

Nov 8th 2009 "It's hard to be pure" 2 Sam 11

Some years ago.....a terrible scandal erupted in Washington....**The President Bill Clinton** Admitted....elicit sexual relationships with a woman called Monica
The leader of the most powerful Nation.....throwing his whole life.....couldn't control lust

3000 years b4 that.....a much more godly king.....whose influence was also great in his corner
Suffered from a similar failure.....**yet David's** attempted cover up.....was a lot worse
It led to the murder of several innocent people

The stunning thing about the story of David and.....**is that it** went against the character of as presented to us....up to that point

This man of God.....Who had such a deep trust in God.....**Always did what was right**
Who openly danced before the ark.....So wanted to build.....

Uttered that so humble and sincere a prayer in 2 Sam 7....ends with these words 27ff

"O LORD Almighty, God of Israel, you have revealed this to your servant, saying, 'I will build a house for you.' So your servant has found courage to offer you this prayer. ²⁸ O Sovereign LORD, you are God! Your words are trustworthy, and you have promised these good things to your servant. ²⁹ Now be pleased to bless the house of your servant, that it may continue forever in your sight; for you, O Sovereign LORD, have spoken, and with your blessing the house of your servant will be blessed forever."

When David heard about the deaths of.....he prepared a lament in their honour.....& in 2Sam 1:19

**"Your glory, O Israel, lies slain on your heights.
How the mighty have fallen!"**

Those same words could easily be applied to David.....after this sordid episode.....was revealed to **And it also** bears testimony to the warning that Paul gives.....in 1 Corinthians 10...where he refers to stories from the OT where God's people let Him down.....(Sexual Immorality).....**says** in v11-12

"These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come. ¹²So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!"

Some may see it a little strange.....that this story that reveals **the great** David in such a poor light
Is found in the Bible.....**AND in such detail**

But Paul would say..... it's there for our instruction
To keep us from making the same mistake.....

The story begins with David in the wrong place....2 Sam 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.

A major battle had commenced against the Ammonites the previous year.....David had lead

But with the coming of winter.....the battles had ceased.....

However with Spring came the time to finalize the war.....and David's place as King.....was with

But David didn't go----Instead he stayed back in Jerusalem.....and that's how come
He found himself in the place of great temptation.....rather.....place of duty

The progression into sin from there on.....is worth recording:

1. His commitment to his calling as king was **at a low point.....Priorities**

2. He saw what he shouldn't have seen **and did not turn away**

Billy Graham is reported to have said.....First glance is unavoidable....

Stumbling into a pornographic web site.....**Film**.....compromising situation

3. He investigated his options.....*The woman was very beautiful, ³ and David sent someone to find out about her.* Already gone a step too far

What he discovered.....married.....**Her** husband.....one of the mighty men listed in 23 .who had been with David.....**One** of his bodyguards.....And no doubt a good mate

At this point David is in a very shaky position.....

He knows that what he wants is not allowable

He has already broken the tenth.....**You shall not covet your neighbour's wife**

The ? is....what will David do next.....**He** is bang in the centre....of what James describes in 1:13

God will bless you, if you don't give up when your faith is being tested. He will reward you with a glorious life, just as he rewards everyone who loves him. Don't blame God when you are tempted! God cannot be tempted by evil, and he doesn't use evil to tempt others. We are tempted by our own desires that drag us off and trap us. Our desires make us sin, and when sin is finished with us, it leaves us dead.

James really puts it on the line...Esp the part about not shifting the blame when you are tempted

And the reason for that is that Sin deceives us so easily: **We** can imagine David saying to himself

It will only be the once.....No one will ever know.....And God has made me king....so its my right

4. So in step 4. **David uses his position** to have Bathsheba brought to him.....sleeps with her **Breaks the 7th** commandment:.....Don't commit adultery

5. **His sin refuses to stay hidden**.....Bathsheba becomes pregnant.....David is forced to make involved plans....to cover up his sin

But the problem is....that sin has consequences

Consequences that affect other people..... **and the more** David tried to cover up... the worst

Till

6. **David breaks the 6th commandment**.....Uriah and several other innocent people.....
Soldiers in the service of their king.....were murdered.....**and that** night in Jerusalem
David slept peacefully.....while parents....widows.....children wept for their dead

Sin always destroys

7. **David compounds his sin.**

When he gets the news of the death.....Such is life
As soon as he can he moves Bathsheba into
He continues on with life as though he has done no wrong

But then we come to the final verse line of chapter 11.....**And it's a very scary line indeed**

But the thing David had done displeased the LORD.

I was reading about some of the strange and funny epitaphs....

Memory of an accident in a cemetery in Uniontown, Pennsylvania:

**Here lies the body of Jonathan Blake
Stepped on the gas instead of the brake**

In a cemetery in Silver City, Nevada:

**Here lays Butch, we planted him raw.
He was quick on the trigger, but slow on the draw**

In a cemetery in Hartscombe:

**On the 22nd of June
--Jonathan Fiddle—
Went out of tune.**

Harry Edsel Smith of Albany, New York:

Born 1903—Died 1942

Looked up the elevator shaft to see if the car was on the way down. It was.

Think how terrible to have as your epitaph:

But the thing had done displeased the LORD.

Thankfully the story did not end there.....as we will see next week

For sin confessed is...by the Mercy of God....sin forgiven

When we think of David.....think of a man who confessed.....and who God forgave

He still suffered the consequences of his sin.....But he knew that God had answered...

After he cried out to His God: → Psalm 51:7-12

***Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean;
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins
and blot out all my iniquity. Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence
or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and
grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.***

**And what God gave to David...He promises in all its fullness for us.....who trust in Jesus
And we sure need it.....God wants from us all a pure life lived for Him.....and that's hard**

**We may not commit the sins that DavidBut even when we have given our lives...still sin
Everyone of us.....Doesn't matter how old or young.....And not one of us....sit in judgment**

Ten commandments from TWFT

**But the wonderful free gift....of complete cleansing of all sin.....The sin that separates
Is there for us all to claim anew this morning: 1 John 1:6-9 CEV**

***If we say that we share in life with God and keep on living in the dark, we are
lying and are not living by the truth. But if we live in the light, as God does, we
share in life with each other. And the blood of his Son Jesus washes all our sins
away. If we say that we have not sinned, we are fooling ourselves, and the
truth isn't in our hearts. But if we confess our sins to God, he can always be
trusted to forgive us and take our sins away.***

The story of David...is a warning of sin to be avoided....But its also a promise of cleansing
And of a new clean pure start that is open to all

This morning...lets take advantage of that clean start.....Deal with sin....and walk in purity

