

David, A Man After God's Own Heart
Letting our guard down
2 Samuel 11

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Core value: Jesus-centered

1 Corinthians 10:12 (NIV) So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!

The difference between standing firm and falling is "being careful/taking heed."

Set up for the fall: Letting our guard down in idleness. (verse 1-2a)

In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king's men and the whole Israelite army. They destroyed the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But **David remained in Jerusalem.**² One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace.

- We are not where we are supposed to be.
- We are out of sight from accountability.
- We are by our self.

Set up for the fall: Letting our guard down by seeing too much. (verse 2b)

From the roof **he saw** a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful.

- Our first glance is innocent. Staring or gazing creates the hazard.
- When we see too much of what isn't ours, we are violating someone.

The fall: Moving from seeing to thinking. (what is not said between verse 2 and 3)

^{NIV} **Matthew 5:28** But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

^{NIV} **James 1:13** When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone;¹⁴ but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed.¹⁵ Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

The fall: Moving from thinking to curious yet intentional engagement. (verse 3)

³ and **David sent someone to find out about her.** The man said, "Isn't this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite?"

The fall: Moving from curious yet intentional engagement to fulfilment and gratification. (verse 4)

⁴ Then David sent messengers to get her. **She came to him,** and **he slept with her.** (She had purified herself from her uncleanness.) Then she went back home.

Note: since she just had her period, her pregnancy could not have been her husband's.

The consequence: Sin sometimes has immediate, but often latent ramifications. (verse 5)

⁵ The woman conceived and sent word to David, saying, "I am pregnant."

Coverup try #1: Fail. (verses 6-11)

⁶ So David sent this word to Joab: "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent him to David. ⁷ When Uriah came to him, David asked him how Joab was, how the soldiers were and how the war was going. ⁸ Then David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house and wash your feet." So Uriah left the palace, and a gift from the king was sent after him. ⁹ But Uriah slept at the entrance to the palace with all his master's servants and did not go down to his house. ¹⁰ When David was told, "Uriah did not go home," he asked him, "Haven't you just come from a distance? Why didn't you go home?" ¹¹ Uriah said to David, "The ark and Israel and Judah are staying in tents, and my master Joab and my lord's men are camped in the open fields. How could I go to my house to eat and drink and lie with my wife? As surely as you live, I will not do such a thing!"

Coverup try #2: Fail. (verses 12-13)

¹² Then David said to him, "Stay here one more day, and tomorrow I will send you back." So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day and the next. ¹³ At David's invitation, he ate and drank with him, and David made him drunk. But in the evening Uriah went out to sleep on his mat among his master's servants; he did not go home.

Coverup try #3. Successful, in a horrid fashion. (verses 14-25)

¹⁴ In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it with Uriah. ¹⁵ In it he wrote, "Put Uriah in the front line where the fighting is fiercest. Then withdraw from him so he will be struck down and die." ¹⁶ So while Joab had the city under siege, he put Uriah at a place where he knew the strongest defenders were. ¹⁷ When the men of the city came out and fought against Joab, some of the men in David's army fell; moreover, Uriah the Hittite died. ¹⁸ Joab sent David a full account of the battle. ¹⁹ He instructed the messenger: "When you have finished giving the king this account of the battle, ²⁰ the king's anger may flare up, and he may ask you, 'Why did you get so close to the city to fight? Didn't you know they would shoot arrows from the wall?' ²¹ Who killed Abimelech son of Jerub-Besheth? Didn't a woman throw an upper millstone on him from the wall, so that he died in Thebez? Why did you get so close to the wall?' If he asks you this, then say to him, 'Also, your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead.'" ²² The messenger set out, and when he arrived he told David everything Joab had sent him to say. ²³ The messenger said to David, "The men overpowered us and came out against us in the open, but we drove them back to the entrance to the city gate. ²⁴ Then the archers shot arrows at your servants from the wall, and some of the king's men died. Moreover, your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead." ²⁵ 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."

Continuance of coverup: Still making poor choices in a season of letting our guard down. (verses 26-27a)

²⁶ When Uriah's wife heard that her husband was dead, she mourned for him. ²⁷ After the time of mourning was over, David had her brought to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son.

The moral of the story: Leaving God out our thoughts, engagements and actions will lead to serious problems. (verses 27b)

But the thing David had done displeased the LORD.
But the thing that David had done was evil in the sight of the LORD. (NASB)

Next week, the solution to our letting our guard down: God's grace through confession and repentance.

Psalms 51

1 Corinthians 10:12-13 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall. ¹³ No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

NIV 2 Corinthians 10:4 The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. ⁵ We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

^{NAU} **Psalm 51** For the choir director. A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet came to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba. Be gracious to me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; According to the greatness of Your compassion blot out my transgressions. ² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity And cleanse me from my sin. ³ For I know my transgressions, And my sin is ever before me. ⁴ Against You, You only, I have sinned And done what is evil in Your sight, So that You are justified when You speak And blameless when You judge. ⁵ Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me. ⁶ Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being, And in the hidden part You will make me know wisdom. ⁷ Purify me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. ⁸ Make me to hear joy and gladness, Let the bones which You have broken rejoice. ⁹ Hide Your face from my sins And blot out all my iniquities. ¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. ¹¹ Do not cast me away from Your presence And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. ¹² Restore to me the joy of Your salvation And sustain me with a willing spirit. ¹³ *Then* I will teach transgressors Your ways, And sinners will be converted to You. ¹⁴ Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, the God of my salvation; *Then* my tongue will joyfully sing of Your righteousness. ¹⁵ O Lord, open my lips, That my mouth may declare Your praise. ¹⁶ For You do not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it; You are not pleased with burnt offering. ¹⁷ The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise. ¹⁸ By Your favor do good to Zion; Build the walls of Jerusalem. ¹⁹ Then You will delight in righteous sacrifices, In burnt offering and whole burnt offering; Then young bulls will be offered on Your altar.