

David's Downfall: Making Provision for the Flesh 2 Samuel 11:1-5

Introduction:

1. Are there things in your past that you wish you could go back and somehow undo? Would you make a better decision if you had a second chance?
2. Here in our text, David, a man after God's own heart, experiences a serious, devastating moral downfall. He falls into deep immoral sin. Let's read verses 1-5.
3. David committed adultery with Bathsheba, another man's wife.
4. I know that Hollywood makes light of sexual sin, but God Almighty is emphatically against it. Hebrews 13:4; 1 Corinthians 6:18; Proverbs 6:32-33, 7:22-27 (very descriptive terms of a man getting involved with a woman not his wife)
 - Hollywood portrays it as common, ordinary, fun, and exciting. They seldom show a person dying with a sexually transmitted disease, or a child weeping because mom and dad are divorcing, or a person plagued with guilt because they've been unfaithful, or a 14-year-old girl pregnant.
5. After David's "fun" (sin), there were terrible and devastating aftereffects. The price tag was much higher than David thought it would be. It always is.
6. You may say, "But I thought David was a strong believer, a man that loved the Lord?" He was, but he wasn't above a downfall, nor is any of us. Here was David's problem – he made provision for the flesh.
 - The flesh is that part of you that desires to walk independently of God and His Word. The flesh is all about self-gratification, and the Bible says that sin is pleasurable for a season.
7. The flesh desires immediate gratification without any thought of long-term consequences. As a believer, the Holy Spirit within you knows better, and desires to obey God and follow His commands. Galatians 5:17
 - Paul says that "*the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh...*"
 - The word "*lusteth*" means "to set the heart upon; to long for."
 - So the flesh has its heart set upon things that are against the Spirit, and the Spirit is longing for things that are against the flesh.
 - "*These are contrary the one to the other.*" The word "*contrary*" means "to lie opposite; to be adverse." It is translated "*adversary*" in other places.
8. In lieu of this struggle, Paul admonishes believers to "*...make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof*" (Romans 13:14). This was David's problem. He supplied his flesh with the opportunity to sin. I want to examine this text and from it answer this question, "How can we keep from making provision for our flesh?"

First, remain alert despite recent victories.

1. The farther up you are on the mountain, the longer and harder you are capable of falling. David was on that mountain, and had experienced a series of great victories.
 - He had been anointed king of all Israel (chapter 5), won some great military victories (chapters 5, 8, and 10), brought the ark of God to Jerusalem (chapter 6), received incredible promises from God (chapter 7), showed great kindness to a lame man, and his kingdom was fully established. He was a man basking in the blessings of God.
2. In chapter 11, David was a man who obviously had let his spiritual guard down. In past chapters, we see David enquiring of the Lord over and over again. Notice verse 3, however: *“David sent and enquired after the woman.”*
3. When we are walking in victory in our Christian life and serving the Lord, one of the worst mistakes we can make it is to get comfortable, complacent and self-confident, and think that we are above a giant fall. 1 Corinthians 10:12; Proverbs 16:18; Matthew 26:33-34 (**Illustration:** Peter)
4. When David sent for Bathsheba, maybe he thought, “I can handle this. I’m spiritually strong. I’m just going to talk to her and find out about her.” He didn’t stay alert, but let down his spiritual guard. We must always stay alert. 1 Peter 5:8
5. A victory over Satan and the flesh today does not insure one tomorrow.

Second, remain faithful in the place where you should be.

1. Have you ever heard of being in the wrong place at the wrong time? Verse 1 says that it was the time when kings go forth to battle. But David sent Joab and his servants to battle while *“David tarried still at Jerusalem.”*
2. David was at home when he should have been on the battlefield. Had he been where he was supposed to be, this dreadful event would never have occurred. David’s disobedience and lack of faithfulness cost him dearly.
3. It is dangerous when you allow yourself to be lured away from where you should be, because, just like David, we are in a battle. 2 Timothy 2:3-4
4. As a believer living in this time of grace, where should you be?
 - You should be in the Word of God. Psalm 119:9, 11
 - You should be in prayer. Ephesians 6:18
 - You should be in fellowship at your local church (accountability). Ephesians 5:21; Hebrews 10:24-25
5. When you allow yourself to be moved away from these three places, you become a big bull’s-eye for Satan, and you make provision for your flesh.

Third, remain active in your service for the Lord.

1. As we read verse 2, David is the picture of an idle man. He was lazing around, dozing away the afternoon, just taking it easy. He was idle when he should have been busy.

- It's been said, "Idle waters gather filth." This is also true in the Christian life.
2. Paul admonished believers to not be "*slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord.*" **Romans 12:11**
 - **Illustration:** Why do people become involved in gossip? They are idle, with too much time on their hands. 2 Thessalonians 3:11; 1 Timothy 5:13
 3. God created us with a built-in need to be busy and productive. When we cease to be productive, we feel worthless and unneeded. We then turn to sinful activities to occupy our time.
 4. If you want to stay spiritually healthy, remain active in your service for the Lord. You say, "But I'm retired. I'm a senior citizen." Great! That means you have more time to serve the Lord and impact lives with the years you have left on this earth! You have the opportunity to finish strong for the Lord.
 5. As David began to get older, he got complacent and comfortable, and it cost him dearly.

In Conclusion:

1. Things could have been different. David did not have to experience this terrible downfall.
2. But, very seldom does a downfall like this ever happen overnight, or suddenly. It usually happens as a result of a series of bad decisions. We make decisions that make provision for our flesh, and then it comes back to bite us.
3. Let's take a lesson from David and, as Paul said, "*Put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof.*"