

# Lessons From Kings - David

Have you pictured what your life would be like if you had it all? I believe we all dream this dream from time to time.

Maybe it's motivated by boredom, discontent, or maybe it's just vision casting or goal setting for you or your family. It's good to have goals in life. But where our mistake is often made is in thinking that if we did have it all, life would be easy or perfect.

But there's one major defect that would remain...you are human. That means you still have weaknesses...flaws...defects...there would still be that area that the devil will try to get in to destroy you. The question is...will you let him?

King David...everyone knows David, if from nothing else you know the story of David and Goliath. David is a guy who had it all. If you were to look at his life at the end of 2 Samuel chapter 10, while he's been through some junk...he seems to have made it through and to the top of the mountain.

God has blessed David tremendously with military victories over their enemies...their territory was expanding...they had pretty much all of the land the Lord had promised to Abraham and Moses. David is living a life that was pleasing to God...honoring God...LIFE WAS GOOD...

## **1 Kings 15:5 (NKJV)**

because David did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, and had not turned aside from anything that He commanded him all the days of his life, except in the matter of Uriah the Hittite.

We remember David as the man after God's own heart...and even David had a "but" moment...

## **2 Samuel 11:1 (NKJV)**

It happened in the spring of the year, at the time when kings go out to battle, that David sent Joab and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the people of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem.

In those days, in that culture, the king went to the battle field. Read through the OT, you see king after king get killed in battle. But David, even in all of his military success, with God's favor and blessing...sure to win the battle...sends his guys and stays home!

It does not matter how successful you have been, or if you have it all...if you are not where you are supposed to be...you're probably going to find trouble.

David, instead of going to battle (for the Lord) he takes the day off. WHY? We have no idea!

Was he bored? Overconfident? Was he, the man after God's own heart, taking a "me day" and pursuing what his own heart desired?

We don't know for sure but we do know that when we put ourselves in a place other than where God wants us to be, we set ourselves up to fail and we become more vulnerable to temptation to do what we know we shouldn't do...

I remember as a teenager, when I was where I was supposed to be (where my parents said was ok to be) it was a place where there usually wasn't much trouble. It was when I stepped out of that place and went where I wasn't supposed to be...there was trouble, danger, greater temptation, every single time. And I was way more likely to do something I knew I shouldn't when I was where I wasn't supposed to be.

### **2 Samuel 11:2 (NKJV)**

Then it happened one evening that David arose from his bed and walked on the roof of the king's house. And from the roof he saw a woman bathing, and the woman was very beautiful to behold.

David is not only at home while the boys are at war...he's laying around in BED all day...he got up in the evening! Evening would have been considered around sunset...and he walks out on the roof...it was normal, because they had flat areas made for this...plus he was king, his place was big and tall, and he could see all over the land.

And David sees more than a beautiful sunset, he sees a woman. A VERY beautiful woman. But not just a very beautiful woman...one that is bathing. In her own backyard. She was not trying to be sexy or seen. She had just completed that time of the month and was ceremonially cleansing...and the men were off at war. There wasn't supposed to be any guys around.

David isn't where he should be, and now he is seeing what he shouldn't see...I read this story and I think "look away David, run inside, get in the chariot and get out to battle, don't do it, don't look again!"

### **2 Samuel 11:3 (NKJV)**

So David sent and inquired about the woman. And someone said, "Is this not Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?"

"NO DAVID...NO!" When temptation comes, and it will, don't linger...don't entertain the thought!

### **James 4:7 (NKJV)**

Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

If David would have been submitted to God in this moment, he would have left! Not go inside and keep peeking out the window...not stroll by her house...not lay back on the bed and think about “what if”, GET AWAY. Go where you’re supposed to be. SUBMIT to God, RESIST the devil...he will flee!

We leave out that submit to God part. It means to arrange under, you agree to give up control and obey God’s plan for you. THEN you can resist...

But David inquires...“tell me more”.

**1 Corinthians 10:13 (NKJV)**

No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

“The wife of Uriah the Hittite” that was the way of escape...I know she’s pretty, I know you’re bored and not where you’re supposed to be...but she is the wife of Uriah the Hittite...she’s taken...she’s off the market...not available...

But David took the bait, now the devil sets the hook...

**2 Samuel 11:4-5 (NKJV)**

Then David sent messengers, and took her; and she came to him, and he lay with her, for she was cleansed from her impurity; and she returned to her house. 5 And the woman conceived; so she sent and told David, and said, “I am with child.”

David gets what he wants. He commits adultery with the wife of Uriah the Hittite.

David isn’t where he should be, seeing what he shouldn’t see, then does what he shouldn’t do...he sinned. Do you know that sin **always** has consequences?

*“Sin will take you farther than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay, and cost you more than you want to pay.” — Ravi Zaccharias*

David, the man of God, sinned. He slept with the wife of Uriah the Hittite. It may have appeared that Uriah was just “some guy” yet he was listed in 2 Samuel 23 as one of David’s mighty men. He was no stranger to the king...

Yet unconfessed, unrepented sin leads to more sin...He slept with the wife of Uriah the Hittite, now she’s pregnant, how does he “get out of this”

That is NEVER a good question for a child of God to ask. There is no way “out” only through...

You don't try to cover up sin, you repent and take it to Jesus and He takes it through His blood and makes you clean.

But David tries to cover up...

**2 Samuel 11:6-13 (NKJV)**

Then David sent to Joab, saying, "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent Uriah to David. 7 When Uriah had come to him, David asked how Joab was doing, and how the people were doing, and how the war prospered. 8 And David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house and wash your feet." So Uriah departed from the king's house, and a gift of food from the king followed him. 9 But Uriah slept at the door of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and did not go down to his house. 10 So when they told David, saying, "Uriah did not go down to his house," David said to Uriah, "Did you not come from a journey? Why did you not go down to your house?"

11 And Uriah said to David, "The ark and Israel and Judah are dwelling in tents, and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are encamped in the open fields. Shall I then go to my house to eat and drink, and to lie with my wife? As you live, and as your soul lives, I will not do this thing."

12 Then David said to Uriah, "Wait here today also, and tomorrow I will let you depart." So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day and the next. 13 Now when David called him, he ate and drank before him; and he made him drunk. And at evening he went out to lie on his bed with the servants of his lord, but he did not go down to his house.

David tries to manipulate Uriah to sleep with his wife to cover up the sin and let Uriah think it is his child. David is king, Uriah is a soldier in David's army, yet Uriah is the one who models honorable character here...

Always let your character exceed your authority.

David had all authority, yet he uses his power to cover his character flaw. Uriah is given special authority, come home, enjoy time with your wife while your men are in battle. Yet Uriah knew it was not right and he chose not to do it. He let his character exceed his authority.

This means that just because you CAN do something, it doesn't mean you SHOULD.

Uriah has the attitude that as surely as David lives, he will not do such a thing. David has the attitude that even if Uriah has to die, he will do such a thing.

**2 Samuel 11:14-15 (NKJV)**

In the morning it happened that David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it by the hand of Uriah. 15 And he wrote in the letter, saying, "Set Uriah in the forefront of the hottest battle, and retreat from him, that he may be struck down and die."

Joab makes it happen, Uriah appears to be killed in battle when in fact he was murdered by his king. Uriah died in honor because he chose character over authority. They won the war, I'm sure Uriah was recognized as a hero, going out on top, serving his king, his people...

**2 Samuel 11:26-27 (NKJV)**

When the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she mourned for her husband. 27 And when her mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord.

It seems as if David has literally got away with murder. He gets the girl, has the child. No one knows what really happened....except God.

The thing that David had done displeased the Lord. Upon further study, displeased in this context really means grieved...the Lord had great sorrow because of what David did.

He had given David everything. David was the most blessed and prosperous king to have lived at this point (probably still is aside from his son Solomon).

**1 Kings 15:5 (NKJV)**

because David did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, and had not turned aside from anything that He commanded him all the days of his life, except in the matter of Uriah the Hittite.

This was David's big failure. It started with being in the wrong place, to looking at the wrong thing, then thinking the wrong thoughts, acting on them, and covering it up.

There were so many points in there where David could have stopped this runaway train...yet he didn't...and there were consequences.

Nathan the prophet rebuked David. That son died. His family was in constant turmoil, rebellion and unfaithfulness.

Although David made this terrible mistake, he was still known as "a man after God's own heart."

In Psalm 51, we see David's prayer to God to cleanse him from his sin, create in him a clean heart and renew a right spirit within him. He realized that what he had done was a mistake, but he didn't let that mistake keep him chained up and imprisoned in the past. He went on to do great things for God.

If you've messed up...your story can still be redeemed. We remember this big screw up of David's yet we don't think of David as a screw up...we think of him as a man after God's own heart...

Learn from King David today.

If you are not where God wants you, it's time to get there

If you are looking at things you shouldn't, it's time to stop and look to Jesus

If you are thinking things you shouldn't, it's time to renew your mind in the things of God

If you are doing things you shouldn't, it's not too late to turn away and start doing the things you should

Let your character be greater than your authority.

It's time to admit your sin to Jesus, ask for forgiveness, let Him cleanse you, create in your a clean heart, renew a steadfast spirit, restore the joy of salvation, uphold you, and let the Holy Spirit teach you His ways