

CENTERED**FAILURE: Bathsheba**

2 Samuel 11

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MESSAGE NOTES**The sordid story —**

*A few miles from where I live, a business promotes itself as an “adult toy and amusement center.” It is really none of the above. It is not for adults; it principally caters to men who have never grown up morally. It does not sell something to toy with; sexuality is sacred, and using it for amusement brings diminishing returns. It is not a center; it distorts life’s central point. — Ravi Zacharias, *The Grand Weaver**

*We are personally, biologically, culturally, and spiritually predisposed toward sexual sin — some of us are simply predisposed in ways that are more culturally acceptable. In the end, every single one of us is a sexual sinner. — David Platt, *Counter Culture**

*The Bible does not spin the flaws and weaknesses of its heroes. Moses was a murderer. Hosea’s wife was a prostitute. Peter rebuked God! Noah got drunk. Jonah was a racist. Jacob was a liar. John Mark deserted Paul. Elijah burned out. Jeremiah was depressed and suicidal. Thomas doubted. Moses had a temper. ... And all these people send the same message: that every human being on earth, regardless of their gifts and strengths, is weak, vulnerable, and dependent on God and others. — Peter Scazzero, *Emotionally Healthy Spirituality**

*David’s life has little to offer the unstained saint. People who have not failed greatly find David’s story disappointing. The rest of us find it reassuring. We ride the same roller coaster. We alternate between swan dives and belly flops. A man after God’s own heart? That God saw him as such, gives hope to us all. — Max Lucado, *Facing Your Giants**

Combating what can kill you ...1. Renew your heart.

Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy. — Proverbs 28:13

2. Manage your mind.

Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. — Romans 8:5 – 6

But each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. Don’t be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. — James 1:14 – 16

3. Leave compromising situations.

Flee from sexual immorality. — 1 Corinthians 6:18

Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace. — 2 Timothy 2:22

4. Review the consequences.

Can a man scoop fire into his lap without his clothes being burned? — Proverbs 6:27

5. Fight with allies.

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. — James 5:16

6. Pray like breathing.

Pray continually. — 1 Thessalonians 5:17

7. Keep short accounts.

*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.
— 1 John 1:9*

Our Savior kneels down and gazes upon the darkest acts of our lives. But rather than recoil in horror, He reaches out in kindness and says, "I can clean that if you want." We need to recognize that our personal insufficiency ... is what draws us toward God ... our incompleteness as a kind of open space into which we can welcome the flow of grace. We can think of our inadequacies as ... doorways through which the power of grace can enter our lives. — Max Lucado

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- David's good days, as well as some of his worst days, are forever recorded in Scripture. Why do you think God chose to reveal the dark side of the "man after His own heart?"
- What is one thing about David's encounter with Bathsheba that impacted you and why?
- What was the story that Nathan told David and what was David's initial response?
- In what ways is it common for us to expect integrity of others yet secretly give ourselves way more space for compromise?
- What is the typical view of sexuality in our culture and how does that compare with the statements made about it in Scripture?
- What are some factors that can make it hard for us as believers in community to be vulnerable about our shortcomings and failures in this area?
- While there were very real losses associated with David's failure, how was God's grace also very evident?
- On the weekend, a number of steps were mentioned that can help us create safeguards. Are there any of those that you'd like to pay more attention to?
- Was there one practical suggestion that you'd like to personally work on implementing in a more strategic way going forward?