

# *David's Weakness*

Sunday, April 26, 2020  
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## 2 Samuel 11:1-27

- I. This is the catastrophe of David's life, and also the catastrophe of many other lives.
  - A. The golden years of David's life came to an end right here.
  - B. David had known much adversity and trial in his life, but all of what he had been through before is nothing in comparison to what the rest of his life holds in store after these few moments of sinful pleasure.
  - C. Those who know David well through the Scriptures cannot but wish that this chapter began by saying, "And David died and was gathered unto his fathers."
    1. We cannot help but think that it would have been much better for the world and for the cause of God if he had died rather than commit this horrible sin.
  - D. We all do the same with David as we do with our own calamities brought on by our own sin or the sins of others;
    1. We yearn to roll back time and somehow stop him as he climbs the stairs to the roof of his house that evening.
    2. Looking back on the story we can see what David did not see at that point, and we mourn as we do about our own sins.
- II. The great dilemma in dealing with David's sin is to avoid the danger of encouraging or empowering others in their sin.
  - A. Precisely because David was such a great man in every aspect of life, the fact that he could commit the most heinous of crimes and then be forgiven emboldens many to think they can do the same.
  - B. Therefore, we must be careful when we talk about David's sin to show the effects of this sin on the rest of David's life and on the lives of others.
  - C. Sin has consequences whether we find forgiveness or not.
  - D. We are misrepresenting the Gospel and what the forgiveness of sin really is when we cause people to believe that it will be as if our sin had never happened.
  - E. If there is anything that is obvious from David's life after this, it is the fact that sin has consequences, even when we are forgiven, and this must be a part of the Gospel we preach.
  - F. We cannot make excuse for David by explaining why it happened, but we can profit a great deal ourselves by examining the situation and looking at the factors that brought this tragedy to pass.
  - G. To simply say, "It was his sinful nature" is a lame effort to explain what happened and it does more to encourage others to sin than to warn against it.
- III. Weakness was a major factor in what happened that evening.
  - A. There is far too much to talk about in this matter of David's sin in one message, so we are going to focus today on this one thing – David's weakness.
  - B. Again, weakness is no excuse for yielding to temptation and committing such atrocious sins, but it is a major factor that we must consider.

- C. No man or woman is strong in all areas of life and character – everyone has some weaknesses somewhere.

**A man is weak, not by the power that assails, but by the want of defensive power.**

- D. We should recognize and be aware of our weakness as much as we would an enemy that has vowed to destroy us.
- E. Weakness comes in all forms.
1. It can be a season of our life – David was between 49 and 56 years old when this sin happened – a dangerous and weak time for a man.
  2. It can be a damaged character – David had bad experiences with marriage and engagements, and his purity in this matter was damaged.
    - a) When another man has taken your wife you will never be the same again.
- F. Individual people are more susceptible, or easily tempted by different things.
1. It might be money
  2. It might be the opposite sex
  3. It might be laziness
  4. It might be self-pity
  5. It might be intemperance in eating or other carnal pleasures
  6. There are any number of ways in which a person's weakness might be found
- G. David was a mighty man of war that always won the battle against his foes, but this time he lost the battle, and it turned out to be the most important one of his life.
- H. He lost because he failed to recognize and protect himself from his weakness before he was overtaken by his own lust and desire.
- I. He was weak because he was out of his element.
1. He sent Joab to the battle and he stayed at home.
  2. He was idle in his house when he should have been fighting the battle.
  3. He was being lazy when he should have been busy with the business of his kingdom – he arose from his bed in the evening. (maybe because he could not sleep.)
  4. All this set the atmosphere perfectly for the temptation that was about to happen.
- J. He was at a time in his life when most men stop and start reviewing their life and get discouraged.
1. This was not “youthful lusts” even though Bathsheba was much younger than he.
  2. He was around 50 years old and sitting on top of the world.
  3. But as we can see from people around us right now, worldly success, fame, and power do not ensure happiness, and fulfillment, and satisfaction with life.
- K. It is a time in life when a man is weakened.
1. His resolve and his goals that he has worked so long and hard for are not shining like he thought they would.
  2. It is a time when most people start realizing their youth is passed and they entertain a desire to relive the experiences of their youth again.
  3. It is hard to imagine David could possibly feel this way, but it is almost certain that he did.
  4. The bitter pills he had had to swallow through the years come back up in a time like this.
    - a) His first marriage to Michal, the daughter of Saul and how it turned out so badly; the loss of Jonathan, the only friend like that of his life.
  5. An idle mind is the devil's workshop and that is the time when we begin to recollect and gather up all the injustices and bitter things we have experienced.
  6. It sets the atmosphere for the easy entry of sin and temptation into the mind.

7. Beware of ease and idleness: therein lies the door to sin and temptation.
8. Standing waters gather filth.

L. Do not confuse this kind of weakness with the kind that Paul was talking about when he said, "...when I am weak then am I strong."

1. We are admonished in the Word of God from cover to cover to "be strong!"

1 Corinthians 16:13 Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.

2. We are to "guard our heart," and we are to "walk circumspectly," and we are to be strong against temptation and sin.
3. We are not to "give place to the devil," and many more commands and instructions to keep us from being overcome as David was.

The fleshly passions are like mutinous sailors, to be kept below deck. "Never allow your lower nature anything better than a steerage passage. Let watchfulness wall: the decks as an armed sentinel and shoot down with great promptness anything like a mutiny of riotous appetites." Says the apostle: "Mortify — literally, kill your members which are upon the earth." (*E. P. Thwing.*)

You stand upon the beetling edge of a great precipice, when you look over, from your fancied security, at a wrong thing; and to strain too far, and to look too friendly, leads to a perilous danger of toppling over and being lost. If you know that a thing cannot be won without transgression do not tamper with hankering for it. Keep away from the edge, and shut your eyes from beholding vanity. (*A. Maclaren, D.D.*)

IV. Time alone should be spent in fellowship with God and not in self-pity or recollecting old failures, defeats, missed opportunities, or injustices.

- A. This is how we can be strong and not invite weakness that makes us vulnerable to the enemy of our soul.
- B. We must remember that David was this kind of man probably more than any of us ever have been.

Psalm 55:17 Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice.

Psalm 119:103 How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

Psalm 119:105-106 NUN. Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. I have sworn, and I will perform it, that I will keep thy righteous judgments.

1. Scores of verses like this can be found in the Bible from the heart of David, and yet he fell into the most awful sins possible.
- C. One of the most important lessons from David's great sin is that we should be humbled by it, realizing what kind of man he was, and what kind of person we are.
- D. Let us take heed to ourselves.

Deuteronomy 4:9 Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons;

1 Corinthians 10:12 Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

Hebrews 3:12 Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.