

**I. Introduction.**

- A. We have come to one of the most tragic chapters in the entire Bible.
- B. I thank God for recording this incident in His perfect Word.
  - 1. It shows that the Bible is honest about its heroes. Jer. 17:5-6
  - 2. It serves as a warning to us against sin and presumption. I Co. 10:12
  - 3. It is instructive about how temptation and sin occur, so that we might be able to resist and escape.
  - 4. It accurately portrays the ugliness and the consequences of sin.
  - 5. It offers hope to the worst of sinners who repent. Ps. 32 51
  - 6. It reminds us that no earthly hero will suffice. We need a better king than David.

**II. David falls into sin. v. 1-5**

- A. David did not fall suddenly – there were harbingers to David's fall. v. 1-2a
  - 1. Rather than seeking and enjoying personal intimacy with one wife, David had acquired many wives for his own power and pleasure. 5:13 Gen. 2:18ff Dt. 17:17
  - 2. Apparently prosperity and security had put David off his guard. Prov. 30:8-9
  - 3. David has drifted into ingratitude and undervaluing the things of God. 12:7-9
  - 4. David was guilty of neglecting his duties as king. v. 1-2a 10:9ff I Sam. 8:20
- B. Sin follows a progression -- first, sin is conceived in the heart. v. 2b-3 James 1:13-14
  - 1. Don't try to blame God when you are tempted. Js. 1:13-14 Gen. 3:12
  - 2. Sin occurs, not because of temptation from the outside, but from within our hearts. Js. 1:13-14 Mark 7:14-23
  - 3. David sees beautiful Bathsheba bathing. v. 2a I Sa. 16:12
  - 4. Temptation often enters through the 'eye-gate'. Gen. 3:6 I Jo. 2:16 II Pe. 2:14 Num. 15:39
  - 5. David then moves from looking, to entertaining lustful thoughts as he inquires about the bathing woman. v. 3a Mt. 5:28
  - 6. The answer David received should have stopped him in his tracks. v. 3b 23:39,34
- C. Sinful desire in the heart ultimately results in the tragic act of sin. v. 4 Js. 1
  - 1. David sends for Bathsheba, thus involving others in his crime.
  - 2. He takes her. 12:4,9,11 Lev. 18:22
  - 3. The description of David's sin with Bathsheba is succinct. v. 4a
  - 4. Afterwards Bathsheba went home.
- D. What responsibility does Bathsheba bear?
  - 1. Shouldn't she been more modest, realizing that she could be seen? I Tim. 2:9
  - 2. Shouldn't she have refused David's advances? Deut. 22:22-24
  - 3. Her husband Uriah was not afraid to stand up to David. v. 11
  - 4. It is ironic that she is so concerned about outward ceremonial cleanness while violating the seventh commandment against adultery. v. 4b Lev. 15:25ff
- E. Finally sin brings forth deadly consequences. v. 5 Js. 1:15b Pr. 6:32-33 7:26f Dt. 22:22
  - 1. The conception of a child, which should be an occasion for great joy, is seen as a tragedy. I Sam. 1:19ff Ps. 127:1ff
  - 2. David's attempts to cover up his guilt will only compound his sin. v. 6ff Nu. 32:23
  - 3. David's sin will affect him and many others for the rest of his life. Gal. 6:7f
  - 4. Sexual sin is not merely a private matter which involves only two people.

### **III. How can we avoid falling into sin?**

#### **A. Be on your guard.**

- 1. Don't think that it can't happen to you. I Co. 10:12 I Pe. 5:8**
- 2. Guard your heart. Prov. 4:23**
- 3. Guard your eyes. II Tim. 2:22**
- 4. Also protect your thoughts. Phil. 4:8-9**
- 5. Neglect of the small things can lead to a big fall. Js. 1:15**
- 6. Don't think that you can toy with sin without experiencing the consequences.**
- 7. Sinful desire indulged will produce sinful acts.**
- 8. Don't be a stumbling block to others.**

#### **B. Nurture your own relationship with the Lord -- don't let your love for Him grow cold. Mt. 22:37 II Tim. 2:22 Rev. 2:5 Rom. 8:13**

- 1. If you are walking closely with God, you will not be vulnerable to sin. Gen. 39:9**
- 2. Remember who you are. Rom. 6:11 Col. 3:5**
- 3. Pray that He will keep you from temptation. Mt. 6:13 Luke 22:40 Jude 1:24**

#### **C. Stay busy fulfilling God's calling on your life. Col. 3:23 II Ti. 1:6**

- 1. You are especially vulnerable to temptation when you are negligent of your duties. I Th. 5:7**
- 2. Stay busy in your vocation, in your family and in your church.**

#### **D. Guard your marriage. Gen. 2:18ff Eph. 5:22ff Prov. 5:15ff I Co. 7:2ff Song of Solomon**

#### **E. If you have started to give in to temptation, abort the sin before it is too late. Gen. 39:6ff II Tim. 2:22 Mt. 5:29-30 Rom. 6:12-14 8:13 I Co. 10:13**

- 1. At every stage David could have chosen to turn from his sin. Job 31:1**
- 2. Take radical action to kill your sin before it kills you. Mt. 5:29f Rom. 8:13**
- 3. Seek accountability.**
- 4. The longer you wait, the worse the consequences will become.**

#### **F. God offers hope and grace to fallen sinners.**

- 1. The significance of David's fall goes beyond merely warning us about temptation. I Co. 10:11**
- 2. David, for all of his excellent qualities, was not able to fulfill God's covenant.**
- 3. We need someone greater than David to be our King.**
- 4. Jesus is the Son of David who never sins or fails. He is a King who gives.**
- 5. Jesus comes to the aid of those who are tempted. Heb. 2:18**
- 6. Jesus forgives those who confess and forsake their sin. I Jo. 1:8-10 Ps. 32**

### **Discussion questions**

- 1. What in David's life made him vulnerable to temptation?**
- 2. How does David's fall into sin follow the progression described in James 1:14-15?**
- 3. How could and should David have aborted his sin at every stage?**
- 4. What other temptations can enter through the 'eye gate'?**
- 5. Was Bathsheba guilty or was she merely a victim of David's sin?**
- 6. How would you answer the person who says that sexual sin is a private matter which involves only two people?**
- 7. What can you do to protect yourself from falling into serious sin?**
- 8. Why is idleness dangerous?**
- 9. How does this passage point to Christ?**