

Avoiding Trouble

2 Samuel 11:1-27

January 31, 2010

Intro

As we continue our study of the life of David we come to the story of David's greatest sin. This begins a serious downward spiral for David.

One of the things that we can conclude from studying the lives of different biblical characters is that God does not gloss over their lives. We are given the reality of who men are; both of their faith and of their failures.

I'm convinced that the reason God gives us the reality of people's lives is so we would learn great lessons for our own lives today.

I'm sure there are many people who, when they come into church and hear that we are speaking about David and Bathsheba, would say in their hearts, "Not today, pastor, I brought friends with me to church today and I was hoping to hear something edifying; something to build up our faith."

But this is actually a very important lesson for us to study because in these verses God is giving us an opportunity to learn from David's errors. God gives us this story to warn us, He doesn't want us to be hurt; He doesn't want us to suffer loss. He wants us to be built up.

He doesn't want us to shipwreck our lives, so he gives us clear understanding of how to stay away from the rocks that would destroy our lives.

Illus - I read a book recently on the United States' first exploring expedition of 1838-1844 led by Captain Wilkes. They had come to the mouth of the Columbia River. Even then it was known as one of the most treacherous bars for a ship to cross. Several of the ships held anchor and waited for a pilot, but one of the lieutenants brought his boat charging into the waves and the results were disastrous. How awesome it is that God would give us a pilot, the Word of God, to keep our lives off the rocks.

The west coast here provides an excellent illustration for us. The prevailing winds would take any ship into the rocks. The same is true of our flesh. The prevailing direction of the flesh is to be dashed upon the rocks. How wonderful that God gives us insight and wisdom in his Word.

I. Take Heed Lest You Fall

- 1 This story is filled with one insight after another into how our flesh can get us into trouble.
- 2 But in the same way, it also provides for us great insight for how to avoid trouble.

- 3 The point is that God loves us and so he wants us to avoid those things which will bring sorrow and grief to our lives and to those around us.
- 4 Please let me say it one more time; God loves us and wants us to have the joy of the Lord.

A. Be on the front edge of God's purpose

- 5 The very first verse of this chapter immediately give us an insight into what is happening in David's heart.
- 6 It says, "In the spring, at the time when kings go out to battle..." Well if this is the time when kings go out to battle, then why isn't David going out to battle?
- 7 Everyone needs rest, but that wasn't the issue here. David had the entire winter off. It reads, "In the spring when kings go out to war." It was understood at that time that armies could not function in the mud, so everyone took the winters off.
- 8 I can't tell you how many people have gotten into trouble in their lives because they were bored.
- 9 The lesson for us is that we need to be on the front edge of what God is asking us to do. He fills us with godly purpose and satisfies the thirsty soul.

Matthew 5:6, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied."

Isaiah 58:10-12 He will satisfy your desire in scorched places.

B. Don't stay where you don't belong

- 1 First, David was in Jerusalem when he should have been out with his men.
- 2 Secondly, David went to the edge of his roof and from there he could see a beautiful woman bathing. That would've been the time to step away from the edge.
- 3 The scripture tells us that there is a time to flee because if you give it time, lust will conceive and give birth to sin, which brings forth death.

2 Timothy 2:22, Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

James 1:15-16, Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.

Illus - One of the best biblical illustrations of that would be young Joseph. He had been serving as the manager of Potiphar's estate when his wife tried to seduce him. The scripture tells us that

he ran from there even though she tried to hold onto him.

Illus – There are many places where you don't belong. For example, there are these social web sites today where you can get into intimate relationships with people. "Step away from that web site." No, run from there.

- 1 There is a great scripture that helps us to understand that God always makes a way of escape.

1 Corinthians 10:13, No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

- 2 Instead of stepping away, David got even closer. First, he inquired who she was. When he found out she was the wife of Uriah; that should have put an end to it. But still he got closer to the rocks.

C. Beware the slippery slope

- 4 I've heard many people categorize sin as a "mistake." A mistake, however, is when you go into the women's restroom thinking that it's the men's restroom. That's a mistake.

Illus – One time my family and I were ordering lunch at Wendy's. You stand there while they assemble your order and one day I was standing there munching on the fries they had put down first. All was well until I realized—it wasn't my lunch. That's a mistake.

- 5 This wasn't a mistake. David didn't just all of a sudden sin. This had been building in his life for some time.
- 6 By this time, David had had more than eight wives and concubines. He probably had other wives not listed in scripture.
- 7 A family like this never works as we will soon discover as we continue our study

to David's life.

- 8 There is a very important reason why God told them not to multiply wives...

Deuteronomy 17:14-20 So that his heart does not turn away...

- 1 You would think that with having several wives David would not have any problem in this area, but what seems to be happening is that only increased it.
- 2 What would God have us to do? What can we learn for our own lives today?

II. Strengthen the Inner Man

- 1 It's interesting that when David tried to hide his sin by bringing Uriah up from the war, it failed miserably because of the character of Uriah's heart.
- 2 God was rebuking David by showing him that Uriah is a better man than he was. By showing him Uriah's strength of character, God was confronting David's lack of character.
- 3 That's where the trouble began and that is where it must be rebuilt.

A. Let the Spirit reign over the flesh

- 1 First of all, none of us should be surprised at our flesh. We were born with it, and we will die with it. But that doesn't mean it has to control us.
- 2 Praise God that he gives us the empowering of the Holy Spirit in our lives so that we can have mastery over our flesh.

1 Corinthians 6:12, All things are lawful for me, but I will not be mastered by anything.

1 Corinthians 9:27, but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.

- 3 What we need to do is to strengthen the inner man, strengthened the spirit within us, so that the Spirit reigns over the flesh.

Ephesians 3:16, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man.

Galatians 5:22, But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace ... self-control;

- 4 If our soul, our spirit, is weakened, then the flesh will rear its ugly head, but if we are strengthened in the inner man, then spirit will reign over the flesh for our victory..

Romans 8:5-10 The spirit over the flesh.

Psalm 37:3-4, Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness. Delight yourself in the Lord; and He will give you the desires of your heart.

B. Love the Lord with all your mind

- 5 What God told David was that David had despised the Word of the Lord. The Hebrew word for 'despised' here means to 'lack esteem.'
- 6 In other words, David did not esteem the Word of the Lord; he didn't value it in his heart and in his mind. That's true for us as well when we sin.
- 7 God is as concerned about what we think as much as what we do because what we think determines who we become.
- 8 There are so many scriptures that help us understand this point.

Proverbs 23:7, For as a man thinks in his heart, so is he.

Luke 6:45, The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth what is good; and the evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth what is evil; for his mouth speaks from that which fills his heart.

- 9 What we need to keep in our mind is that the consequences of sin are very expensive. "Stolen water is sweet," the scripture says, yes, that is true, but it is poison to the soul.

Illus – I would love to write a book about all those went the way of sin and it worked out great for them. It actually would be easy to write because there wouldn't be any pages in it. But a book of consequences would be huge.

- 10 After David sinned and then tried to hide it he was in terrible anguish. His mind could not love God because he had such a troubled soul.

Psalm 32:3-4, When I kept silent about my sin, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; my vitality was drained away as with the fever heat of summer.

- 11 But this was also the same Psalm in which David said, "You are my hiding place... you surround me with songs of deliverance."

C. God's grace is still amazing

- 12 This story would not be complete until we understood that David truly repented of his sin and God forgive him.

- 13 By God's grace Solomon came from this marriage and he then sat on the throne of David. In fact, God gave him the name Jedidiah, which means, "beloved of the Lord."
- 14 God wants you to have fellowship with Him, restoration, blessing, and the joy of the Lord.