

**Connection with Unit Theme:** To complement the small group study “*Vigilant Against Complacency*,” this sermon will provide details related to David’s compromising moment. His compromise was a direct result of his lack of vigilance against complacency.

**Introduction:** When someone makes a personal decision to become complacent, the impact of this decision is far reaching. If a student becomes complacent, his grades will drop and he stands the chance of experiencing consequences at home. If an adult becomes complacent at work, he might get passed over for a promotion and his family will not experience the benefits of a pay increase. David was found to be complacent in a moment and his actions resulted in much harm. Let’s look at his actions and determine practical steps to help insure that we are vigilant against a similar mindset.

### **I. David compromised his calling (v. 1)**

All of us have parts of our job that we enjoy doing and parts that we do not enjoy. If the truth be told, we can find ourselves focusing on the parts we like and neglecting the parts that we do not enjoy. Some of us might have even tried to hand off the portions we do not enjoy to others. Going to war had to be one of the less than glamorous parts of being king. But it was still a part of the job and David was called to the position. David’s complacency, however, led to his neglect in his calling. Instead of going to war, as he was supposed to, he sent Joab in his place.

David did not always compromise his calling. A quick study of 1 Samuel 17 shows David tending his flock and being asked by his father to check on his brothers who were facing a possible battle against the Philistines. Verse 20 says, “So, David got up early in the morning, left the flock with someone to keep it, loaded up, and set out as Jesse had charged him.” It would have been much easier to stay with the flock. But he refused to become complacent in what he knew needed to be done. The result of his lack of complacency was a commitment to do what needed to be done.

### **II. David compromised his convictions (v. 2-4)**

When we are complacent, we are much more apt to compromise our convictions. David should have been at war, but he was relaxing at the palace. His lack of activity led to an evening stroll on the roof. While up there, a certain beautiful woman caught his eye and he acted upon his personal sinful desires. David knew that this was not best. Verse three shows that he sent someone to inquire about her. The person reported back that Bathsheba was married. This fact did not stop him. The warning sign had been provided, but David still sent messengers to get her. David was trying to operate in

secret. He kept sending others to inquire and to get her. When we chose to become complacent, we are much more likely to set aside our convictions for our own temporary felt needs.

Once again, this is not normal for David. He was a man of great conviction. Returning to 1 Samuel 17 we find David standing on his conviction when no one else was willing to stand up to the Philistines. Goliath was taunting the Israelites and David presented a question. “Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?” (v. 26). This is conviction. It would be wise for all of us to learn from young David in this context. We need to be vigilant against complacency. When we are complacent, we are much more likely to set aside our convictions. When we do this, we will find ourselves in very compromising positions, like older, but not wiser, King David.

### **III. David compromised his character (v. 6-9)**

David’s downward slide continues in that he ultimately compromises his character. As a result of his actions, Bathsheba becomes pregnant. Instead of confessing his sin to God, David sought to cover it up by bringing Uriah, Bathsheba’s husband, in from battle. He thought he could get away with his sin. Instead, he continued down the path that he knew to be wrong. This is exactly what sin does. It takes us further than we desire and it costs us more than we would ever be willing to pay. Complacency will always lead us in this direction.

Once again, this is out of character for David. First Samuel 17:45 shows a young man of great character. Goliath is coming at David with sword, spear, and javelin. David was going at Goliath in the name of the Lord of Armies. David was not scared; he did not fear. He knew that God was going to provide and protect. Only a man of character can place his faith in God in the manner that David did in his battle against Goliath.

**Conclusion:** We see in two passages two different sides of David. In his battle against his own sinful desires, he is complacent and this leads to compromise. In his battle against Goliath, he is faithful to God and this leads to a great victory.

Which story do you most identify with? If you most identify with David in his early years, let today be a day in which you beg God to help you not become complacent because you see the results of what happens if you do. If, however, you best identify with David in his later years, let today be a day of confession and repentance. God desires to forgive you, all we need to do is cry out to Him in repentance.

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