

After God's Heart

David's Sins

Taken from 2 Samuel Chapters 11, 12, and 24

Lesson 14

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. What captured your attention the most from your personal study of David's acts of mercy?

2. Proverbs 24:16 says, *A righteous man may fall seven times and rise again.* David, a man after God's heart, was not immune from temptation. The apostle Paul wrote, *'Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he falls'* (1 Corinthians 10:12). Compromise precedes a slow descent into sin! One compromise leads to another, and each compromise dulls the voice of conviction and hardens the heart. Yet God is able to penetrate the hardened heart and bring repentance. From the following passages cite phrases that show David's attitude or actions during these times:
 - a. 2 Samuel 11:1-4

 - b. 2 Samuel 12:9

 - c. 1 Chronicles 21:1-4

 - d. 2 Samuel 24:10

3. God answers prayer in wonderful and unexpected ways. The verse below is a prayer God loves to answer. Before continuing your lesson, take a moment to pray.

*Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
Restore to me the joy of Your salvation.*

Psalm 51:10, 12

SECOND DAY: Read 2 Samuel 11:1-27

1. After committing the sin of adultery, David found out that Bathsheba was *with child* (2 Samuel 11:1-5). Then what did he do? 2 Samuel 11:6-8
 - a. What did Uriah choose to do? 2 Samuel 11:9

2. In 2 Samuel 11:10 David asked Uriah why he *did not go down to his house*. Record Uriah's answer. 2 Samuel 11:11
 - a. What does this convey about Uriah?
 - (1) How do you think this magnifies David's sin?

3. David tried to send Uriah to his house again, but *to no avail* (2 Samuel 11:12-13). As a last resort, what did David command Joab to do? 2 Samuel 11:14-15
 - a. What do you suppose was going on in David's heart at this time?

4. Record the tragic events of 2 Samuel 11:16-17.

5. In 2 Samuel 11:18-24 Joab sent a *messenger* to tell David everything that had happened, emphasizing the fact that Uriah was dead. From 2 Samuel 11:25-27 remark on David's response to this news and his ensuing actions.
 - a. The phrase, *The sword devours one as well as another*, was a way of tritely saying: *These things happen*. What does this statement reveal about David's attitude?
 - b. It is believed that during this time David wrote Psalm 32. Link David's words in Psalm 32:3-4 with the fact that *the thing David had done displeased the Lord*. Share your thoughts.

6. What does this story reveal concerning:
 - a. Man's heart – Proverbs 27:20b
 - b. The effects of sin – Hebrews 3:13

7. What warning do you receive from today's lesson?

THIRD DAY: Read 2 Samuel 12:1-25

1. Who did *the LORD* send to David? 2 Samuel 12:1a
 - a. Summarize the story he told David. 2 Samuel 12:1b-4

2. Share your thoughts about David's reaction. 2 Samuel 12:5-6

3. Print Nathan's four fateful words from 2 Samuel 12:7a.

4. According to 2 Samuel 12:7-8, what had God done for David?
 - a. In light of God's goodness, why was David's sin so foolish?

5. The Lord told David that he had not only *despised* His commandment, but also God Himself. What does this teach us concerning sin?
 - a. What judgment would David's sin bring? 2 Samuel 12:10-12

6. Record David's response to God's rebuke. 2 Samuel 12:13a
 - a. What does David's response convey to you?
 - b. Under Levitical law, David deserved to die for committing adultery. What do Nathan's words in 2 Samuel 12:13b reveal about God?

7. When David repented God immediately forgave him. *However*, what was the consequence of David's sin? 2 Samuel 12:14a
 - a. How does this speak to you concerning the ramifications of sin?
 - b. As a result, what would happen? 2 Samuel 12:14b

8. Soon after this, David and Bathsheba's child became ill. David fasted and *pleaded with God for the child*, but after seven days he died (2 Samuel 12:15-19). How did David react when he heard this news? 2 Samuel 12:20-23
 - a. What stands out to you the most about David's behavior?
 - b. What evidence of repentance do you see in David?
 - c. Share a time of conviction, repentance, and grace from your own life.

9. How do the events in 2 Samuel 12:24-25 demonstrate God's grace?

FOURTH DAY: Read 2 Samuel 24:1-9

1. According to 1 Chronicles 21:1, *Satan moved David to number Israel*. David Guzik says, *'The best explanation is that Satan moved David and is the "he" of 2 Samuel 24:1. Yet the LORD expressly allowed it as a chastisement against David'*. Share your thoughts on this.
2. What did David command Joab to do? 2 Samuel 24:2
3. How did Joab react? 2 Samuel 24:3
 - a. Read Exodus 30:12, 13 and note the proper manner to conduct a census according to Levitical law.
 - b. Considering all that David had experienced with God, why do you think he did this?
4. What happened in spite of Joab's misgivings? 2 Samuel 24:4
5. Summarize the census from 2 Samuel 24:5-9.
 - a. Compare this account with 1 Chronicles 21:5-6 and share any additional observations.
6. Link 1 Chronicles 21:1 with Ephesians 6:11. What do you observe about Satan's tactics?
 - a. How can you recognize the temptations of Satan?
 - b. Use 1 Peter 5:8-9 to explain the Biblical way to deal with Satan's temptations.
 - c. Since Satan is relentlessly tempting us, what temptation have you resisted lately?

FIFTH DAY: Read 2 Samuel 24:10-25

1. What happened to David *after he had numbered the people*? 2 Samuel 24:10
2. List the three choices the *LORD* gave David. 2 Samuel 24:11-13
3. What did David choose? 2 Samuel 24:14
 - a. Why do you think this was a wise choice?
 - b. What does this convey about his relationship with God?
 - (1) What can you learn from David's response?
4. Once David had made his choice, what did the *LORD* do? 2 Samuel 24:15-16
 - a. What do you learn about God from the fact that He *relented from the destruction*?
5. Capture the essence of David's confession in 2 Samuel 24:17.
 - a. Read the parallel account in 1 Chronicles 21:16-17 and share any additional observations.
6. Summarize the events of 2 Samuel 24:18-23.
7. Remark on David's response to Araunah in 2 Samuel 24:24.
 - a. Concerning this verse, F.B. Meyer said, *Where there is true, strong love to Jesus, it will cost us something. Love is the costliest of all undertakings.* Share your thoughts.
 - b. What will you offer the Lord today?
8. Record the result of David's offering. 2 Samuel 24:25
9. Araunah's threshing floor would become the site of God's temple. How did God use what Satan meant for evil for good? See Genesis 50:20.
 - a. What hope does this give you?

