

As we read the Bible, we need only flip through the beginning pages to learn one thing: no “airbrush” is used to hide the flaws and failures of biblical characters. This is especially true of David.

In the life of David, there are two distinct people that stand out as being associated with him: Goliath and Bathsheba. One was ugly, the other beautiful. One proves to be David’s greatest victory, the other his greatest defeat.

A Failure to Show Up

In 2 Samuel 11:1, we learn it was “the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle.” However, David chose to remain in Jerusalem.

When we first met David, he *ran* to meet Goliath—a young man eager to defend Israel. In our study today, David is probably in his early 50’s with loyal subjects and a secure kingdom. He has “arrived” and yet, he is home hangin’ out when he should be in the battle. You can almost sense trouble is just around the corner.

Men often get in trouble when they think they have “arrived,” when they have a little extra time on their hands. Many times men indulge things they would not display in public. I’m not talking about times of solitude often needed to discipline a man’s soul. I am referring to disengagement that leads to undisciplined indulgence.

A Failure to Back up

David is home alone and has a restless night. Today, David might have gotten up, picked up the remote and flipped through channels. Nothing good on TV? He could have pulled up his email, clicked here, searched there, and then made eye contact with something enticing, something matching his own weakness.

“Let no one say when he is tempted, ‘I am being tempted by God,’ for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he

is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers” (James 1:13-16 ESV).

Remember the word, *death*. Now back to our study.

David—with an amazing heart of honor—dishonored God and destroyed his future because of a careless weakness with Bathsheba. All David had to do was walk away. “Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body (1 Corinthians 6:18 ESV).

Flee immorality! Don’t negotiate,

don’t rationalize, don’t facilitate. Just run!

Secret sin is seductive, exciting and consuming. “Stolen water is sweet, and bread eaten in secret is pleasant” (Proverbs 9:17 ESV). However, it is the raunchiest and most ruthless of all battles you will face throughout your life. You may think you can handle it, but don’t be deceived! You’re not dealing with *beautiful women*; you’re dealing with *unbridled lust*. And know there are always consequences, now or later. In this instance, Bathsheba became pregnant. However, it could be pregnancy, disease, exposure or something else as a result of the sin of immorality.

Remember this: What we cover, God uncovers. What we uncover, God covers.

A Failure to Cover Up

Read 2 Samuel 11:6-11.

What did David do? He sent word for Uriah, Bathsheba’s husband, to be brought home from the battlefield. David was hoping if Uriah slept with Bathsheba, others would assume Uriah was the father of the child. But Uriah slept at the door of the king’s house and did not go to his own home and to Bathsheba.



FLIGHT IN THE PLACE OF TEMPTATION

What happened next? David got Uriah drunk, knowing that alcohol and sex work together. However, this plan failed as well.

Read 2 Samuel 11:13. Uriah was a better man drunk than David was sober.

“In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it by the hand of Uriah. In the letter he wrote, ‘Set Uriah in the forefront of the hardest fighting, and then draw back from him, that he may be struck down, and die’” (2 Samuel 11:14-15 ESV).

Uriah was killed. How hard and callous the heart of a man who gives his mind and heart to immorality!

“... behold, you have sinned against the Lord, and **be sure** your sin will find you out” (Numbers 32:23 ESV).

A Failure to Man Up

Read 2 Samuel 11-12.

David was miserable following these events and his writings reveal the internal impact of his sin.

Read Psalm 32:4-5.

No one knew of David’s sin and David refused to “man up.” But ultimately, he had to face his sin.

In 2 Samuel 12:1, we read that the LORD sent the prophet Nathan to David. Nathan presented a problem to David, an issue of justice that needed the king’s attention. After David listened to the scenario, 2 Samuel 12:5 tells us that “David’s anger was greatly kindled against the man, and he said to Nathan, ‘As the Lord lives, the man who has done this deserves to die...’” Then Nathan discloses, “You are the man!” (2 Samuel 12:7 ESV).

A Failure to Clean Up

Read 2 Samuel 13.

The toxic impact of David’s actions had long term affects on his legacy and kingdom. There are things in life God will forgive, but you cannot fix. Never presume on grace.

Read Psalm 51. This is the great confession of David, but it does not bring resolution to the impact of his sin.

Read Galatians 6:7-8. We reap what we sow. We reap later than we sow. We reap more than we sow.

When David’s “crop” came in, the baby died, his daughter was raped, son Absalom rebelled and later was killed.

Don’t presume on God’s grace or that you will escape the consequences of sin.