



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Lookin' For a Leader Series, Lesson 17

Lesson Title: David Gets Trapped in Sin

Take Home Point: Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

Warm-Up:

Many years ago, a friend of mine who was a Christian from her youth decided that she was missing out on all the fun. She told me she wanted to be "of the world, not just in it." (See John 17:13-14 for what made her say it this way.) Did she go out and do just anything? No, she thought about what "fun" she was missing and how to get involved in it. There is a saying that "opportunity knocks, but temptation leans on the doorbell!" Well, she didn't even wait for the ring; she opened the door and invited temptation in! Naturally, she quickly became involved in a number of sinful activities that drained the life and joy right out of her. It was painful to watch, and I eventually lost touch with her. I do not know if she has returned to the Lord, but I know he will graciously forgive her when she wants to return to him, regardless of what she has done.

Read: 2 Samuel 11

Observation (What happened?):

According to verse 1, where was David supposed to be instead of in his palace in Jerusalem?

What was the progression of sins that David committed from the moment he saw Bathsheba?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

How did Uriah show himself to have more integrity than David in this situation?

What do you think was in David's mind and heart as events progressed?

Insight:

Where does sin begin? Always inside, in our mind or heart. For example, deliberate murder does not occur without the murderer harboring hatred. No one commits adultery without it being preceded by lust. A thief starts with desire or pride. As James 1:14-15 says, *"Everyone is tempted by his own desires as they lure him away and trap him. Then desire becomes pregnant and gives birth to sin. When sin grows up, it gives birth to death."* In fact, Jesus said that what is in the mind can be sin as much as the action that results. (Read Matthew 5:21-33 and Mark 7:21-23.) That is why the Bible is filled with counsel regarding what's inside: *"Guard your heart more than anything else."* *"May the thoughts of my heart be acceptable to you, O LORD."* *"Keep your mind clear, and be alert."* *"Abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul."* Remember that the battle against sin is fought at the decision point of temptation.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

What are your areas of weakness where you must be on your guard against Satan's destructive schemes? How do you resist temptation in these areas?

What is your way out after you have sinned?

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