

DAVID'S FATAL SIN WITH BATHSHEBA

2 Sam. 11:1-25

IT IS SAID that right after a great triumph comes the greatest risk for a great fall and that is exactly what happened to David, Israel's king.

David's First Mistake

David's plunge from grace started even before he had seen Bathsheba bathing on a rooftop. In 2 Samuel 11:1, we see that it was *"In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle"* that David was still in the royal palace.

So David was not really where he was supposed to be at that time of the year. It was a time where kings are supposed to *"go out to battle"* yet David remained in Jerusalem. That was David's first mistake. He should have had his armour on, not off. All that ensued may have never happened if he had been on the battlefield instead of his bedroom.

There are two fields in which every believer needs to stay in: 1) the battlefield, and 2) the harvest-field.

David's Second Mistake

"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" (1 Sam 11:2).

At dusk, David wakes up from his sleep? What slothfulness on his part! David looked at the naked woman and we know he kept on looking. We could say that this was David's second mistake.

James 1: 14-15 instructs us, that *each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.*

David stopped, he stared, he lusted, he sought her, he lost control of his passion, and he slept with her. His fatal fall with Bathsheba would bring the Lord's sword of death his way, with no hope of departure.

Eve looked at the forbidden fruit and ended up losing her innocence and life. Lot looked at the fertile plains of Sodom and ended up losing his blessings and belongings. Lot's wife looked at the burning cities and ended up as a statue of salt and losing her soul. The sons (angels) of God looked unto the daughters of men and ended up being chained with everlasting chains (Gen. 6:2, 2 Peter 2:4, Jude 6).

A "look" has dragged many down into the quagmire of sin and ruin.

David's Third Mistake

In 2 Samuel 11:3 *"David sent and inquired about the woman. And one said, 'Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?'"* David was in essence being told, Bathsheba was already married, indicating that the king was about to commit a huge mistake. But it didn't register with David. David ignored him and sent messengers to take her, and she came to him, and he lay with her.

Solomon, their second son, put in writing in Proverbs 9:17, "*Stolen waters are sweet, but for how long*"? The bible says, there is pleasure in sin, but only for a season (Heb. 11:25).

David's Fourth Mistake

David should have confessed this sin right away. David should have cried to God, on his face and declare himself guilty, dirty, sinful, and confess to God and acknowledge it before his advisors and even publically before the nation. "I have sinned greatly" should have been his cry.

Instead David plotted a cover up. He chose the way of deception and hypocrisy. Which only led him into further sin and deeper into transgression. He sent word to Joab to have Uriah, Bathsheba's husband to come to Jerusalem and have him be with his wife to think that he got her pregnant instead of David.

The setback for David was that Uriah was a loyal man and instead slept on his own front balcony. The ark of God and the army were out in the fields and so he felt it wasn't right to have the comfort and conveniences of his own home while his companions slept in the open battlefields (2 Sam 11:9-11).

When that scheme failed, David forced Uriah to get drunk in the hopes that he would sleep with his wife, but again, Uriah who was very principled, slept outside of his home, on David's front balcony (2 Sam 11:13).

David's Fifth Mistake

When one ploy had failed another, even more evil was devised. David's hardened heart was now set on removing Uriah from the face of the earth.

David conspired to have Uriah killed by sending a letter to Joab, the commander of the forces, to have Uriah placed in the forefront of the battle and then have the forces retreat to ensure Uriah would be killed (2 Sam 11:14-15). Can you believe this? This was David, the man after God's own heart. Unbelievable!

Sin begets sin. One sin leads to another greater sin in an effort to cover up the first sin. The treachery worked and Uriah died (2 Sam 11:14-17).

But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord (2 Sam. 11:27). It was pure evil in the sight of God. David's sin with Bathsheba was a hot-blooded sin. David's sin with Uriah was a cold-blooded sin.

His sins had compounded so much so, that he broke the 10th, 9th, 8th, 7th, 6th, and 5th commandments. David lived in total misery. He experienced sleepless nights, physical illness, fevers, haunting memories, crushed bones, and weight loss. He felt awfully alone for months on end. He groaned and agonized much, for he had lost the joy of the Lord's presence.

For the best part of one year David repressed his feelings, put on a bold front and tried to mask everything. But God's hand was heavy on him. His painful agony and repentance are recorded in Psalms 32 and 51.

In 2 Samuel 12:13 we come across David's genuine confession. David said to Nathan, "*I have sinned against the Lord.*" And Nathan said to David, "*The Lord also has put away your sin; you shall not die.*"

It was because of God's rich mercy that David wasn't struck down and killed. There was no provision in the law for either the adulterer or the murderer to escape the penalty of death. Neither a sin-offering, nor a trespass offering could atone for such crimes.

But there would remain great consequences for his sins. The sinful seeds he sowed produced a harvest of sorrow which was reaped until the end of his life. Sinning with Bathsheba had devastating consequences for his family, his reign and the nation.

He lost his baby with Bathsheba; one of his sons shamefully raped his wives in broad daytime on the roof of the royal palace, four of his sons were tragically killed, three in his life time. The sword of the Lord never left his house. He had given great occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme His holy Name; therefore God would vindicate Himself by punishing David.

It behoves us to be continually vigilant and on the lookout, for the devil takes no breaks and spares no child of God. Let's us keep the whole armour of God on, that we may be able to stand against the wiles of the Devil (Eph. 6:11), in the day of evil. We become extremely vulnerable if we take it off.
