

Rise & Fall (Temptation: Resist / Return)

Andy Deane · 7/30/2023 · 2 Samuel 11-12

Today we're going to see David make the biggest mistake of his life (adultery, murder, & cover up), and then we'll watch his repentance, and observe the long road of restoration back into a right relationship with God.

1 Corinthians 10:13, *No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you're tempted he will also provide a way out so you can endure it.*

RESIST GIVING INTO TEMPTATION BY:

#1 Staying focused on the mission

- 2 Samuel 11:1, *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... But David remained in Jerusalem.*
- David should have been leading the army. Evading responsibility is often the first step to spiritual decline.
- Galatians 5:16, *...walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.*

#2 Fleeing instead of fantasizing

- 2 Samuel 11:2-3, *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, and David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, "She is Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam & the wife of Uriah"*
- David thought about her too much and his curiosity led to him closer as he asked more questions.
- 2 Timothy 2:22, *Flee also youthful lusts...*

#3 Not hanging out with the wrong people

- 2 Samuel 11:4a, *David sent messengers to get her. She came...*
- David had not sinned yet, but he had no business inviting her over to talk.
- 1 Corinthians 15:33, "Bad company corrupts good character"
- But Jesus ate & drank with sinners! Yes, as a gospel witness, and if your heart is on mission, you can too.

#4 Not digging the hole even deeper

- 2 Samuel 11:4b, *and he slept with her. The woman conceived and sent word to David, saying, "I am pregnant."*
- Don't compound the tragedy by trying to hide and cover up your sin.
- Stopping at any point is better than continuing on further in sin.

#5 Embracing Jesus & His example

- Hebrews 4:15, *we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are, yet he did not sin.*
- In Luke 4:1-13, Jesus resisted temptation three times by quoting Scripture from Deuteronomy 6-8.

RETURN AFTER GIVING INTO TEMPTATION BY:

David initially chose to try and cover up his sin, but then months later his friend Nathan confronted him.

#1 Confessing & accepting responsibility

- 2 Samuel 12:13, *"I have sinned against the Lord."* — David finally owns his sin.
- Proverbs 28:13, *Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy.*

#2 Repenting & making real changes

- Psalms 51:10, *Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.*
- To repent is to make a change of direction (a 180° turn) away from sin, towards God's way.
- "Your Walk with God Is a Community Project" — Paul Tripp

#3 Believing that God forgives you

- Psalm 51:12-13, *Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. Then I will teach transgressors your ways, so that sinners will turn back to you.*
- 1 John 1:9, *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us...*

#4 Enduring the consequences

- 2 Samuel 12:10-11; 14, *Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.' "This is what the Lord says: 'Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity on you. Before your very eyes I will take your wives and give them to one who is close to you, and he will sleep with your wives in broad daylight...But because by doing this you have shown utter contempt for the Lord, the son born to you will die.'*
- The consequences of David's sin were heartbreaking, but David accepted them and tried to move forward:
 - "The son born to you will die" (v.14)
 - "The sword will never depart from your house" (v.10)
 - "Out of your own household...bring calamity on you" (v.11)
- We must not try to short circuit consequences of our sin, which teach us lessons, but instead patiently endure.

#5 Embracing Jesus & His example

- The entire life of Jesus, His words, His tone of voice, etc. all aim towards restoration.
- Remember, Jesus allowed Peter (who publicly denied him) to lead His church!