



# STARTING POINT: DAY THREE

## *SIN'S PATTERN*

*2 Samuel 11*

Each day of this seven day Devotional Study we will read a specific passage three times with the intent to get the most out of it. We will ask questions and learn from the passage and finally apply the lessons learned personally to our own lives.

by pastor Adam Portal

**Devotional For Wednesday 1/10/2018**



# STARTING POINT: DAY THREE

## 2 Samuel 11

**1ST READING: LEARN.** SIMPLY FAMILIARIZING YOURSELF WITH THIS PASSAGE.

**2ND READING: IMPRESS.** NOTICE WHAT WORD OR PHRASE JUMPS OUT AT YOU OR MAKES THE BIGGEST IMPRESSION.

2 Samuel 11 English Standard Version (ESV)

### David and Bathsheba

**11** In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel. And they ravaged the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem.

**2** It happened, late one afternoon, when David arose from his couch and was walking on the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful. **3** And David sent and inquired about the woman. And one said, "Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?" **4** So David sent messengers and took her, and she came to him, and he lay with her. (Now she had been purifying herself from her uncleanness.) Then she returned to her house. **5** And the woman conceived, and she sent and told David, "I am pregnant."

**6** So David sent word to Joab, "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent Uriah to David. **7** When Uriah came to him, David asked how Joab was doing and how the people were doing and how the war was going. **8** Then David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house and wash your feet." And Uriah went out of the king's house, and there followed him a present from the king. **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** When they told David, "Uriah did not go down to his house," David said to Uriah, "Have you not come from a journey? Why did you not go down to your house?" **11** Uriah said to David, "The ark and Israel and Judah dwell in booths, and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are camping in the open field. Shall I then go to my house, to eat and to 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, "Remain here today also, and tomorrow I will send you back." So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day and the next. **13** And David invited him, and he ate in his presence and drank, so that he made him drunk. And in the evening he went out to lie on his couch with the servants of his lord, but he did not go down to his house.

**14** In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it by the hand of Uriah. **15** In the letter he wrote, "Set Uriah in the forefront of the hardest fighting, and then draw back from him, that he may be struck down, and die." **16** And as Joab was besieging the city, he assigned Uriah to the place where he knew there were valiant men. **17** And the men of the city came out and fought with Joab, and some of the servants of David among the people fell. Uriah the Hittite also died. **18** Then Joab sent and told David all the news about the fighting. **19** And he instructed the messenger, "When you have finished telling all the news about the fighting to the king, **20** then, if the king's anger rises, and if he says to you, 'Why did you go so near the city to fight? Did you not know that they would shoot from the wall? **21** Who killed Abimelech the son of Jerubbesheth? Did not a woman cast an upper millstone on him from the wall, so that he died at Thebez? Why did you go so near the wall?' then you shall say, 'Your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also.'"

**22** So the messenger went and came and told David all that Joab had sent him to tell. **23** The messenger said to David, "The men gained an advantage over us and came out against us in the field, but we drove them back to the entrance of the gate. **24** Then the archers shot at your servants from the wall. Some of the king's servants are dead, and your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also." **25** David said to the messenger, "Thus shall you say to Joab, 'Do not let this matter displease you, for the sword devours now one and now another. Strengthen your attack against the city and overthrow it.' And encourage him."

**26** When the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she lamented over her husband. **27** And when the 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.

## DEVOTIONAL: SIN'S PATTERN

### Things to notice:

#### 1. Sin Always Has a Pattern

Every time we sin it is not accidental. Sin is intentional and we can learn here that sin is always possible when we are not doing what we should be doing. In verse 1 we learn that David the king should be at war, but he chose to remain at home. The First step toward sin is always this: Not being where we should be and not doing what we should be doing.

James 1:14-15 tells us how Sin happens: *"But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. **15** Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death."*

#### It Just Happened? No!

Not really. Sin happens because we have intentionally ignored our own sinful desires. David was not supposed to be asleep in bed "late one afternoon". Night is for sleep, day is for work. David had opened the door to be *lured and enticed by his own desires*.

## Two More Steps toward Sin

a. **David Inquired About the Woman** After David saw the woman Bathsheba it could have ended there, but he chose to ask (inquire) about her. Seeing her at this point was not yet necessarily a sin. Dumb move David! He would know soon enough that he should not be asking about her, because she was married, but he chose to do so anyway.

b. **David Took Her** There is no other way to say it. David, after knowing she belonged to another, took her anyway. Note that there is no hesitation, no second thoughts. Once we open the door to sin, we have opened the door and will almost surely be overcome by it.

In other words, the time to stop sin is not after we open the door to it (Inquired, took) it is before we open the door.

## 2. Sin often includes others

### **BATHSHEBA Went along with David**

I have heard it said, that she was innocent because he was the king and as a very powerful man she could not refuse him. But this is not true. It could be that in refusing him she would be rejected or killed or who knows what. But sin is never acceptable. Justified sin is still sin. There is no sign in this story that she did anything other than willingly join him in sin. (And if she was coerced or taken advantage of (even though there is no signs of that in the story) she still had the responsibility to speak up at some point about both the rape and the pregnancy (especially to her husband.)

**In the End, sin always leads to more sin, until someone stands up against it.**

### **Verse 6 turns our story toward URIAH**

Uriah, Bathsheba's husband is the first innocent victim of David's second sin. One sin usually brings on a second sin, and another, and another. David was perfectly willing to do "whatever it takes" to hide his sin. This is the second sin of David, Murder. He tries desperately to deceive Uriah into going home to his wife to hide the pregnancy, but David fails gloriously.

- a. He Sends Uriah home: Uriah is too loyal to go Home.
- b. He gets Uriah drunk: Uriah still won't go home to his wife.

### **Verse 14 turns our story toward JOAB**

Joab, the leader of David's army, is the third victim of David's sin. Although Uriah was innocent, Joab is not. He knows exactly what he is doing. He could have turned David in by revealing David's evil intentions. But he chose to play along, possible to keep his position as general in the king's army. Joab chooses to protect himself, not do what is right, and finally, becomes the very instrument of David's second sin (murdering Uriah) by following through with David's order to put Uriah in the hottest part of the battle, and pull back, leaving him alone.

Before all is said and done, David tells Joab vs 25 "Do not let this matter displease you, for the sword devours now one and now another." In other words, don't let your conscience bother you, this could happen to anyone. Wrong again David! Yet Joab does nothing.

### **Verse 19 turns our story toward THE MESSENGER**

Even this unnamed messenger is used in this matter. He is instructed to tell the story and to make sure he communicates to David, at just the right time, that Uriah is dead. He also brings back the message from David to Joab. Sadly we do not know how much he understood the whole matter, but he was certainly used as a pawn. Who likes to be *used* by others? No one.

### 3. God is never pleased with Sin

#### Verse 26-27 Summarize this chapter for us

David Appears to get away with the whole thing. Joab did what was wrong at the orders of the king. The only innocent person in the story, Uriah, is dead. Bathsheba mourns her husband but not her sin, and becomes David's wife.

Then we are told in the last phrase of this chapter, what we already know, *"But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord"*

#### Finally, Recognize How Sin work in all (David is just like us)

Each person is tempted according to their own sinful desires. What are your sinful desires?

Once the desire is conceived, it brings forth sin. Do you allow your desires to conceive?

Death is always the result of sin. We all reap what we sow (Galatians 6:7)

David sins just like us. We are all prone to sinful behavior. And we are all able to avoid it if we choose to avoid it. RECORD IN YOUR MIND "SIN'S PATTERN" and run from it.

#### 1 CORINTHIANS 6:18-20 (ESV)

<sup>18</sup> Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin<sup>[a]</sup> a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. <sup>19</sup> Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, <sup>20</sup> for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

#### 1 Corinthians 10:13 (ESV)

<sup>13</sup> No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

### 3RD AND FINAL READING: LIVE. READ THIS PASSAGE ONE FINAL TIME.

This time, Ask God... focusing on the elements that stand out to you, what should I start doing, stop doing or continue doing?

- Are you sleeping when you should be working?
- Are you looking and inquiring where you should not be looking and inquiring?
- Who will be hurt by your sin (beside yourself)? Who will you involve in your sin in order to hide it?
- How will God ultimately respond to your Sin?

The most important thing to note about this study is that ALL OF THIS CAN BE AVOIDED if we only chose to go to war against sin. **It ALWAYS is the time for kings to go out to battle!**

#### Romans 8:13 (ESV)

<sup>13</sup> For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you **put to death** the deeds of the body, you will live.