

Today's lesson was supposed to be about God's forgiveness of David for his sin of adultery and murder. However, I would like to put that off till next week, so we can look at what David really did, how he got into the fix he was in, and then look at what he did to get forgiveness. Also we will want to see what we can learn from David to help us avoid getting caught into the same trap. I believe that there are lessons to be learned from this that will help us look at the nature of sin and how to get a handle on its far reaching effects.

- I. *David was in the wrong place at the wrong time.* Verses 1–2 1It was customary in those days to have seasons of war. Each side agreed upon the time and duration of the war. This gave the kings time to go to battle and still run the country. However, it was 1David's place to be with his army. He was a soldier, a great warrior. In his younger days the people hailed him as a slayer of 10,000 men. He earned his respect from his courage in battle and his ability to defeat the enemy. Why did David stay at home? No one knows for sure, however, David had just had a victory and probably was content to let his commanders take care of this next battle. Also, he was beginning to become accustom to the luxury of the palace and the finer things of life. You see, when we get to a point where we don't follow God's word exactly, we put ourselves in the position of being tempted by Satan. David was not with his men, nor was he attending to the affairs of state. He was walking up on his roof top. Now, it was the custom to do that because there was no other place to walk. But David generally did this when he was upset or nervous. So his mind was distracted by a lot of things. One of them was Bathsheba.
- II. *David saw and lusted.* Verse 2 1Not only did David look at Bathsheba taking a bath, he watched her take a bath. That is, he stared and lusted. It was a deliberate act on his part to continue to watch her bath. Up to this point, David had not committed any sin. It is no sin to be exposed to temptation. There are ads every day on TV that would make my grandmother blush if she even thought things like that in public, let alone see them in public. David knew he was wrong and could have stopped before things went too far. But he didn't. He lusted after her.
- III. *David yearned in his heart.* Verse 3 1Sin has a way of consuming you. David first saw Bathsheba, then his lusted after her, and that lust became a yearning that he did not want to control. He gave away his

good sense and pure heart by letting the natural man control his thoughts. He deliberately inquired as to who this woman was. He was already beginning to plan his rendezvous with her. He had already committed adultery in his heart.

- IV. *David yielded to his yearning.* Verse 4 2When David sent his messenger to get Bathsheba, David knew he was only one step away from adultery. Now I don't want to minimize Bathsheba's part in this whole affair, but I do want to point out that David had control over the situation from the very beginning. Imagine being called to the King's palace. Not being told why, but just to come. You don't think she put on the dog. I bet the best clothes and perfumes and hairdo, all the trappings. She wanted to impress the king. Her husband worked for the king. It might help get him a promotion. So David had her in an awkward position. I can also imagine the conversation going something like this. "Well, Bathsheba, I bet you get lonely without you husband here. She probably said yes. David then says, "You know, a king gets lonely too. People are afraid to get too close to me, and I really don't have many friends. Would you be my friend?" This was really a bad come on line, but it worked. The rest is history.
- V. *David tried to deceive others.* Verse 8–10 2After Bathsheba told David she was pregnant, he tried to deceive the world, especially Uriah. David called Uriah from the battle on some fake pretense and hoped he would go home, sleep with Bathsheba and then the child would be theirs. But Uriah, being a good soldier, refused to go home while the rest of his men were at war. How many times do we try to manipulate our situations to place blame on others or some situation outside our control, or even just cover it over with a lie? David did just that.
- VI. *David covered his sin with another sin.* Verses 14–17 2David knew he could not face the shame of his sin, so he decided to use his position as king to create an acceptable murder of Uriah. He had Uriah killed in battle. He gave Uriah a hero's funeral and then married Bathsheba. All seemed to go well. Until!
- VII. *David affected many others.* Verse 12:14 2David's sin was great. It hurt him and killed Uriah. It caused Bathsheba grief. But greater than all that, it gave Satan a chance to rejoice and to allow others to blaspheme God. That is a great sin. And finally, the child died because of David's sin. Seldom do we sin alone. Our sin is always against God, but all too

often, we harm others and hurt ourselves. Next week we will see how God granted David forgiveness and how David restored his fellowship with God. 333