



The Good News

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Learning From David

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Most of us are familiar with the events of David and Bathsheba, recorded in II Sam. 11. As we consider some of the mistakes that David made, let us consider our own lives to avoid making the same mistakes.

Double-take: We learn in II Sam. 11:1ff that David arose out of bed and went for a walk on his roof. As he walked, he was able to see a woman bathing. We learn in 11:2, 3 that David observed that she was very beautiful to behold, and he sent and inquired about her. Here we have David's first mistake: as David saw Bathsheba bathing, he could have guarded his heart and mind by turning away immediately and walking elsewhere. He did not do this, rather he saw that she was beautiful, and allowed himself to be drawn into a mindset that would lead him into even more sin...he wanted her and he was going to do anything he needed to in order to get her. This is often the first step towards the point of no return for so many of us. We often get drawn into doing a double-take towards sin because it looks so good and we want to do whatever it is so bad. We have a choice the moment we are faced with temptation...we can either turn immediately from it, or we can do a double-take and allow ourselves to be drawn in.

Indifference: In 11:3, 4 we find that David inquires concerning Bathsheba and he is told that she was the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite. At this point, David still has control, and he can still decide to do what is right, but we see him call for Bathsheba, and he laid with her, completely indifferent to the fact that she was a married woman. How could he do this? So often, our double-take towards sin focuses our mind on it so much that we become indifferent to anything else. We force out any thoughts that may tell us we are about to sin and we focus on the fulfillment of our lust. This is the point of no return when we allow ourselves to become indifferent to the fact that we are about to forsake our Lord and Savior. David could have left Bathsheba

alone, but he did not. If we make the mistake of doing a double-take, we can still avoid sin by focusing on what God wants us to do...but if we let ourselves become mind-locked on the temptation, indifferent to everything else, we will sin.

Cover-up: In 11:5, we learn that Bathsheba becomes pregnant by David. When he learns of this, he does not decide to face the consequences of his sins and accept responsibility, but rather he decides to cover it up. In 11:6-25, we see David bring Uriah back from the war and get him to sleep with his wife in an effort to deceive Uriah into thinking that it was his baby that had been conceived. This did not work, and so David decided to have Uriah killed in battle by putting him on the front lines, and then having his army retreat, leaving Uriah (and others) to die. Do we see how far a single sin has gone? David has now become a murderer all because he did not want to face responsibility for his mistake. Often we fall into the same trap. We commit sin, and then in an effort to hide that fact, we commit more sin.

Denial: In 12:1ff we find that Nathan the prophet was sent to David. When he arrived, he told David a story about a poor man with one lamb and a rich man with many lambs. By the end of the story, David was very angry and said that he who had done this thing to the poor man would die, and Nathan said the words, "Thou art the man!" It took Nathan coming to David to get him to realize that he had committed sins. It sounds as though David was in denial. We will never have a prophet come and tell us a story to get us to realize we committed sin. We must be aware when we sin so that if we do, we can pray for God's forgiveness. We can never allow ourselves to be in denial regarding sin.

Do we make the same mistakes as David? Let us guard our minds and hearts to make sure we don't fall into the same traps as he did.