

Good Character doesn't Guarantee Permanent Success

Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

David's Tragic Fall, 2 Samuel 11:1-4

David is about 50 when this happens.

The long, dull, monotonous years of middle-aged prosperity or middle-aged adversity are excellent campaigning weather for the devil.¹

He has had 20 years of success. 20 Years of living in the palace. 20 years of having his way, being honored for his victories. He's a living legend. Perhaps he forgot the pit out of which he came.

David, for at least a brief moment, was not content with what God gave him.

It isn't just the young bucks that get into trouble, it is the old stags.²

The stage was set earlier, Deuteronomy 17:16, 17

See 2 Samuel 3:2-5; 5:13

Sin and failure earlier in life does not doom one to failure in the future, but it often "paves the way"

David was not doing his duty, 11:1

The battle did not need David, but David needed the battle.³

David did not plan to do this.

David didn't sin in his discretionary time, 11:2, but could have handled it better. Psalm 63:6; 88:1; 1:2; 119:148. Idle hands can be the devil's workshop!

Sometimes we sin not because we plan to, but because we don't plan not to.

Proverbs 7:25

David did not heed a warning.

11:3, "the wife of Uriah?"

¹ C. S. Lewis, *The Screwtape Letters*.

² Paul Tassell

³ Pastor forgets the source of this quote.

David was at the height of his power. Success has its temptations.

Failure and frustrations have their temptations, but so does success.

Life was easy for David

Hard times create dependent people

David was unaccountable.

David was in bed, not in battle.⁴

David had recently done some very godly things.

2 Samuel 9:1; 10:1

Romans 6:21

Matthew 16:17; cf. 16:23

The focus in this passage is on David

Bathsheba clearly sinned as well.

11:4 “She came to him...”

No resistance evidenced, cf. 13:11-14.

David saw a beautiful woman, 11:2

David sent someone to find out about her, 11:3

David sent messengers to get her, 11:4

David slept with her, 11:4

Comments

“At this moment, God is quite unreal to us...Satan does not fill us with hatred of God, but with forgetfulness of God...”⁵

The narrative shifts from public triumph to personal pathos. ... He can have whatever he wants, no restraint, no second thoughts, no reservations, no justification. He simply takes because he can. He is at the culmination of enormous power. But, v 5 with all of that changes. Two Hebrew words change his life forever: “I’m pregnant.” David had been in control. Now...his control ends.⁶

⁴ Swindoll, *David*, p. 183.

⁵ Cited in Swindoll, pp. 185, 186.

⁶ Brueggemann, *First and Second Samuel*, p.272.

David's Cover-up

Sin complicates matters!

He deceives Uriah, 11:6-9

He makes Uriah drunk, 11:10-13

David's control is ebbing away. He cannot control Uriah, so ...

He destroys Uriah, 11:14--25

He displeases the LORD, 11:27.

For sometime, about a year it appears, he thinks he has gotten away with this.

Life will never be the same!

God will forgive.

Even murder...

Proverbs 6:32-35

This could be you!

David is not a sexual pervert.

He loves the Lord.

He knows where his successes came from (2 Sam 5:12).

He wrote many wonderful Psalms.

He is a valiant warrior.

He was one who expressed "hesed" to many people, 2 Sam 9, 10

He was loyal to Saul, his enemy, 1 Sam 24, 26

He was a glorious leader in Israel.

1 Corinthians 10:11, 12.