

# The Gospel According to David

The Devastation of Sin

2 Samuel 11, Psalm 32

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2 Samuel 11 — David & Bathsheba

David was a man after God's own heart. He trusted God, worshipped him, and had experienced his power and presence.

How could a man who knew God have such an incredible moral failing?

## 1. The Pattern of Sin

The same pattern appears in Genesis 3 and 2 Samuel 11.

She saw. She desired. She took. David saw. He desired. He took.

The progression:

1. Desire takes control — A competing desire is given control and acted upon.
2. Instinct to hide — Conceal our sin and avoid uncomfortable guilt.
3. Self-deception and rationalization — Retell the story to preserve our sense of goodness.
4. Redefine good and evil — Determine right and wrong on our own terms.

David's actions are extreme. But the movements of his heart are not unfamiliar.

## 2. The Problem of the Heart

The heart is the core of who we are. It drives and determines what we do.

Mark 7:21–23 — Evil comes from within, out of people's hearts.

Jeremiah 17:9 — "The heart is more deceitful than anything else, and incurable—who can understand it?"

## 3. The Hope of Jesus

2 Samuel 11:27 — "However, the Lord considered what David had done to be evil."

God does not compromise his holiness. But he does pursue. Jesus is the King who:

- Left his home to win the battle.
- Did not abuse his power but became a servant.
- Did not take but gave everything, even his life.
- Did not cover up his sin but covered ours with his righteousness.

## 4. From Hiding to Our Hiding Place

Psalm 32:1–7 The God we hide from becomes our hiding place.

"This is the gospel—We are more sinful and flawed in ourselves than we ever dared believe, yet at the very same time we are more loved and accepted in Jesus Christ than we ever dared hope." – Tim Keller

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**Series:** The Gospel According to David  
**Title:** The Devastation of Sin  
**Primary Passage:** 2 Samuel 11  
**Secondary Passage:** Psalm 32

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## GOING DEEPER

Can you think of a time when your own reaction or behaviour surprised you? What did it reveal about yourself? Why do you think it can be difficult to reconcile our good intentions with our actual behaviour?

Read 2 Samuel 11. David was described as a man after God's own heart, yet his actions in this chapter reveal a very different side of him.

- What stands out to you about the progression of David's choices throughout this story?
- Where do you see the pattern of desire, hiding, justification, and redefining good and evil?
- Why do you think David continued to escalate his actions rather than acknowledge what he had done?

Our actions flow from our hearts (Jeremiah 17:9; Mark 21-23). Where do you recognize the pattern of sin in your own life, even in seemingly small ways? What are some ways we attempt to hide, minimize, or justify our sin, both to ourselves and to others? Why is changing our behaviour or becoming more self-aware not enough to transform our hearts?

Read Psalm 32. David describes the burden of hiding his sin and the joy of finally acknowledging it before God.

- What changes when we believe that God fully knows us and still pursues us in love?
- How does the truth that there is no condemnation in Christ give us freedom to be honest about our sin?
- David describes God as his hiding place. What is the difference between hiding from God and finding safety in God?

Psalm 139:23–24

“Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my concerns. See if there is any offensive way in me; lead me in the everlasting way.”

What might it look like for you to stop hiding and invite God to search your heart?

### **Around a TABLE with friends this week ask...**

**Question:** Tell about a time when you were tempted to hide something you had done or were struggling with, but chose to be honest instead. What gave you the courage to be honest, and what happened as a result?

**Passage:** Psalm 32:3-7 When I kept silent, my bones became brittle from my groaning all day long. 4 For day and night your hand was heavy on me; my strength was drained as in the summer's heat. Selah 5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not conceal my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah

**Promise:** Because of Jesus, we can be fully known without fear of condemnation. We don't have to hide, defend, or make ourselves better before coming to God. His love gives us the safety to be honest about who we are and the freedom to be transformed by his grace.