

Let's Worship God

8th-13th June 2026

2 Samuel



II SAMUEL

Monday - 2 Samuel 11:1-2 - The Way to Death

There are 55 chapters in 1st and 2nd Samuel. Out of those 55, the most famous is the story of David and Goliath. But close behind it is the story of David and Bathsheba. One records David's greatest victory. The other records his greatest failure. One is about David's rise. The other is about David's fall. Although we're less than halfway through the book of 2nd Samuel, the consequences of David's actions here cast a long shadow over the rest of the book - and over the rest of his life.

John Calvin says this is a story which should make our hair stand on end, when we think of the fact that such an excellent servant of God like David should fall into such a serious and enormous sin as this. In fact, it's not just the story as a whole that should make our hair stand on end, it's some of the details. Not just the details of what David actually does, but how quickly and easily he seems to do it.

David's fall comes not when he's suffering, but when he's prosperous. There have been those who've suffered terribly for Christ, but have remained faithful. But years later, whenever persecution is no longer a threat, whenever the circumstances of their lives are outwardly better - that's when they fall. At times, hard circumstances can lead to sin. But actually, when things are going well for us, we may be in even more danger of sinning than when things are going badly.

David has been faithful to God throughout his years in the wilderness, and on the run from Saul. Yes, there were a few occasions when he panicked, and stopped trusting God, such as when he ran away to the Philistines. But on the whole he showed immense integrity - repeatedly refusing to take matters into his own hands, even when his men are urging him to kill Saul. But now his wilderness years are over. After a tough first few years, he's now ruling over a united kingdom of Israel and Judah. God is giving him success on the battlefield. He's winning key victories against some of the historic enemies of God's people. We could say that both his domestic and foreign policies are a success. Everything is going well for him. But it's at that point he falls. Satan may come to you when you're at your weakest. But he may also come to you when you're at your strongest.

Question

1. What is the situation in David's life when he commits this great sin?

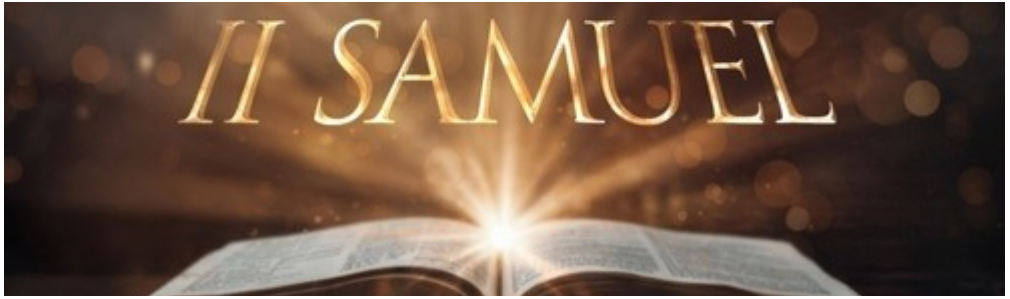
Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would be faithful to the Lord when things are going well.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD. 2 Samuel 11:27b

Praise: Psalm 8A:1-4 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Tuesday - 2 Samuel 11:1-2 - Neglect of Duty

In verse 1 we're presented with someone who's neglecting his duty. We're not told that in so many words, but look how the events of the chapter are introduced. It was the time of the year when kings go out to battle. But where was David? At home. Now did David have to go out and personally fight every battle? No. In the last chapter, it's only in the last few verses that David himself leads his troops into battle. Up till that point, Joab and Abishai have been in charge. So some would say that it isn't necessarily a problem when we find that David is at home while his troops are fighting battles. But the Bible doesn't waste words. If it just wanted to tell us when these events happened, it could have said 'In the spring of the year'. But the fact that it tells us that it was the time of the year when kings went to battle, that David remained in Jerusalem - we're undoubtedly meant to hear that as a rebuke. David was neglecting his duty, and sin soon followed.

It will be the same for us. Not serving as we should makes us unhappy and discontent - and leaves us particularly vulnerable to temptation. Of course, we think it's the opposite. We think that pleasing ourselves will make us happy. But Jesus says it's the other way round. True satisfaction and true joy are found in serving him, not in serving ourselves. It's not just about keeping busy for the sake of it. It's that we were made to live for something bigger than ourselves. If we're not doing that - if we're just focussing on ourselves - we'll be dissatisfied with life, and leave ourselves wide open to the false promises of sin. But when we have joy in serving Christ, sin won't seem as attractive.

So the first step on the road to death is neglect of duty. When I say death, I don't necessarily mean committing murder, which is where this particular chapter ends up. But all sin does lead to death, whether physical or spiritual. James 1.15 tells us that 'desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death'. Even if your sin doesn't lead to murder, it may end with the destruction of your soul. And the first step on that road is neglect of duty.

Question

1. How is David neglecting his duty?
2. What happens when we serve ourselves?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would find joy in serving Christ.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD. 2 Samuel 11:27b

Praise: Psalm 8A:4-7 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

II SAMUEL

Wednesday - 2 Samuel 11:1-3 - Indulging Our Eyes

The second step is indulging our eyes. David's sin wasn't to see Bathsheba. His sin was to keep on looking. As the old saying goes, you can't stop the birds flying overhead, but you can stop them nesting in your hair. David indulges his eyes. He keeps looking, and he doesn't turn away. Then he follows it up by finding out who she is. He's already more susceptible to sin because he's neglecting his duty. But even at this point, even as she catches his eye, it's not too late. But in that moment, when his conscience would have been telling him to look away, he doesn't. And when you do that once, it becomes easier and easier to do it again.

What might indulging our eyes look like for us? Maybe it looks very similar to what David did. Not turning over the channel when something dodgy comes on TV, looking at inappropriate websites, maybe reading books which you know will make you discontent, or indulging in fantasies about someone who isn't your spouse. Or maybe for you it's not sexual temptation. Maybe it's looking at the apparently perfect lives of others on social media, and becoming dissatisfied with your own. Maybe it's gazing at adverts for cars or clothes or houses or holidays, and those adverts shape what you long for in life. If only you could have what the advertisers are offering, you'd be happy. But that too is the way to death. Those things feed on your dissatisfaction with what God has given you, and they lead to more dissatisfaction. The deeper you go down that rabbit hole, the more you'll find that it never ends.

At this point David already had at least seven wives, or concubines. But that's not enough for him. Someone has said: A man who is not satisfied with one woman will never be satisfied with many, because that sin has no limits. David indulges his eyes. And at this point, the sin of adultery, which looked so unlikely when he woke up that morning, isn't actually all that far away at all. The way to death is marked by neglect of duty. It's marked by indulging our eyes.

Questions

1. How does David indulge his eyes?
2. How can we not indulge our eyes?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would put sin to death in our life.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD. 2 Samuel 11:27b

Praise: Psalm 32:1-3 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

II SAMUEL



Thursday - 2 Samuel 11:4-17 - The Sin and the Cover Up

The third step in this path to death is the outward sin. The act that will cast such a long shadow over the rest of David's life is quickly over. He uses Bathsheba and sends her on her way. It's not love, it's just lust. We kid ourselves if we think we're alright because we don't actually reach this stage. Maybe we don't have the opportunities David had, but whether we commit the sin outwardly or not, if we do in our minds, we're already guilty of it. Jesus said: If you look lustfully at a woman, you've already committed adultery in your heart. He said if you're angry with your brother, you're guilty of murder. So even though David's sin seems to come out of nowhere in this chapter, there's still a path by which he ends up there. And sin can take you down paths you would never have dreamed of walking.

This chapter should scare us. And it's not over yet. Because David keeps walking further and further down that path. The fourth step is covering it up. Bathsheba only speaks three words in this whole chapter: 'I am pregnant'. At this point, the chapter gets even scarier, because when David hears it, the only thought in his mind is how he can cover it up. He'll stoop to murder if he has to. Verse 11 really contrasts Uriah's integrity with David's. Uriah's conscience won't let him go home to Bathsheba, despite the fact she's his own wife. Whereas David has had no qualms about going to her, despite the fact she wasn't his wife. The contrast is even greater because Uriah is a Hittite. That means his family didn't originally belong to the people of God. But here he's proving to be a better Israelite than the king of Israel. David sends Uriah back to the battle - unknowingly carrying his own death warrant. One sin has led to more and more. The David of this chapter is almost unrecognisable from the David whose life we've been following from way back when he was a shepherd boy in 1st Samuel 16.

If this chapter doesn't scare us, then there's something wrong. If we can read this chapter and say, 'I would never do those things', then we don't realise that the seeds of every sin are found in the human heart. Even the strongest believer can fall terribly. The best people who have ever lived are capable of doing what David did here.

Question

1. How does Uriah have more integrity than David?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would always be on guard against sin in our life.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD. 2 Samuel 11:27b

Praise: Psalm 32:4-6 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

II SAMUEL

Friday - 2 Samuel 11:14-22 - A Fallen King

God has been so kind to David. He's put all things under his feet. David was ruling as his representative. He's given him so much. Yet David takes the one thing he's not allowed. Does that remind you of anything? It should remind you of the garden of Eden. God had been so kind to Adam and Eve. He'd put all things under their feet. Adam and Eve were ruling as God's representative. He'd given them so much. Yet they take the one thing they're not allowed to.

At what precise moment did David fall? In a very real sense, he fell the moment Adam and Eve took the forbidden fruit. The catechism says that all mankind descended from Adam by ordinary generation - that is by men and women conceiving children - sinned in Adam and fell with him. That includes King David.

We get the Bible completely wrong if we think that it's telling us how we should live if we want to go to heaven. For a start, think of some of its heroes. The two who're mentioned most in the New Testament are Abraham and David. What did they do? Abraham repeatedly lied. He as good as prostituted his wife to save his own skin. David, as we see here, committed adultery and murder. Then in the New Testament you have Jesus' 3 closest disciples: Peter, James and John. James and John want to call down fire on people who won't listen to them. And Peter denies 3 times that he even knows Jesus. Of course, by God's grace all these men were capable of tremendous acts of faith as well. But if those are the depths to which some of the best people in the Bible fell, it's not exactly promising.

The point of the Bible isn't 'here's how to live your life so that God will bless you and take you to heaven'. Rather, as someone has put it, 'the point of the Bible is that God continually and persistently gives his grace to people who don't deserve it, don't even seek it, and don't appreciate it once they get it'. 'The point of the Bible is that the best people who have ever lived cannot [fully] overcome their own sin and self-centredness, but if they cling to the grace of God to the end of their lives, they'll triumph'. David is a fallen king - not just because he commits adultery and murder. But because long before he was a king, he was a fallen human being.

Question

1. Why was David already a fallen king?

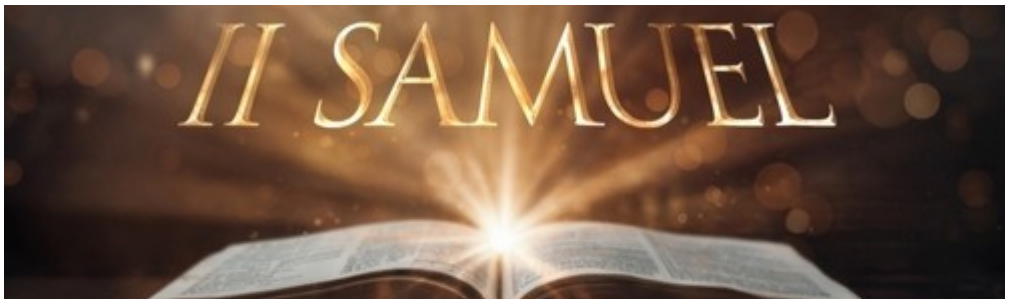
Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for God's grace in your life.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD. 2 Samuel 11:27b

Praise: Psalm 32:7-9 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Saturday - 2 Samuel 11:23-27 - A Better King

Imagine this is as much of the Bible as you've ever read. You've read 2nd Samuel 7 and seen how God's promises for the world are tied up with a king from David's line on the throne. At this point you're probably thinking that a better king is going to come to the throne. But imagine someone then told you that this is as good as it's going to get. That David will be the best king Israel and Judah ever have. That after this, the nation will start to disintegrate. That doesn't give much hope, does it? But that is what's going to happen. Unless a son of David was born who wasn't also a son of Adam. The catechism says that all mankind descended from Adam by ordinary generation, that is by men and women conceiving children. All mankind descended from Adam by ordinary generation sinned in Adam and fell with him. But the New Testament starts with a young woman, Mary, who's found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. He will be a son of David - but not a son of Adam. At least not in the sense that every other human being has been. He will be born king. But he won't have any of the flaws of previous kings of Israel. Whereas David killed to steal a bride. Jesus allowed himself to be killed in order that he might redeem a bride. David took a bride because she was beautiful. The Lord Jesus came to redeem a bride in order that he might make her beautiful. David sacrificed others to save himself. Jesus sacrificed himself to save others.

This chapter is here to show you that even the best people, even David, even you, can't overcome sin and self-centredness. So we need to put our hope not in fallen humanity, whether ourselves or others, but in unfallen humanity - coupled with divinity. This chapter declares to us: humanity can't save itself. We need God himself to intervene. This chapter isn't primarily here to tell you how not to fall into sin. It's too late for that. The moment Adam sinned, you sinned in him and fell with him. The only question is: Will you try and cover that up? As David does here. Or will you confess it? Trying to cover our sin, trying to pretend we're better than we are, it only leads to more misery. What freedom the gospel gives us not to have to try and pretend that we're better than we really are. But to acknowledge our sin. To look to Christ for forgiveness. And then to live a life of joyful service to him.

Question

1. Who is the better king?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD. 2 Samuel 11:27b

Praise: Psalm 32:10-12- See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

The goal of Let's Worship God is to encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.

**God tells us that
Ezra read from
the book of the Law
day after day
and that
the people of God
were filled with joy!**

Let's Worship God is produced
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