

**“Fighting Temptation, Part 2”  
(2 Samuel 11:1-27)  
Pastor Peter Yi  
March 21st, 2010**

**Introduction:**

**NIV 2 Samuel 11:1-27**

*1 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. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful, **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?" **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. **5** The woman conceived and sent word to David, saying, "I am pregnant."*

***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!"*

***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.*

***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."*

*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. But the thing David had done displeased the LORD.*

Well, last week we mentioned five strategies for fighting temptation. They were: remember, run, rely, resist, replace, and remove. The story that we just read acts as kind of a case study of the failure of a great man losing his battle with temptation. He made all the wrong choices and the consequences were dire. Even though David was one of the most spiritual men in all the bible, so much so that he called a man after God's own heart, he had a terrible relapse into a terrible sin. There are so many things we can learn from his mistake, so for us it becomes an example of the first R—remember. We can look at David's sin with Bathsheba and remember what **not** to do in our own struggle with sin and temptation. Especially since this involves sexual sin, you and I can you use this story in particular, as an example so we might not fall into sexual sin, but the principles can be applied to almost all types of temptations.

### **We can fall into temptation when we are at the wrong place at the wrong time (v.1)**

**1** 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.

This verse says that it was spring and it was the season for kings to be off at war. There was a specific place where he was supposed to be and he wasn't there. He was back at the palace.

I don't doubt that the same is true with us. There are many times when sin and temptation could have been avoided if only we were where we were supposed to be. On any given weekday a child is supposed to be at school. If he, for whatever reason, apart from the knowledge of his parents, is not at school, then you and I all know that nothing good will come out of that situation.

Solution: Be where you are supposed to be all the time. That requires forethought and discipline. It requires that we allow the whole of our lives to be guided by the Holy Spirit.

### **Secondly, when we are bored and have nothing to do it is a ripe opportunity to fall into sin and temptation. (v.2)**

**2** One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace.

I can imagine David thinking, "Ah it's so good not being away slaying enemies and strategizing battle plans and inspiring troops. It's great to be king." Not being where he's supposed to be leads him to boredom, restlessness. He can't sleep, so he walks around.

Again, isn't that true with our lives too? When we are bored and restless, we can get ourselves into trouble. We can start entertaining things we aren't supposed to think about.

Solution: Live a purposeful and industrious life. Manage your down-time. When you and I are engaged in parenting and career and fitness and other things, it is difficult to fall into grave sins. We're too busy. A lot of the problems occur during our down times, our day of rest, or Sabbath, what we do when we get home from work. This is when the trouble starts for many of us.

So we can begin by asking ourselves, how can I make better use of my down time. Maybe I should meet up with friends for fellowship. Maybe I should pick up a hobby or exercise.

### **Thirdly, Guard what you see.**

**2** One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful, **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?"

David didn't live in the day of Internet porn and media filled to the hilt with sexual content like we are today. Nonetheless he didn't guard what he saw. I'm sure he couldn't help seeing what he saw. He's scanning the evening sky. He's looking over his city, perhaps not intending on seeing anything, but he eyes caught the sight of a woman bathing. And he allowed that to lead him into a wicked and terrible sin.

Solution: guard what you see. Guard what you allow to enter your eyes and into your mind. It does have an impact. Please don't use the standards of the world. For me, I realized how much filth and garbage I allowed into my eyes after I had children. After we had children, I remember going to blockbuster video to select a movie to rent. And after going through shelf after shelf of titles, I realized just a very small selection of movies were child friendly. I would never ever dream of watching most of those movies with my kids. Then I wondered, if it's not good for my kids, then how can it be good for me?

So we need to be careful of what we allow into our eyes.

<sup>1</sup> John 2: <sup>15</sup>Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. <sup>16</sup>For everything in the world—the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does—comes not from the Father but from the world. <sup>17</sup>The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.

Philippians 4:8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable-- if anything is excellent or praiseworthy-- think about such things.

### **Don't allow temptation conceive into sin.**

Remember last week we briefly spoke about the difference between temptation and sin – that temptation is not sin, but when we allow an evil desire to be consummated, when we've already decided in our minds to commit the act, we've crossed over from temptation to sin. This is what happened to David.

**2** One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful, **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?" **4** Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her.

At any moment before verse four, David could have stopped. David could have stopped after the first glance. David could have walked back inside the palace. David could have sat down to write another one of his amazing Psalms. David could have said to his servants, "Get my horse ready, I'm going into battle; it's more dangerous here than on the battlefield." He could have even just

sinned in his heart and not in action. He didn't have to call his servant to find out about her. He didn't have to send messengers to call her. But he allowed his temptation to birth into sin.

Solution: Know the difference between temptation and sin. Be alert of what's going on in your mind and spirit. Fight the temptation with the six R's. Remember, run, rely, resist, replace, remove.

**Fourthly, when we act upon your impulses we will definitely fall into sin. (3-5)**

We are a culture that has not learned what it means to say 'no'. We are an instantaneous culture. Delayed gratification is for losers. I want it and I want it now. I think that better describes our culture. Things like impulse shopping, impulsive behaviour, and so on.

So for that split second, David acted upon evil impulses. What he should have done instead was to practice self-control.

Solution: Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

2 Peter 1:5 For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; 6 and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; 7 and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. 8 For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Christian life, the life of holiness, the life led by the Spirit is a life that gives us the freedom and ability to be self-controlled. We are now able to say 'no' to sin when once we were unable. But we have to learn to exercise those muscles.

**Fifth, don't abuse your position or power.**

Above the law.

**Sixth, think about the consequences of your sin.**

Of course David knew the consequences. Religiously. Physically, but he ignored them or chose not to think about them at the moment. People every day do the same things.

Pastors do get tempted, perhaps even more intensely. They say the three biggies are sex, money and power.

Pastors are in positions of influence and power. Pastors, like all people get tempted with these three things. When I'm tempted my sexual sin, I think about the consequences. If I commit adultery, who will be affected?

So that's when I pray, Lord guard my heart and my mind. Keep from all sexual sin. Help me to be pure.

Don't ever think, it's just thoughts, it's only in my head.

**Seven, If you do sin, face the music. Don't try to cover them up so no one finds out. (6-13)**

We know the rest of the story, don't we? They have sex. Bathsheba becomes pregnant and David begins scheming, like a trapped animal to hide the evidence. Don't we do that? If we've blown it, we don't face up to it and we begin our intricate and pathetic scheming to cover up. We justify ourselves and our sins. We judge others who do the same to make ourselves appear innocent. We cover up the evidence. And we lie. Sinning will always lead to lying.

Solution: Confession.

James 5:16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

Psalms 32:3 When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. 4 For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. Selah 5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD"-- and you forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah

**Nip the sin in the bud. Don't follow up the first sin with another one. (14-17)**

Adultery, conceiving a child out of wedlock, lying, deceiving, covering up, involving others, murder, hardness of heart. There were birthed a bunch of other sins because of the first one.

Lets say your sin of choice is gossip. Okay, let's say you have a loose mouth and you gossiped. Where can that lead you? To lying. To judgmentalism, to bitterness, to unforgiveness, to malice, to instigating others to gossip and dislike a person, it'll ruin your prayer life, and so on.

Solution:

Jesus teaches us that if our eye causes us to sin we should gouge it out and if our hand causes us to sin we should hack it off. Nip the sin in the bud. Stop feeding it.

**Pretend nothing happened and go about business as usual. (26-27)**

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. But the thing David had done displeased the LORD.

You and I have the ability to be so hardened after sin that we don't even allow it to affect us. We can shut it out. We can choose not to think about it. We can justify our behavior. We can convince ourselves that no one knows, not even God. Scary, aren't we?

All of this displeases God. From the first inception to all the subsequent pieces, all of it displeases God.

Solution: Repent. And repent David did, but after he was confronted by the prophet Nathan.

**Conclusion:**

Folks, sin is a dreadful thing. It is completely destructive and nothing good can come from it. It is always, every single time, better to obey. Every single one of us has sinned. This example of David is true of every one of us. What do we do if we've sinned? What do we do if we've sinned a lot, and in some terrible ways? Repent and receive the forgiveness that's only found in Jesus Christ. That's what David did.

He wept bitterly, came before the Lord and repented and received the loving chastisement and forgiveness of the Lord. And afterwards he wrote one of the most beautiful psalms.

<sup>1</sup> Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your unfailing love;  
according to your great compassion  
blot out my transgressions.

<sup>2</sup> Wash away all my iniquity  
and cleanse me from my sin.

- <sup>3</sup> For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is always before me.
- <sup>4</sup> Against you, you only, have I sinned  
and done what is evil in your sight,  
so that you are proved right when you speak  
and justified when you judge.
- <sup>5</sup> Surely I was sinful at birth,  
sinful from the time my mother conceived me.
- <sup>6</sup> Surely you desire truth in the inner parts <sup>[a]</sup> ;  
you teach <sup>[b]</sup> me wisdom in the inmost place.
- <sup>7</sup> Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean;  
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.
- <sup>8</sup> Let me hear joy and gladness;  
let the bones you have crushed rejoice.
- <sup>9</sup> Hide your face from my sins  
and blot out all my iniquity.
- <sup>10</sup> Create in me a pure heart, O God,  
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
- <sup>11</sup> Do not cast me from your presence  
or take your Holy Spirit from me.
- <sup>12</sup> Restore to me the joy of your salvation  
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.
- <sup>13</sup> Then I will teach transgressors your ways,  
and sinners will turn back to you.
- <sup>14</sup> Save me from bloodguilt, O God,  
the God who saves me,  
and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.
- <sup>15</sup> O Lord, open my lips,  
and my mouth will declare your praise.
- <sup>16</sup> You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;  
you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.
- <sup>17</sup> The sacrifices of God are <sup>[c]</sup> a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart,  
O God, you will not despise.
- <sup>18</sup> In your good pleasure make Zion prosper;  
build up the walls of Jerusalem.
- <sup>19</sup> Then there will be righteous sacrifices,  
whole burnt offerings to delight you;  
then bulls will be offered on your altar.

That psalm can be your psalm if we come to Jesus, sins and all and confess them to him and accept that he died so that we might be forgiven.