

The Steps that Always Lead to a Fall 2 Samuel 11

Introduction:

1. Have you ever tripped while walking down steps? Being from Missouri, and having grown up in a tri-level house, I know the meaning of tumbling down steps!
2. Here in our text, King David took a terrible fall – not a physical fall, but a spiritual fall. He committed adultery with another man’s wife. How could a man with such a heart for God fall into such gross, immoral sin?
3. I don’t believe David premeditated this sin in the sense that he woke up that morning and said, “I think I’ll commit adultery, today.”
4. There were definite steps that led to David’s downfall. **Choice, not chance** determines human destiny. David made some definite choices. It didn’t just “happen.” There was a path of progression that led to David’s demise. David paid a tremendous price for this.
5. Let’s examine the steps that led to David’s great fall so that we can recognize these steps, and stay off the path to sin and destruction.

The first step – Enticement

1. Notice verse 2. David was walking on the roof of his house and “*he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon.*”
2. The first step that led to David’s downfall was that he allowed himself to be enticed. James speaks of a man being drawn away and enticed. James 1:14
 - To entice means “to entrap; delude.”
 - It is a hunting term that carries the idea of a hunter or fisherman using bait to lure his prey.
3. The devil is quite the hunter. He sets the bait, and tries to catch our eye, and get us enticed with evil. This is what he did with David and it worked.
 - **Illustration:** Samson was strong by virtue of his hair. How did his enemies find out the secret to his strength? They used a woman to entice him. Judges 14:15, 16:5
4. Satan can entice us, others can try to entice us to sin (Proverbs 1:10), and our own flesh can lead us down the road of enticement. Colossians 2:4
 - Satan uses enticing words to beguile you. He wants to get your curiosity up and get you interested.
5. This was David’s first step. He allowed himself to be enticed. When he saw the woman, he should have immediately bounced his eyes in another direction, and he would have never taken that first step of enticement.

The second step – Lust

1. Notice verse 2 again – “*he saw a woman washing herself, and the woman was very beautiful to look upon.*”

2. David's enticement led to lust. He not only saw the woman, he allowed his eyes to dwell on her, lusting after her beauty.
3. James tells us that man is drawn away and enticed, "*then when lust hath conceived...*"
 - To lust for something means that "you desire or long for something."
 - In the Bible, the word is almost always associated with the flesh, lusting after something that is forbidden. 1 Corinthians 10:6; Galatians 5:16; James 4:5; Titus 2:12, 3:3
 - Go back to the fishing illustration – the fish is enticed by the bait, and then longs for it.
4. You may say, "But, what is the harm in a man lusting after a pretty woman? That's normal. We are made that way."
5. The problem is the object of your lust, your desires, and your longing. God wants a man to long for and desire his wife. Desires aren't wrong, but the question is, "What do you desire?"
6. Lust is like a fire. In a fireplace, it is warm and beautiful. But, when it gets outside of the hearth, it is destructive and uncontrollable. 2 Timothy 2:22
7. Sure, it is normal for your flesh to desire a woman who is not your wife, but that doesn't make it right. Our flesh wants to lust after wrong things. Ephesians 4:22; cf. Matthew 5:28; Proverbs 6:24-26
8. Yes, it is normal for your flesh to lust after the wrong things, but the Christian is commanded to abstain from fleshly lusts. 1 Peter 2:11; cf. Titus 2:12
 - The Christian is commanded to walk in the Spirit, and not fulfill the lusts of the flesh. Galatians 5:16
9. This was David's second step – he allowed himself to get caught up in lust.

The third step – Drawing close to that which tempts you

1. Notice verse 3, "*And David sent and enquired after the woman...*" Then notice verse 4, "*And David sent messengers and took her; and she came in unto him...*" He brought her into the palace.
2. David's third step is that he drew close to that which tempted him. Maybe at this point, he still didn't think that he would actually sin. Maybe he thought, "I'll just talk to her and get to know her. I'm lonely. There is no harm in that."
3. But, this is where David made his mistake. He was playing with fire. We must stay away from what tempts us.
4. If you know there is a piece of dynamite in you waiting to be ignited, stay away from that which will set it on fire. Romans 13:14
5. David did not do this, and look what happened (vs. 4). Enticement led to lust, his lust led him to draw close to that which tempted him, and the end result – he fell into sin.
 - We see this same progression in Eve in the Garden. Genesis 3:6
 - Also, we see this in the story of Achan. Joshua 7:21
6. What came after the sin in all these cases (David, Eve, Achan)? Death! James 1:14-15; Romans 6:23

7. Are you on the steps that lead to a downfall? Get off today! It's not worth the price you have to pay in the end.
- There is a song that says, "Sin will take you farther than you want to go, slowly but wholly taking control. Sin will leave you longer than you want to stay, and sin will cost you far more than you want to pay."
 - There is a lot of biblical truth in those words. Let's stay off the steps that lead to a fall!