

## Up, Then Down

### What We Are Learning In This Series:

1. We learn a lot about someone by watching how they respond in really bad or in really good times.
2. Life is all about good times and bad times. As Christians, we need to be able to handle both of them properly.

### The Story

1. It is spring and therefore time to inspect your territory and push back all of your enemies. A siege can take a long time!
2. David didn't go along with his army and some say that this is the reason for his sin.
  - But David didn't go into battle in the previous chapter. It showed his leadership abilities. He didn't sin then.
  - David is 50 and his men don't need him to go into battle.
 

*"But Abishai son of Zeruiah came to David's rescue; he struck the Philistine down and killed him. Then David's men swore to him, saying, 'Never again will you go out with us to battle, so that the lamp of Israel will not be extinguished.'" - 2 Samuel 21:17*
  - The real problem is that David is idle. This is dangerous! (*Idle hands are the devil's workshop!*)
3. David takes a walk on his rooftop. This is common in David's time. He probably wasn't looking for sin at all.
  - Very few people go looking for sin
  - It wasn't sin for David to see Bathsheba bathing.
  - Bathsheba was probably not looking for sin either. However, she yielded to David's offer.
4. David and Bathsheba commit adultery and she goes home.
  - *This is especially sad when you consider....*
5. The adultery of David and Bathsheba leads to pregnancy.
  - This is particularly a problem when your husband hasn't been home for many months.
6. David brings Bathsheba's husband, Uriah, home from the battle so that he could spend some quality time with his wife.
  - Uriah refuses to sleep with his wife on two consecutive nights.
7. David sends Uriah back to battle with secret instructions to General Joab that Uriah should be placed in a suicide assignment.

8. Joab sends word back to David that the plan worked and Uriah is now dead.
9. David believed that he "got away with" his many sins.

*"David told the messenger, 'Say this to Joab: 'Don't let this upset you; the sword devours one as well as another. Press the attack against the city and destroy it.' Say this to encourage Joab.'" - 2 Samuel 11:25*

*"After the time of mourning was over, David had her brought to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing David had done displeased the LORD." - 2 Samuel 11:27*

### Some Lessons About Sin

*"...but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death." - James 1:14-15*

1. Sin often begins innocently by an attractive sight, an overheard conversation, or even by a passing thought. Run!
2. Sin often "conceives" when we are idle (in thought or deed).
 

*"If you are idle, be not solitary. If you are solitary, be not idle." - Samuel Johnson*
3. Sin develops with envious, lustful, or proud desires of the heart.
4. Sin often leads to more sin – specifically the sin of deception.
5. Sin can lead to violent sin and great regret.
6. Sin often leads others to sin.
 

*"Joab sent David a full account of the battle. He instructed the messenger: 'When you have finished giving the king this account of the battle, the king's anger may flare up, and he may ask you, 'Why did you get so close to the city to fight?' If he asks you this, then say to him, 'Also, your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead.'" - 2 Samuel 11:18-20*
7. Sin is something that you never "get away with".
  - God knows your thoughts and actions.
  - Your sin often becomes known to others.
  - You carry your guilt and it makes you spiritually weak.
 

*"God does not allow His children to sin successfully." - Charles Spurgeon*
8. Sin leads to tragic consequences. (2 Samuel 12:10-14)

### Some Thoughts to Consider

1. Sometimes people care more about how they look to others on the outside than how they look to God on the inside.
2. David faced two great giants in his lifetime – Goliath and Adultery! He killed the one but the other "killed" him. *What is your most dangerous giant and how are you preparing to defeat it?*

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