

1  **DAVID AND BATHSHEBA: THE ROAD DOWN**

2 Samuel 11

2  **WARRIORS & POETS**

- Warriors and Poets: A verse-by-verse, chapter-by-chapter study through the united kingdom period of Israel and Judah.
- We've spent the past several weeks of this study looking at the early reign of king David. Things have been going pretty well for him, but now we are coming upon the story that will be the beginning of all of David's woes: His sin with Bathsheba.
- "In the whole of the Old Testament literature there is no chapter more tragic or full of solemn and searching warning than this." (G. Campbell Morgan)
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3  **THE SETUP**

4  **THE WAR WITH THE AMMONITES**

- v. 1 -- *"In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel. And they ravaged the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem."*
- This story comes on the heels of 1 Samuel 10 -- in which the Ammonites began a war with Israel.
- It is the Spring campaign season. In the ancient world (and until recent history) you did not fight during the winter time, since heavy rains and cold made it difficult to travel or campaign.

5  **DAVID STAYS BEHIND**

- David sends Joab with the army, but he does not go himself. It is important to note that David's staying home does not necessarily begin the destructive chain of events. Lust can assail us anywhere -- in fact, we may actually be more vulnerable on the "front lines" of service.
- David's problem of lust is one that began long before his sin with Bathsheba. David rejected God's plan for marriage when he took many wives (1 Samuel 25:42-43, 2 Samuel 3:2-5) -- something which never bodes well in Scripture.

6  **THE SETUP**

- God's original plan for marriage (and the intimacy of the marriage relationship) was that it would be between a single man and a single woman, and that together they would be a picture of Christ's relationship with the Church.
- Any rejection of this design in any form always brings sorrow.

7  **THE SETUP**

- David's practice of adding wives demonstrated a lack of restraint and an indulgence of his passions. "As I think of what happened, of this I am sure, that it did not happen all at once. This matter of Bathsheba was simply the climax of something that had been going on in his life for twenty years." (Redpath)
- Staying home from the battle merely provided the opportunity for David's continual indulgence of the habit of fleshliness he had developed as a young man.

8  **JESUS IS A BETTER KING:**

Christ's temptation was prepared

9  **CHRIST'S TEMPTATION WAS PREPARED**

- Matthew 4:1-3 -- *"Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. And the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.'"*
- Christ fasted for forty days and forty nights, and when he is tempted of the Devil the first thing the Enemy tempts him with is food: He tempts Christ to "prove" His divine power by turning stones in to bread.

10  **CHRIST'S TEMPTATION WAS PREPARED**

- It would have been easy for Jesus to rationalize His way into sin. He was, after all, hungry -- even starving -- and it would have been an easy thing for him to make the stones into food. What could be wrong with that?
- But the sin here is not the satisfaction of a physical urge -- it is the means by which the Devil is tempting Christ to satisfy it. David's sexual desires were given to him by God and in the proper context (of monogamous marriage) there would have been nothing sinful about fulfilling them.

11  **CHRIST'S TEMPTATION WAS PREPARED**

- Christ responds to Satan's attack by reminding him that the physical urges of man must be governed by the Word of God:
- Matthew 4:4 -- *"But he answered, 'It is written,' 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"*

12  **THE SETUP**

- Every temptation has a "setup" -- small sins, attitudes, and moral failures gradually lead to greater ones later on.
- Every victory has a setup too -- Christ resisted temptation by being rooted in Scripture, not by relying on his own force of will. And if there was anyone who could have legitimately relied on his own strength, it would have been Christ. But he "emptied himself."

13  **THE ENCOUNTER**

14  **DAVID SEES**

- v. 2 -- *"It happened, late one afternoon, when David arose from his couch and was walking on the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful."*
- Late in the day, David is unable to rest and is walking ("pacing") on the roof of his palace. He sees from the rooftop a woman who is bathing (Bathsheba) and observes her beauty.

15  **DAVID SEES**

- This entire story begins as a succession of "wrong place wrong time". Bathsheba is bathing, and doing so in such a way that she is visible from the rooftop of the surrounding buildings -- an act of immodesty which was at best careless, and at worse flagrantly immoral.
- David's sin was not in the first look, but rather in the second.

16  **UNSATISFIED**

- David's many wives did not satisfy his lust. You can't *satisfy* lusts of the flesh, because they are primarily rebellious assertions of self. It wasn't so much that David wanted Bathsheba; it was that he would not be satisfied with what God gave him.
- This principle would be illustrated in an exaggerated way in the life of Solomon, David's son. Solomon had 700 wives and 300 concubines. David and Solomon show us that *if one woman isn't enough, 1000 women aren't enough.*

17  **JESUS IS A BETTER KING:**

Christ's temptation was greater

18  **CHRIST'S TEMPTATION WAS GREATER**

- Matthew 4:8-9 -- *Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me."*
- Christ's temptation also culminates on a high place -- in this case a very high mountain, from which Satan showed him "All the kingdoms of the world."

19  **CHRIST'S TEMPTATION WAS GREATER**

- Christ knows what is set before him: Rejection by these people, mocking, and scorn, finally ending in his shameful death at the hands of sinful men. Weakened from hunger, the temptation to despair would have been great.
- It is in that context that the devil offers him "all the kingdoms of the world" -- everything Christ is about to die for. And it can all be His if He will only bow down and worship Satan.

20  **CHRIST'S TEMPTATION WAS GREATER**

- Christ is faced with the greatest temptation -- everything -- and yet he chooses a life of nothing, because he sees the ultimate of consequences -- the "joy set before him."
- Joseph too was more severely tempted to commit sexual immorality than David was here, but he fled that temptation.

21  **THE PURSUIT**

22  **THE PURSUIT**

- v. 3-4a -- *"And David sent and inquired about the woman. And one said, "Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?" So David sent messengers and took her, and she came to him, and he lay with her. (Now she had been purifying herself from her uncleanness.)"*

23  **THE PURSUIT**

- David could have ended the temptation at any time. Even now he was not beyond the point of no return. Even though David has already committed adultery in his heart, there is still time for him to repent and turn away from his sin.
- But David has developed a habit of gratifying his own desires whenever he feels like it, so he sends and inquires as to who the woman is.

24  **THE PURSUIT**

- The word comes back that she is Bathsheba: The daughter of Eliam (and granddaughter of one of David's chief advisers) and the wife of Uriah the Hittite -- one of David's mighty men.
- David sends for her and commits immorality with her, even though he knows that she is the wife of another man.

25  **THOU SHALT NOT COVET**

- Exodus 20:14,17 -- *"You shall not commit adultery... You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's."*

26  **JESUS IS A BETTER KING:**

Christ pursued joy instead of pleasure

27  **CHRIST PURSUED JOY**

- *Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12:1-2)*

28  **CHRIST PURSUED JOY**

- The result of Christ's suffering (and the temptations he resisted on his way to the cross) was and is "Joy, Joy, Joy beyond the bounds of the world."
- But Christ did not resist temptation merely for his own sake – he did so that we too might be able to live a life pleasing to the Father.

29  **THE WAY OF ESCAPE**

- *Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it. Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry. (1 Corinthians 10:12-14)*

30  **JOY AND PLEASURE**

- Joy does not run counter to pleasure. Rather, it sustains it and gives it direction and purpose.
- By rejecting the sinful desires of your flesh or the temptations of the world and the enemies, you are not cutting yourself off from real pleasure – you are exchanging the one-dimensional copy for the three-dimensional reality.

31  **MOSES**

- *By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward. (Hebrews 11:24-26)*

32  **ARE YOU ON THE WAY DOWN?**

- What small compromises are you making right now that will lead to greater temptations later on?
- Are you genuinely satisfied with what God has given you?

- Are you pursuing joy or only temporary pleasure through the gratification of your pride, greed, or lust?
- Thank Jesus for the way of escape He offers.