cannot overwhelm the situation. There may be a time here or there where they have to clear the room because he has to go to the bathroom or something, but that is going to happen. But if you want to come, please come.

Several of you have said you are going to go up there this afternoon, and that is great. He is probably going to be there through at least Tuesday or Wednesday. It could possibly be longer. A lot of it just depends on how he progresses over the next few days, but keep lifting him up in prayer. Keep praying for Barb, Jamie, and Kelly. Like I said, we are just appreciative of it. He is encouraged by the outpouring that he has seen so far and the visitors he has seen, and I think he is sitting with his laptop right now watching on YouTube. So if you guys all want to turn around and wave at him. No, I am serious, turn around and wave at him so he is alright. Because now he has officially joined a group of people that think that it is okay to use some excuse to sit in his underwear and watch on YouTube and not come to church, so he cannot preach on that anymore. The sad thing is, he is probably not the only person in our church that is doing that right now, but I would say he has a pretty legitimate reason to do that.

So I really hope I have not forgotten anything. I have my phone up here. I am going to have Jamie send me a text if I did, if I forgot to mention anything, and I will take a look at it and add that in.

II. Introduction to the Sermon: How a Christian Gets into Sin

But if you have your Bibles, you can be turned to 2 Samuel. I want to preach a message today, and this is something that I am going to be honest with you. I was set... Bob, we have known the surgery was coming for a while, and I knew that Bob wanted me to preach for him, and so I had something else completely in mind. I had another message that I was going to preach, and about a week or so ago, maybe some of you guys have experienced this before, God just kind of changed direction on me. I had it, like I said, I had it ready. I knew what I was going to talk about. I was excited about it. Then God just kept kind of dumping something else on me, and I am like, "Why? Why do you want me to...?" I did not know, and I still do not necessarily know, but I believe that God put it on my heart, and I believe that He wants me to preach this message, so I am going to do my best with it. I am going to do my best to be obedient to that and trust that this is what He wanted today.

We are not going to get into any real deep doctrine today. There is nothing that I am going to say today that is going to cause any "oohs and ahs." There is nothing that is going to wow anybody. Nothing like that at all. But like I said, this is just something that God put on my heart, and it is one of those messages that does not get preached out of the Bible all that often. Frankly, it is kind of an uncomfortable message. It is kind of an uncomfortable subject to talk about and story to read, especially just because of who it involves. But God put it in the Bible for a reason, and we are to take the whole counsel of the Word of God. Even though there are great men in the Bible that get caught up in some not-so-great things, it does not mean that we stand here and we think,

"Well, we are better than them," or anything like that. But we are foolish if we do not learn the lessons that are there.

So I am going to talk today about how a Christian gets into sin. I am going to talk about the process and the things that are involved, and how somebody who is serving the Lord and loves the Lord, how they can get caught up into sin that can ruin not only their lives but ruin other people's lives. Then, of course, thankfully with this particular story, how God can still get glory out of it in the end.

Now, Paul describes this battle that we have with the flesh on a daily basis over in Romans chapter 7. As you guys know, the book of Romans can be a difficult book to understand. It can be difficult. The way Bob describes it, I think it is pretty accurate. Paul writes that book almost like a lawyer would write. If you guys have ever read a brief that a lawyer has written, it is like two sentences in, there is smoke coming out of your ears, and it feels like it is English, but you do not know what you just read. You do not understand anything that was in there. This passage in Romans 7 is kind of similar, and you have to sometimes even read it a few times to really get it.

But I want to focus in on just verses 18 and 19 of Romans chapter 7, where Paul says this:

Romans 7:18-19

For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.

For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.

That one simple verse right there is probably the most accurate description of the struggle that we have with our flesh as a Christian every single day. How many of us would be honest enough to admit that every day there are things that we know we should do that we just do not do them? Then there are things that we know that we absolutely should not do, and we do it without really sometimes even feeling bad about it. It is the most amazing thing. You are sitting there, and you are having the conversation in your head. The Holy Spirit is telling you, "The Bible says you cannot do that." And it is like, "I know, Lord, but I am going to do it anyway." Our flesh is exceedingly wicked, and he says, "I know that in me, that is, in my flesh, dwelleth no good thing."

So this is our battle. This is our battle every single day, and we fight it. We are going to fight that battle until the day comes that God calls us home to be with Him at the rapture of the church. I have been saved for a little while now, and it does not take long to really begin to understand why that last verse in the Bible says, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus." Because the longer you have been around and the longer you have spent time trying to serve the Lord, the more times you have screwed up and the more times you have failed Him, and the more times you realize just how frail we are and just how much we fail God. You just get tired of it. You just really, really get tired of it, and you just get to the point where it is like, "Man, I am thankful for my life. I am thankful for my wife and my family. I am thankful for everything I have in my world, but man, I just want to get out of this place. I want to get out of this body. I want to get out of this body of

sin. I want to quit failing my Lord." But this is a struggle. This is what we have, and we have to do it every day.

But how does a Christian really fall into sin? We are going to take a look today in the Bible here in 2 Samuel, one of the greatest types of Christ that there is in the Bible, King David. He is the greatest king that Israel ever had. David was the king that came in, and David portrays, he is a picture of Christ at the Second Coming. David comes in as Israel is still battling a lot of enemies. You guys know the history, you know the story of the nation of Israel. As they were in bondage in Egypt, the devil was setting up all of these nations all over the Middle East, planting them right in that promised land, the land that God had promised to Abraham, to try to keep Israel out of that land. As Moses led them out, and then Joshua led them over the Jordan and into the promised land, they had battles to fight along the way. When they got to the land, they had more battles to fight. King Saul was put in place, and they were still fighting battles. Then Saul, of course, failed, and God got His man on the throne, David. But there were still more battles. There were still more enemies that he had to defeat to get out of the land, and David was the king that ultimately did that.

Now in the book of 2 Samuel, at the beginning of the book, David is now beginning to reign over the house of Judah, and he has basically just found out that Saul is dead, and so he does not have to really be on the run anymore, which was a terrible situation that he was facing in 1 Samuel. But in chapters 3 and 4, he then becomes king over all Israel, so things are starting to progress in the right direction. Chapter 5 says that he defeats the Philistines, and in chapter 6, the ark of the covenant returns to the city of David. In chapter 7, Nathan actually comes to him and tells him at one point, "Go do all that is in thine heart, for the Lord is with thee." In chapter 8, David conquers more land. He starts to get more of the original land grant that was promised to Abraham, and God is getting Israel where He really wants them to be. Then chapter 9, of course, is that great chapter that pictures the grace of God, when you have the story of David and Mephibosheth, where he shows mercy to somebody from the house of Saul, somebody who did not deserve it and had all sorts of problems. Bob preached a message on Mephibosheth just not very long ago. In chapter 10, David goes on and he defeats the Ammonites and the Syrians. So now we are really cooking here. Now we are really getting some things done here, and things are going really, really well for David and for the nation of Israel.

And then we come to chapter 11. Something has changed at this point. Something is now different, and we have got a problem that is getting ready to come around the bend here for old King David.

I want to read you one more verse before we really get started, and it is in Numbers chapter 32 and verse 23. I do not put titles on my message, but if I were to put a title on my message, I think it would be this:

Numbers 32:23

But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the LORD: and be sure your sin will find you out.

Be sure your sin will find you out.

Let us go to the Lord in prayer. Heavenly Father, we love You. We thank You for the Lord Jesus. We thank You for the chance to be able to be in Your house today and get into the Word of God. Lord, I just feel so unequipped to be able to say the things that need to be said today. Yet I believe with all my heart that You put it on my heart a week ago, Lord, and so I am going to do my best to preach what You want me to preach. Lord, I ask that You please just take it. Let Your Holy Spirit do what He wants to do with it. This is something that... this is not a finger-pointing message. This is not anything like that. This is a message that every single one of us in this room needs to be able to hear. We need to look at it. We need to understand it, and we need to be warned by it so that we do not slip into the same type of thing in our own life, Lord. So we just pray that You will be with us today. You let Your Holy Spirit just give me the words and speak through me. Let it be a blessing to everybody in here this morning. I love You, and I ask these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

III. David's Initial Failure: Tarrying at Jerusalem

Now, at the beginning of this chapter, chapter 11, it is no secret. 2 Samuel chapter 11 is the story of David and Bathsheba, and everybody knows the story. But like I said, it is something that we know the story, but I think we fail sometimes to really analyze it and really look at it and see, "Okay, what really went wrong here, and what really went down, and what really happened?" In the first four verses here, we see how David gets into this sin, and let us take a look at this and let us begin to sort of analyze it.

We are going to read here in 2 Samuel 11:1-4:

2 Samuel 11:1-4

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 enquired after the woman. And one said, Is not this Bathsheba, 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.

So here in verse 1, we see the beginnings of the problem for David. It says, "at the time when kings go forth to battle." The battles were not done for David. The battles for Israel were not over. He had not conquered all of the enemies that Israel had, and there was a battle still to be fought. It says, "at the time when kings go forth to battle." What does he do? It says, "David sent Joab and his servants with him and all Israel, and they destroyed the children of the children of

Ammon." So David, at the time when kings are supposed to go forth to battle, David is sending out Joab to the battle. This is a change. Everything up to this point, David was the one leading those armies out in the battle, as he should as the king. And now he is sending Joab.

It reminds me of the story over in 2 Kings of the Shunammite woman, and when Elisha, when she has the son and the boy dies, and she calls for Elisha, and Elisha sends Gehazi, his servant, to go first and to try to heal the boy, and it does not work. That is a principle that shows us that we should never send somebody else to do the job that we are called to do. We should never send somebody else to do what we know we are supposed to do.

In our own lives, in our own families, the question is, are we leading our families the way we are supposed to lead our families? Are we doing the job that we are supposed to do? Are we relying on somebody else? Are we relying on someone else to do what needs to be done with our kids? We cannot rely on Zach and Jenny and their counselors, Aaron and Kelly and Justin and Angela, to give our kids everything that they need out of the Bible. Our kids need it from us. Our kids need the leadership from their dads to show them what is right and what is wrong out of the Bible, to help them with the things that they struggle with, to help them to learn how to fight these battles that they are going to fight with their own flesh as they grow and as they mature and as they begin to serve the Lord. We cannot rely and allow somebody else to do the work that God has called us to do and become complacent in doing so.

Look, the battle went just fine, and that is sort of the thing. At first, the battle was fine, but David still had a problem because David should have been there. David should have been in the battle. He should not have sent Joab to do what he was supposed to be doing. So I want you to look at the end of that verse there, that very last sentence. It says, "But David tarried still at Jerusalem." So David was supposed to be in the fight. He was supposed to be leading his armies into battle, and instead it says he tarried. I want you to remember that. We are going to come back to that. Remember that word "tarry."

Then let us look at 2 Samuel 11:2. It says, "And it came to pass in an eveningtide that David arose from off his bed." Evening time, evening, right? Six o'clock, seven o'clock. So not only did he not go into the battle where he is supposed to be, now what is he doing? He is taking a nap at six o'clock in the evening. You talk about kind of like living the life of luxury at this point. So when he is supposed to be out fighting a battle, now he is laying around in bed just taking it easy. He is taking a load off. He is taking a nap, watching TV. But he is laying in bed. What is he doing laying in bed at six o'clock at night? What is he doing, rising up out of his bed in the evening tide? At the very least, he should be out planting some flowers or something, helping out.

Turn over to 1 Samuel chapter 17. Let us look. Bob always tells us, if you want to get things out of the Bible, you want to learn things out of the Bible, you have to look at the contrast in the Bible, and that is how you learn things. That is how God shows you things. Go back to 1 Samuel chapter 17. This, of course, is the story of David and Goliath. This is sort of the beginning of everything for David, when he really starts to show himself as being the man that God has

chosen out and that God clearly has His hand on. There is a great contrast I see when we look at this story compared to where he is in 2 Samuel chapter 11.

Pick it up here. Look at 1 Samuel 17:20:

1 Samuel 17:20

And David rose up early in the morning, and left the sheep with a keeper, and took, and went, as Jesse had commanded him; and he came to the trench, as the host was going forth to the fight, and shouted for the battle.

Wow, what a difference here. So over there, he is laying in bed taking a nap in the evening. Now it says he is rising up early in the morning. That ought to tell you something right there. It says, "and left the sheep with a keeper." So he is up early in the morning, tending to the sheep, doing exactly what God wanted him to do, doing exactly what we should be doing: tending to the sheep in our lives, whether it be our children, whether it be the people that God has put into our lives, whether it is our wife or whether it is our husband, tending to those sheep. It says, "and took, and went, as Jesse had commanded him." So now we see a son that is obedient to his father. So he is rising up early in the morning, he is tending to the sheep, and as his father commanded him, it says, "he took and he came to the trench as the host was going forth to the fight and shouted for the battle."

Now let us look at 1 Samuel 17:23-24:

1 Samuel 17:23-24

And as he talked with them, behold, there came up the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, out of the armies of the Philistines, and spake according to the same words: and David heard them.

And all the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him, and were sore afraid.

So now Goliath comes up. He shows up on the scene, and he is challenging the nation of Israel. He is going to take it to them, and it says, "all the men, all these mighty men, all these great soldiers of Israel," it says, "they were afraid and they fled."

Then look at 1 Samuel 17:26:

1 Samuel 17:26

And David spake to the men that stood by him, saying, What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine, and taketh away the reproach from Israel? for who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?

So here is David, and you have to know he was a bit of a pipsqueak compared to all these guys that he is standing around, certainly compared to Goliath. And he is sitting here, and he says, "Who is this? Who is this guy that is going to stand here and defy the armies of the living God? Who does he think he is?" And everybody is kind of standing around, and they are thinking, "Who do you think you are, David? I do not know what you think you are going to do."

But look at 1 Samuel 17:31-32:

1 Samuel 17:31-32

And when the words were heard which David spake, they rehearsed them before Saul: and he sent for him.

And David said to Saul, Let no man's heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine.

So they are telling him, they are like, "Saul, there is this guy back here. He is kind of, you know, he is talking. He says he wants to go do something about Goliath." And Saul is like, "Alright, bring him up here." In verse 32, David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail because of him." He said, "Tell these guys to just relax. Do not anybody worry about this Goliath. It is going to be fine." He says, "Thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine."

Now I see a great contrast there. I do not know if you see it, but right aside from the ones we looked at earlier, where it says he is rising up early in the morning compared to when he is laying in bed in the evening tide, now he says, "Thy servant will go and fight." Remember what I told you to pay attention to earlier, what it said he was doing in Jerusalem in 2 Samuel 11:1? So in 2 Samuel 11, it says he is tarrying and napping, and back there it was "go and fight." What a great contrast that is.

How many of us could say the same thing about ourselves? When we first get saved, we are all for it. We are into everything that we can get our hands on from a ministry standpoint. We want everything out of the Bible we can get. We want to be a part of everything that is happening in this church, everything that God is doing. And then somewhere along the line, we get enough victories in our life, victories in our life, that we think that instead of "go and fight," that it is okay to tarry and nap. What a tragedy. What a tragedy.

And then as a result, David sees something that he should not have seen. He gets up. He would have been better off, I guess, if he had just kept napping. But he gets up from his nap, and he goes up onto the roof, and we know, you guys know the story, we just read it, he sees something that he should not have seen, and he is tempted with a very great sin.

1 John 2:16

For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

So these are the three areas of temptation that we know that we face, and David has all of them at this point. Pride of life, clearly, because of all the victories that God had wrought under his command of those armies. He was sitting high on the hog, which is why he felt it was okay to tarry at Jerusalem while he sent the armies into the battle. I am sure he was thinking, "Look, hey, I have had my time. I am going to take it easy for a little while. I got this thing down now. Everything is going pretty good. You guys go ahead and fight the fight."

And then clearly, when it came to Bathsheba, you have got the lust of the eyes. He put his eyes on something that he should not have seen. And then what follows after the lust of the eyes is always the lust of the flesh. It is always where our eyes start is where our body wants to go next. You see it in your kids, the little toddlers. Everything they see, they want to go after. Everything they can get their hands on, they just cannot resist it, whether it is bad form or not, they just cannot resist. We are no different with our own flesh, and he is basically cooked at this point as soon as he stepped up onto that roof. And it really, as soon as he tarried in Jerusalem and did not go to the fight like he should have, and laid down to take a nap in the evening when he should have been fighting for the Lord, he goes up onto that roof, and he is cooked.

Turn over to James chapter 1. Look at James 1:13-15:

James 1:13-15

Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:

But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

"Drawn away of his own lust." We like to, everybody likes to blame the devil. "The devil made me do it." But it says every man gets drawn away of his own lust. The devil does not have to mess really with throwing very much temptation in front of us. We will go find it ourselves, and we will bring it upon ourselves. But look at verse 15: "Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death." He is cooked at this point. His goose is cooked. He is in major, major trouble, and he does not even realize it.

So if we go back to 2 Samuel 11 and we look in verse 3, so he is tempted of this great sin, and what does he do? I think it is interesting because I think it is what a lot of us do. "David sent and enquired." So he is asking. He is like, he is asking people, "Hey, what is up with her? What is up with that? What is up with that girl over there?" And of course, somebody answers, and they are like, "Um, yeah, isn't she the wife of, you know, that guy, Uriah? You heard of him? I think he is one of your mighty men of valor, and I think he is over fighting that battle, you know, David, the one where you should be right now." But he asks about it, and yet when he finds out that she is somebody else's wife, what does he do?

2 Samuel 11:4

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.

Despite what he hears, "David sent messengers and took her." So it is interesting that it makes me ask the question, why did he even bother asking about her in verse 3 if clearly, no matter what the answer was, he was going to send messengers to go take her? He could have just skipped right to verse 4 and just gone to take her. He is the king. He has the power to do what he

wants to do. We are, unfortunately, the king of our own lives. Our flesh becomes the king and the ruler in our lives, and we can do what we want to do.

But how many times when we are tempted with something, when we are faced with something, and we maybe know it is not the right thing to do, our first inclination is to go and ask somebody? Maybe we go to Bob. Maybe we go to somebody that is discipling us. Maybe just somebody that God has kind of put into our world that is helping us a little bit, and we go and ask for counsel. And then what do we do? We take that counsel and we act on it. We do the appropriate and biblical thing, right? No, absolutely not. We take the counsel that we hear, and when it is not what we wanted to hear, we go and do what we want to do anyway. We go and do exactly what we were planning on doing all along.

I used to have a guy several years ago that would do this constantly. I love the kid, and he loved the Lord and always wanted to serve God. He wanted to know the Bible, and he wanted to do the right thing. He would constantly come to me, and he is like, "What do you think about this? What... I wanted..." And I try to, I am not Bob, I am not, so do not... I am not trying to sound like I am, but I try to learn from Bob. I try to do things. I try to pattern anything I do in ministry after what he does. And one of the things I learned from Bob is when it comes to giving counsel to people, you do not get into the practice of telling people what to do. You tell them what their options are. You tell them what the biblical thing is, and you say, "This is what the Bible says," and then it is up to them to choose what they are going to do or what they are not going to do.

But this kid, it never failed. Every time he would come to me and say, "What do you think about this?" And I say, "Well, you know, I mean, the Bible says this, and then you got this over here, and you kind of do not forget to think about that." And it is like, "Oh, okay, alright, okay, okay." And then a couple weeks later, or whenever, if not sooner, he would just go and do what he wanted to do, and it never really seemed to work out all that well. I am not saying it because I gave him this tremendous counsel. I am just saying it because I just told him what the Bible says, and he would choose to ignore it and do what he wanted to do. But this is our flesh. This is what we do. I use him as an example, but I have done the same thing. We are all guilty of that. We know what we are supposed to do. We know what is right and what is wrong, and we go to ask somebody, and we are hoping that we will hear them say, "I think it is okay if you do that." But when we hear differently from what we want, and the Bible is different from what we want to do, we just go and do what we want to do anyway. And that is exactly what David did.

IV. The Cover-Up: Uriah's Death

And now we come to 2 Samuel 11:5, and now we have a problem. I mean, we had a problem, but now we have a problem.

2 Samuel 11:5

And the woman conceived, and sent and told David, and said, I am with child.

Oh boy. So now, I mean, we have a literal playing out of that verse back in James, "when lust conceives, it bringeth forth sin." So now there is a baby, and you cannot exactly get around this

one, and it is pretty clear that that was David's plan all along. If you look at the end of verse 4, it says, "and she returned unto her house." His plan all along was just, "You just go back home, and we will just pretend like this never happened." Yet verse 5 is kind of the old, "You are not going to pretend like this never happened." And we harken back to the verse we read at the beginning, "Be sure your sin will find you out." So now he has got a choice. He has a major, major thing that is happening in his life, and he has got a choice to make about how he is going to deal with it. Is he going to confess it? Is he going to go to the Lord and make the thing right? Is he going to do what needs to be done? Or is he going to try to hide it? Well, I think we know what he does, and we are going to continue on with the story.

Now in 2 Samuel 11, as we carry on with the story, this next section we are going to look at is in verses 6 through 27, and as they say, "The cover-up is always worse than the crime." And boy, is it ever when it comes to this story.

Let us look at 2 Samuel 11:6-7 here:

2 Samuel 11:6-7

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.

Now, this is interesting because David is just... he is us, man. He is us. So he sends for Joab to bring in Uriah. Now he has got a plan. He knows in his mind what he is going to do, what he wants to do with Uriah to try to get himself out of this hot water. And as Uriah comes up, David puts on the old, he is Mr. Spiritual now. He is asking him how the battle is going, "How is Joab? How is everybody doing?" You know, and every time we get out of fellowship and somebody comes up to us, it is always, "Oh, praise the Lord, brother, how are you doing today? Are you loving the Lord today? Oh, I am just loving God. I am just loving life. Everything is good. Praise you, Hallelujah." It is everything we have ever heard, everything we can think of. "Are you enjoying your salvation today? Are you enduring your salvation?" That is David right now. That is David. He is like, "Hey, Uriah, how is the war going, son? Okay, good. I am glad to hear that. Glad to hear that. How is Joab? Joe, alright, alright, very good, very good, very good." Because David knows that the only reason Uriah is even there is not to bring a report from the battle. The only reason that he is there is to try to get David out of some hot water that he is in.

Let us look at 2 Samuel 11:8-11:

2 Samuel 11:8-11

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 to 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.

So he says, "Go, you know what, you have been working hard, Uriah. I want you to take a load off. You can come down to your house, go see your wife, and just enjoy the day. You have not seen your wife in a long time." Without getting into too many details, we know what is happening here. 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 into his house," David said unto Uriah, "Came you not from your journey? Why then did you not go down to your house?" "Uriah, I mean, you were in a tough battle. You were out there in the fight. Why would not you want to go down to your house? I mean, go, I do not understand."

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."

So here is Uriah. You talk about conviction of the Holy Spirit at this point. David has got to be feeling it heavy right now. He thinks he is getting himself out of this problem. He is like, "I got it figured out. I am going to bring Uriah off the battlefield, and she can have the baby. Nobody will think anything different. Everybody will just think that he is the father, and it is fine." Clearly, that is not going to happen. Uriah is not going to have anything of it because Uriah is where he is supposed to be spiritually. He is committed to the battle. Uriah is kind of wondering, "I do not know why I am here. All my guys are back there. They are fighting, and they are sleeping in tents, and they are sleeping on the ground, and they do not have pillows. I mean, they are using rocks for pillows, and I just want to get back. I just want to get back there, David. I do not really know why I am here." So he lays on the steps with the servants because he is like, "If my guys do not get to be in their own house tonight, I am not going to be in my own house." That is the commitment that he has got to the battle. That is what we should have. So another great contrast here between Uriah himself and David with where he is actually at.

And boy, I will tell you, that phrase at the end, that had to have David sweating. He has got to be thinking, "Why did you say that, Uriah?" He says, "as thou livest, and as thy soul liveth, I will not do this thing." And David has got to be like, "Oh boy, that is kind of what I am afraid of, Uriah. That is kind of what I am worried about." Because you guys know, we are under Old Testament law at this point. There are two sins in the Bible that there is no sacrifice for in the Old Testament. One is adultery. So David knows, he is like, "God probably should have killed me already, but God is going to kill me." And he is like, "Uriah, why did you have to say it just that way? As thou livest, as thy soul liveth, I will not do this thing." He is like, "That is kind of what I am trying to do, Uriah. I am trying to keep myself alive at this point."

Then look at 2 Samuel 11:12-13. So David is not giving up. He is like, "Never have a plan without having a backup plan." So he is going to go to the backup plan before he goes to the backup backup plan.

2 Samuel 11:12-13

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.

So here we go. Look at this. Look at what he tells him to do. Remember how I told you to remember that word? What does he tell him? "Tarry here." That was David's problem in the first place. And is not that again just what we do anytime we get caught in sin, anytime that we get caught up not doing what God wants us to do? We get out of fellowship with the Lord, and we get where we are not supposed to be. The very first thing that we do is start getting other people and trying to get them just to do what we are doing. He is like, "Hey, it is okay to tarry. I tarried. I am alright. I love the Lord. You tarry. Tarry for a day."

And then on top of that, you have got to just see this pattern. Once you start going down that path of sin, the Bible principles that you violate, they just start stacking up. Look at what does he do here in verse 13? It says that "he did eat and drink before him, and he made him drunk."

Habakkuk 2:15

Woe unto him that giveth his neighbour drink, that putteth thy bottle to him, and maketh him drunken also!

So David thinks, he is like, "Alright, I cannot get him to go down and spend time with his wife sober, so I will just get him drunk. That will happen. That will work then." And what a terrible testimony for David this is, that even after he gets him drunk, what does Uriah do? It says, "he went out to lie on his bed where with the servants again." So even a drunk Uriah has more discipline than a sober King David at this point. How far away from where he was with the Lord has David fallen at this point?

And guys, this thing is in here not to disparage David. This story is in the Bible as a warning to you and a warning to me. Because I promise you, King David, you look at the Psalms that David wrote. Look at the relationship that David had with God. If any of us in here think that we have a relationship with the Lord that is anywhere close to what David had with God, then you are absolutely out of your mind. I just do not believe it because I know I do not. And yet David, having the relationship that he had with the Lord, was still able to fall into this sin. Boy, we better understand and we better know that the potential is going to be there for us to do the same thing, and we better be careful and we better be watchful for that.

Alright, let us move on to 2 Samuel 11:14, and now we see that now the adulterer is going to become a murderer.

2 Samuel 11:14-17

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.

What a horrible, horrible situation we have here. Not only... so David basically obviously came to the conclusion, he is like, "Alright, well, plan A did not work. Plan 1A did not work. Uriah is just not going to cooperate and do what I need him to do, so clearly my only choice at this point is I have got to just send him back to the battle and just have him be killed in battle." "Because that, I mean, that is normal. Look, people die in battle. I mean, we do not bring every soldier back from whenever we send somebody over to take out one of these armies." And so that is what we will do. So he sends a letter with Uriah to Joab, and he says, "I want you to take Uriah, and I want you to find the hottest battle that there is. I want you to put him all the way up in the front, and not only that, then I want you to retire from him. I want you to just leave him out there, literally leave him hanging out to dry so that he is definitely assured to be killed in the battle."

Listen, that is murder. Absolutely. David had... David was the one that had the power to do that. He did not kill Uriah himself, but he killed Uriah. He murdered Uriah, and in God's eyes, he absolutely committed murder, and in the worst way possible. I mean, for a soldier, that would have to be the worst way to go is that you are out fighting the battle, and you are at the front lines, and you turn around all of a sudden, and you are like, "Where is everybody going?" And then you are dead, and then that is it.

The one thing, one of the greatest promises in the Bible, Hebrews 13:5:

Hebrews 13:5

For he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

Praise God that even though we are willing to leave our brothers and sisters out there and hang them out to dry so they can be killed spiritually, possibly to cover up something that we have done, thank God that He promises that He will never leave us nor forsake us because that had to be a pretty terrible way to die.

And I want you to see something else because you cannot overlook this either. Uriah was not the only one that died in this maneuver. We always talk about how David just murdered Uriah, but there were other men that got killed because of David. It is not like they could just send Uriah. "Alright, Uriah, we want you to go take that city." So they sent him out with a group of other

men, and they all got killed. Look at 2 Samuel 11:17: "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."

Let us pick it up in 2 Samuel 11:18-21:

2 Samuel 11:18-21

Then Joab sent and told David all the things concerning the war;

And charged the messenger, saying, When thou hast made an end of telling the matters of the war unto the king,

And if so be that the king's wrath arise, and he say unto thee, Wherefore approached ye so nigh unto the city when ye did fight? knew ye not that they would shoot from the wall?

Who smote Abimelech the son of Jerubbesheth? did not a woman cast a piece of a millstone upon him from the wall, that he died in Thebez? why went ye nigh the wall? then say thou, Thy servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also.

So he tells the servant, "Go back and tell David what is going on, and if he gets mad about a bunch of guys getting killed because we attacked too close to the wall, just remind him and just say, 'And Uriah was in that group,' and he will be cool with it. He will be alright with it." And unfortunately, he was.

Look at 2 Samuel 11:22-24:

2 Samuel 11:22-24

So the messenger went, and came and shewed David all that Joab had sent him for.

And the messenger said unto David, Surely the men prevailed against us, and came out unto us into the field, and we were upon them even unto the entering of the gate.

And the shooters shot from off the wall upon thy servants; and some of the king's servants be dead, and thy servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also.

So here we go again. He tells David, so David now knows, and he had to know from the start, that Uriah was not going to be the only one that got killed by this clever maneuver that he had thought of. So you have to understand that your sin is going to have a tremendous effect on you and your own life, but it will have far-reaching effects beyond what you understand and can sometimes see and know. Your sin will have effects on other people, and you could cause the death spiritually of other people by getting into something that you should not get into, by you walking away from the Lord and stopping to serve the Lord. There may be other people that, even though it is not an excuse for them, it is a reality that it happened, and it is you that will give account for it at the Judgment Seat of Christ. Do not ever walk to the Judgment Seat of Christ being responsible for the spiritual deaths of young Christians because of your own sin. Trust me, it is going to be bad enough when we have to stand up there at the Great White Throne Judgment and watch God Almighty cast people into the lake of fire, knowing that we did not take

the time to ever share Christ with them, that we did not ever tell them the story. That thought haunts me. I do not know if it does you. So do not add on top of it by being responsible for the deaths of some young Christians because you did not stay faithful to God after everything that He had done for you.

And then it does not get any better here. Look at David's attitude in 2 Samuel 11:25. Listen, let us not kid ourselves, and I think I am hoping that I am painting the picture for you of where David is at here spiritually. This is not something that he just sort of flippantly, kind of accidentally just fell into the sin. It is like, "Oh boy, what do I do?" You do not go down this progression of everything that he has done without having a major, major problem. Because look at his attitude after the servant tells him what he did:

2 Samuel 11:25

Then David said unto the messenger, Thus shalt thou say unto Joab, Let not this thing displease thee, for the sword devoureth one as well as another: make thy battle more strong against the city, and overthrow it: and encourage thou him.

He is like, "Tell Joab, 'Do not worry about it. It is okay. Everybody dies. Everybody dies in battle. People, they come and they go. There is nothing you can do about it. Do not worry about it.'" And all that David was thinking all along was, "I think I might get out of this thing free and clear now. I think everything might be good. I think we got this thing covered." And he does not care about... he has no value even for human life at this point. I mean, who would ever say, "The sword devoureth one as well as another"? "It is all okay. It is all good. People die, Joab. It is okay. You did what you needed to do, and you did what I asked you to do, so good job." And it is just a terrible thing.

Then in 2 Samuel 11:26-27, we see the end of this chapter:

2 Samuel 11:26-27

And when the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she mourned for her husband.

And when the mourning was past, David sent and fetched her to his house, and she became his wife, and bare him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD.

This is the thing that we have to see now, and we are going to get into chapter 12, and we are going to see the conclusion of this thing.

Proverbs 28:13

He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.

David has been doing nothing but try to cover his sins at this point. I will tell you, in verse 27, it says, "when she was done with her mourning, David sent and fetched her to his house, and she became his wife." I bet even at that point, because nobody really knows what is happening, I mean, Joab does, but Joab may not know why he sent Uriah and basically told him to murder

him. But nobody else knows what is happening. David, honestly, really, with everybody around him, is probably getting praised for taking Bathsheba into his house and making her his wife. "Wow, what a great thing. This poor woman, she just lost her husband out on the battlefield, and there is King David. He is taking, he is bringing her into his house, and he is going to make her one of his wives. What an amazing man he is." I doubt that he stopped any of them and said, "No, no, no, no." He probably sat there and smiled. He is like, "Yeah, I am amazing. That was a great thing that I did. Thank you for noticing."

But Proverbs 28:13, "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper." And like we read at the very beginning, "Be sure your sin will find you out." So it is not over for David at this point. He thinks he is free and clear.

V. The Confrontation and Confession

But chapter 12, we get a different side of the story as this continues. So let us look here in 2 Samuel 12:1-14, and now we have the confession. So we have had the cover-up, and now we have got the confession. It is a forced confession. It is a forced confession. It is very clear David did not just come to himself and say, "You know what, Lord, I have got to just make this right." God had to come and hit him over the head so hard with the two-by-four that he finally came to.

But let us read it here, starting in 2 Samuel 12:1-6:

2 Samuel 12:1-6

And the LORD sent Nathan unto David. And he came unto him, and said unto him, There were two men in one city; the one rich, and the other poor.

The rich man had exceeding many flocks and herds:

But the poor man had nothing, save one little ewe lamb, which he had bought and nourished up: and it grew up together with him, and with his children; it did eat of his own meat, and drank of his own cup, and lay in his bosom, and was unto him as a daughter.

And there came a traveller unto the rich man, and he spared to take of his own flock and of his own herd, to dress for the wayfaring man that was come unto him; but took the poor man's lamb, and dressed it for the man that was come to him.

And David's anger was greatly kindled against the man; and he said to Nathan, As the LORD liveth, the man that hath done this thing shall surely die:

And he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity.

So David at this point is probably... he has probably had at least a year that has gone by since his original sin with Bathsheba to confess this thing because we know that at the end of 2 Samuel 11:27 it says, "she bare him a son." That takes about nine months. So it has been about a year since the original sin, and he has never confessed it. He has clearly never made it right. But he forgot that Hebrews 4:13 says:

Hebrews 4:13

Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

We think we hide our sins from other people, and we fool ourselves into thinking that we hide our sins from God. But the Bible says, "all things are naked and open under the eyes of him with whom we have to do." You cannot hide anything from God. It is wasted energy to even try. It makes absolutely no sense.

So God sends Nathan in here, and Nathan is basically setting him up. I love how he does this. I mean, I do not love it because God does it to us too, but you have got to love how he does this. He says, "David, I have got to tell you a story. I have got to see what you should think about this. Listen to what happened." And he tells him this story about this poor guy. He only has one little lamb, and this rich man that has flocks and flocks, and somebody walks in, and he wants to give him a meal, and instead of taking something out of his own flock, when he had just literally maybe hundreds and hundreds of them, he takes the one lamb, the only thing that this one poor man had, and he kills that lamb and dresses it for the meal.

And David gets caught by his own self-righteousness at this point. David, in moral outrage here in 2 Samuel 12:5, says, "his anger was greatly kindled against the man." Oh, well, praise the Lord that David is finally ready to be the spiritual leader that he needs to be. And he tells Nathan, he says, "As the LORD liveth, the man that hath done this thing shall surely die." And he is like, "Hey, where is he? I want him brought before me. We are going to deal with this guy. I cannot believe that somebody would do something like that."

And then we get to 2 Samuel 12:7:

2 Samuel 12:7

And Nathan said to David, Thou art the man.

"Thou art the man, David." How many times do we sit in here, I know I do it, sit in here on a Sunday morning, Bob is preaching a message, and the Holy Spirit is dealing with you on some things. There are some things that are being addressed. There are some things that are being talked about. And how many times do we sit there and we say, "Oh, I hope so and so is listening to that one. That is, yeah, yeah. And I hope that, oh yeah, that is good too. I hope she heard that one. Yeah, praise the Lord. God, You are doing work today. That is good. That is good, Lord. Yeah, You are taking care of everybody today. That is something." And the whole time the Holy Spirit is sitting here, and He is in your ear, and He is saying, "Thou art the man." He is saying, "It is not them over there. That is not who I am talking to today." He says, "I am talking to you. You are the one that has got this problem. You are the one that has got this sin in your life." He says, "Quit looking at everybody else. Thou art the man, David. It is not them. It is you. You are the problem here."

And then in 2 Samuel 12:7-8, God reminds him about everything that He had given him. Look at it:

2 Samuel 12:7-8

And Nathan said to David, Thou art the man. Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I anointed thee king over Israel, and I delivered thee out of the hand of Saul;

And I gave thee thy master's house, and thy master's wives into thy bosom, and gave thee the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that had been too little, I would moreover have given thee such and such things.

"David, what else do I have to do for you? I made you king. I delivered you out of the hand of Saul when he was chasing you all over kingdom come trying to kill you. And I gave thee thy master's house and thy master's wives into thy bosom, and gave thee the house of Israel and of Judah." And then he goes on to say, "And if it had been too little, I would moreover have given unto thee such and such things." He says, "David, I did this, I did this, I did this, and I did this. And then guess what? If it was not enough, I would have done more for you. If you had said you wanted more, I would have done more." That is everything that I did for you. God is not happy at this point clearly with what David has done, especially after the way that He blessed him.

And you have got to think that God does the same thing with us, that He looks at us and He says, "I sent My Son to hang and to die on the cross for you so you do not have to go to hell and burn in the lake of fire for all of eternity. And on top of that, I blessed you abundantly after you got saved. I gave you all of these things in your life. I gave you a church. I gave you a Bible. I gave you the Holy Spirit. I gave you blessing upon blessing upon blessing. And if you wanted more, I told you all you had to do was ask, and I would give you more. And on top of that, I got more for you waiting in eternity if you just stay faithful." You know that God looks at us and is thinking the same thing that He is thinking here with David.

Well then we come to 2 Samuel 12:9-12, and he is beginning to tell him now what is going to happen:

2 Samuel 12:9-12

Wherefore hast thou despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in his sight? thou hast killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and hast taken his wife to be thy wife, and hast slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon.

Now therefore the sword shall never depart from thine house; because thou hast despised me, and hast taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be thy wife.

Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house, and I will take thy wives before thine eyes, and give them unto thy neighbour, and he shall lie with thy wives in the sight of this sun.

For thou didst it secretly: but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun.

So God tells him what is about to happen now, and it is not insignificant. It is a big deal. This is God basically says, "David, you are about to go through some stuff, and this is not going to be fun for you. This is not going to be a good experience for you, but this is what I have got to do

now. You forced Me into this position." I believe that if David had come to God at any point before now and confessed it and made it right, that God would not have run him through the wringer like he is getting ready to. And we make the same mistake. Some of us have to get run through the wringer just because we are not willing to just get honest and just get on our knees and confess our sins to God. Just because we are not willing to just say, "God, I messed up. I messed up, and I am sorry." And if we did that, God would restore fellowship. He would say, "I forgive you. I am washing it away, and it is all good. Let us go forward. Let us get back to work. Let us get back." But we just will not do it. We just hide it. We just try to hide it. We do not want anybody to find out. We think God does not know about it somehow, and God has got to come down and He has got to kick our tail for it.

Remember James 1:15, we read that earlier, remember where it said, "and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death." God tells David here, He says, "You are going to lose some things." He says, "The sword is not going to depart from your house." David had been fighting battles and fighting battles and fighting battles, and God now basically tells him, "You are going to fight battles the rest of your time on the throne. I am not going to give you peace. Not going to give you rest. I might give Israel rest after you are off the throne, but the sword is not going to leave your house." And He says, "Not only that, you are going to have all kinds of problems within your house. I am going to give your wives to other people. You are going to have murder in your house." And boy, let me tell you, it all comes to fruition.

Galatians 6:7

Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

Well, you look at 2 Samuel 12:11, it says, "Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house, and I will take thy wives before thine eyes, and give them unto thy neighbour, and he shall lie with thy wives in the sight of this sun." You sow adultery, you sow lust, you reap the same, and David is here. You sow murder, and you are going to reap the same. There is murder in David's house with Absalom.

Then 2 Samuel 12:13, alright, finally, finally in verse 13, after all of this, we get to David's confession:

2 Samuel 12:13

And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD. And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die.

So now we see God's mercy. I said earlier, and you guys know this, that these two sins are the sins in the Old Testament that there is no sacrifice for. David should have been stoned. He should have been put to death for even doing one of them, much less both of them. But God shows him mercy because it is a great picture of God showing us mercy that even beyond after the grace and the mercy He showed us at Calvary, that after we get saved, when we get caught up in these things, and God should just come down and kill us, He does not. He shows us mercy.

And so David confesses it here, and if we turn over to Psalms chapter 32, we get a little bit more depth to it.

Psalms 32:3-5

When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long.

For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer. Selah.

I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah.

So he finally confesses it, and God forgives him. God forgives him. And just like for us, 1 John 1:9, we hear all the time, "Keep short accounts with God."

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.

But we just have to be willing to do it. When we get caught up into something, when we make a mistake, we just have to look at it and just confess it. It is not that hard, but it is just so hard, right? I say this all the time when I am anytime I am ever doing marriage counseling or premarital or anything like that, or even discipleship, these things out of the Bible, they are not... I said they are very simple. They are very, very simple. They are just not easy. Living a life for the Lord is very simple. It is just really not very easy, and the reason is because of our flesh. It is because of the sin that creeps in, and we have got to stay on top of it. We have got to stay on top of it, and when we make a mistake, just confess it. And God is... He is... that is a promise that right there in 1 John 1:9 says, "He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." We cannot afford to go a single day without confessing those sins, those little things that pop into our lives, because I guarantee you, for David, it was a string of little things that ultimately led up to him tarrying at Jerusalem and then being, sitting there taking that nap, laying in his bed that evening when he should have been out on the battlefield.

VI. God's Chastisement and David's Response

Well, 2 Samuel 12:15-23, God's chastisement comes, and it comes just as He said.

2 Samuel 12:15-23

And Nathan departed unto his house. And the LORD struck the child that Uriah's wife bare unto David, and it was very sick.

David therefore besought God for the child; and David fasted, and went in, and lay all night upon the earth.

And the elders of his house arose, and went to him, to raise him up from the earth: but he would not, neither did he eat bread with them.

And it came to pass on the seventh day, that the child died. And the servants of David feared to tell him that the child was dead: for they said, Behold, while the child was yet alive, we spake unto him, and he would not hearken unto our voice: how will he then vex himself, if we tell him that the child is dead?

But when David saw that his servants whispered, David perceived that the child was dead: therefore David said unto his servants, Is the child dead? And they said, He is dead.

Then David arose from the earth, and washed, and anointed himself, and changed his apparel, and came into the house of the LORD, and worshipped: then he came to his own house; and when he required, they set bread before him, and he did eat.

Then said his servants unto him, What thing is this that thou hast done? thou didst fast and weep for the child, while it was alive; but when the child was dead, thou didst rise and eat bread.

And he said, While the child was yet alive, I fasted and wept: for I said, Who can tell whether God will be gracious to me, that the child may live?

But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.

So David understands, and that must have just been one of the most miserable weeks of his life, those seven days with that child sick, knowing that he was sick because of his own sin, knowing that it was his own child, and he had to sit there while that child... and he knew he was going to die because God told him that he was going to die. But he still fasted and he prayed, and he just thought, "Maybe, maybe God will show me just a little bit more mercy, maybe just a little bit more grace, and He will let the child live." But unfortunately, it was not to be. But he will get to see him again, and that is... there is a blessing in that. And David understood that in verse 23 when he says, "Can I bring him back again? No, I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me." So David knows that he is going to see him again, but he is going to have to go the rest of his life, and he is going to have to miss him, and he is going to have to understand that he is gone because of his own sin, because of his own mistakes. So he loses that child.

But it is not over for David yet, unfortunately, because if you remember back earlier in 2 Samuel 12, when he tells Nathan that he needs to restore the lamb fourfold, there is a principle there. We call it the fourfold principle, and that is, many times when we commit sin, it is going to take four times as long to fix the thing that you messed up, and you might lose four times as much as what you lost in the first place, or what was the problem originally. So David loses this first boy, but there are three more that he is going to lose.

- Amnon, one of his other sons, in 2 Samuel 13:29 gets killed after forcing himself upon his half-sister. So another great example of nice biblical leadership in the home there, David, with your kids, and just more of an idea of when we allow sin into our lives about how it extends down through our family and the problems that come along with it.
- After Amnon, you have Absalom in 2 Samuel 18:15, but that of course is not before he rebels against David and wants to kill him himself, his own son. So a real good time here for David.
- Then the fourth one over in 2 Samuel 20 was Amasa, his nephew.

And now at this point, God is basically done dealing with him. But he has paid a steep price. He has paid a steep price for the sin that he allowed into his life.

But let us turn over to Psalms chapter 51, and I am sure you guys are familiar with it. I surely hope you have read it before, and I imagine many of you, as I have, have spent time poring over the verses of this book when you have had a time yourself where you were out of fellowship, where you got into trouble, and you failed the Lord. This is the great chapter that David writes after this whole period is over with, and we see his heart, and we see where he was with God. I just want to read it. We are just going to read the whole chapter here.

Psalms 51:1-19

Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.

Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me.

Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest.

Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.

Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt 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 which thou hast broken may rejoice.

Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.

Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.

Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation: and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness.

O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering.

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

Do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion: build thou the walls of Jerusalem.

Then shalt thou be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole burnt offering: then shall they offer bullocks upon thine altar.

There is that word "thoroughly." We see that over in the New Testament where it talks about that we are to be "thoroughly furnished unto all good works," and we say it is not "thoroughly," it is "thoroughly" because it has to be from the inside out. David knew that he needed to be washed from the inside out. He could not just put on a clean change of clothes and wash his hands and be like, "Alright, I am good with this." He had a problem that went all the way down to his heart, and he said, "God, wash me thoroughly. Wash me from the inside out because that is what I need." He says, "For I acknowledge my transgressions; and my sin is ever before me." "Against thee,

thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest." "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me." "Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt 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 which thou hast broken may rejoice." Remember talking about those bones waxing old earlier? He is saying, "Lord, heal those bones for me. Make me hear this. Make me hear joy and gladness so that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice." "Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities." "Lord, please just please just forget about what I did. Please, please forgive me for it. Hide Your face from it." "Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me." Now that is the one part of this prayer that we do not have to pray, and we know that in the New Testament God is never going to take His Holy Spirit from us. In the Old Testament, He definitely could have, but He did not, and David was asking Him not to.

Psalms 51:12

Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.

"Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation." You know that is what the Bible tells us. One of the problems that we have when we get into sin is that it says over there, I think it is 1 Peter, and he says, "we are blind and we have forgotten that we were purged from our sins." When we start to get out of fellowship with God, and I think Bob was talking about this if it was not people ministry, it was a Bible study not long ago, but our problem is that we forget what Christ did for us. We forget what He did on a cross. We forget what He suffered through, and we forget what He forgave us for. We forget all the sins in our lives that were blotted out and were washed with that blood. So he says, "Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation, Lord. Let me get back. Let me get back to that day, that first day that I got saved." You guys remember? You guys remember that day? Well, it was a long, long time ago for some of us. For some of you, it was not very long ago at all. But you remember how that felt? I remember how it felt. When God lifted that burden, and I knew that I was going to heaven, I did not have to wonder anymore. I did not have to wonder anymore whether I was going to get to be with Him. It was an amazing, amazing feeling. And we get away from that. We get caught up in this world. We get caught up in our sins, and so we should pray this verse. We should probably pray this verse on a daily basis and just say, "Lord, restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit."

Psalms 51:13

Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.

You know, when we get right with God, and we really get right with God, then that is when we get the right kind of burden for people. That is when we get the right kind of burden for other people, and sinners will be converted unto Him. But we have got to get right with Him first.

Psalms 51:14-17

Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation: and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness.

O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering.

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

He wants a broken spirit more than sacrifice. He wants your heart broken over what you did. He wants your heart broken over the fellowship that was destroyed with Him so that He can restore it.

Psalms 51:18-19

Do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion: build thou the walls of Jerusalem.

Then shalt thou be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole burnt offering: then shall they offer bullocks upon thine altar.

So David has gotten right at this point. This is, like I said, this is a hard message, but this is a message that we all need to hear.

VII. Restoration and Lessons Learned

But especially because it is a message that, although there were some certainly tragedies along the way, the thing ends well. The thing ends well. If you look, God has got David back where he needs to be.

And back in 2 Samuel 12, we are going to close the chapter out here in verses 26 through 31:

2 Samuel 12:26-31

And Joab fought against Rabbah of the children of Ammon, and took the royal city.

And Joab sent messengers to David, and said, I have fought against Rabbah, and have taken the city of waters.

Now therefore gather the rest of the people together, and encamp against the city, and take it: lest I take the city, and it be called after my name.

And David gathered all the people together, and went to Rabbah, and fought against it, and took it.

And he took their king's crown from off his head, the weight whereof was a talent of gold with the precious stones: and it was set on David's head. And he brought forth the spoil of the city in great abundance.

And he brought forth the people that were therein, and put them under saws, and under harrows of iron, and under axes of iron, and made them pass through the brickkiln: and thus did he unto all the cities of the children of Ammon. So David and all the people returned unto Jerusalem.

So now finally David is back where he is supposed to be. He is back out fighting the battle. He is back out on the battlefield leading his troops, fighting against the enemies and winning these victories with God on his side, the way that we are supposed to be. No matter the sin, no matter the mistake, no matter the screw-up, just confess it. Confess it. Deal with it. Let God deal with you on it, and then get back in the fight. We have got to get right back in the fight.

Proverbs 24:16

For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief.

Put it behind you and leave it there. The devil loves to shackle people with memories of sin that God has already forgiven and forgotten. I will say that one more time: the devil loves to shackle people with the memories of sin that God has already forgiven and forgotten. We have got to deal with our sin, and God has got to deal with us on our sin when it happens, there is no doubt about that. But once you deal with it, once it is done, you have got to leave it in the past, and you have got to move forward, and you have got to go back to serving the Lord, or you will just fall right back into it.

Remember what got David in trouble in the first place was that he tarried at Jerusalem. So if he had gone through this whole thing with God, made it right, finally confessed it, God dealt with him on it, and then he continued to tarry at Jerusalem when there were still more battles to fight, he would have fallen right back into the same problems, and something else would have happened. You have got to go back into the fight. You cannot let the mistakes of the past keep you from serving God for the rest of your life. God has got something He wants to do with you, and David is the best example of somebody who probably did more for the Lord, well, definitely than any of us are ever going to do, but did more for the Lord. God did more through his life than maybe anybody else in the Bible, and yet he had this terrible, terrible, terrible time in his life where he was so far out of fellowship that these horrible things happened, and yet God still continued to use him after that. And God wants to continue to use us, but we have got to just confess it, deal with it, and then put it behind us.

And I want to leave you this last closing thought, and we are done here. Look at 2 Samuel 12:24:

2 Samuel 12:24

And David comforted Bathsheba his wife, and went in unto her, and lay with her, and she bare a son, and he called his name Solomon: and the LORD loved him.

So through all of this, after all of the things that happen, adultery, murder, a cover-up, unconfessed sin, yes, God deals harshly with David. He deals very harshly with him. But when he finally makes it right, we see this amazing showing of God's grace that even after he loses his son, Bathsheba loses that boy, she has another son, and it is Solomon. Solomon is the one that comes on the throne after David. Solomon is the one that sits on that throne and is the great picture of Christ on the throne in the Millennium because Solomon is the one that gets to sit on the throne when they have their time of peace and prosperity, and it is the time where Israel is absolutely at its peak and the closest that it is ever going to be outside of the Millennium when

Jesus Christ comes down and sits on the throne Himself. That is the blessing that God gave David through it all and after it all. He still shows him that grace.

I just have got to tell you, He does the same thing for us. We go through these things, and we get into trouble, and we just have got to get on our knees and just thank God for being gracious to us. We just have got to get on our knees and thank the Lord that even though we are stupid, even though we are sinful, even though we are stubborn, and we will not do what He wants us to do, and we will not confess it, we try to hold on to it, we try to hide it, and we try to do all of these things that we know are never going to work, that He is still at the end of it, when we get it right, is willing to show us grace at the very end. He is still willing to help us. He is still willing to do something for us and give us a blessing. That is probably the best verse out of that whole passage for me is that after everything, he gets Solomon out of it, and that is what God is going to do for us. But it is only if we follow that pattern and we get it right.

We can avoid everything that David went through, and that is the other thing we have got to learn out of it. David could have avoided all that a long time ago because the second he confessed it and said, "God, put this away." So you have got to think that if he had confessed it way sooner, God would have put it away, and he would not have had to do everything that he did. He left God no choice. Do not ever get yourself to the point in your life where you leave God no choice but to come down and drop the hammer on you because He will. If He will do it to David, I promise you He will do it to you and He will do it to me, and He has probably done it to some of us before because of our own stubbornness. He will do it again. But just learn the lesson. Learn the lesson. Keep short accounts with God, and let us not get ourselves into those situations.

That is all I have got for you. I hope that was a blessing for you. Let us go to the Lord in prayer, and we will be done today. Heavenly Father, we love You, and we thank You again. We thank You for the Lord Jesus. Thank You so much, Lord, for Your grace. We thank You for Your mercy. Thank You for the mercy You showed us on Calvary, Lord, when You sent Your Son to die for us. But we thank You for Your mercy and Your grace that You show us every day of our lives, that just like David, we can get caught up into sin. We can get caught up in struggles in our lives, but You always have mercy for us. You are always, if we are willing to finally come around and confess it and make it right, that You will help us, Lord. You will help us to get the thing right. You will help us to get back where we need to be, and then You forget about it, and we are just so thankful for that, Lord. So I just pray now that You will continue to be with Bob, Lord. We pray that You will strengthen him. We pray that as everybody goes and visits throughout the day and throughout the rest of this week, that it will be an encouragement to him, Lord. He has got to know how much everybody loves him here and how thankful we are that we have him as a pastor. So we just pray that You will help him through this recovery process, Lord. Help him to be encouraged and just help him to get better. Help his pain to get better. Get him back on his feet as soon as possible and back up here behind this pulpit where he belongs and where we all need him to be, Lord. And we will give You all the honor and glory for everything that was said and done today. We love You, and we ask all these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

Alright, Phil is going to be up here in a few minutes. He will be leading the meeting for restart this afternoon. That is what I forgot to mention.