

David Vs David

David had a lot of victories. He also had one major failing.

How does someone like David go from amazing victories to an amazing failure? How does he go from being known as someone after God's own heart to an adulterous murderer?

1. What was David Doing before each incident?

1 Samuel 23:1-2 Then they told David, saying, "Look, the Philistines are fighting against Keilah, and they are robbing the threshing floors."

² Therefore David inquired of the Lord, saying, "Shall I go and attack these Philistines?" And the Lord said to David, "Go and attack the Philistines, and save Keilah."

- At this point, Saul is chasing David to kill him. David is being faithful to God and preserving the king's life. And just before this moment, David is seeking a place for his parents to be safe, Saul is killing the people helping him, and this plea for help comes to David.

2 Samuel 11:1-2 It happened in the spring of the year, at the time when kings go out to battle, that David sent Joab and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the people of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem. ² Then it happened one evening that David arose from his bed and walked on the roof of the king's house. And from the roof he saw a woman bathing, and the woman was very beautiful to behold.

- Here, David is not doing what he knows to be doing. David is the warrior king. But at the time of battle, he sends out others, but he himself stays home. He is just minding his own business (but not God's business) and temptation comes.

When we stop being about God's business and focus only on ourselves, we set ourselves up for temptation.

- This is called a non-surrendered life.
- We are placing our lives ahead of God by not being in that constant place of communication with Him and being about His business.
- **Romans 12:1-2** I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

2. How does David React in each situation?

1 Samuel 23:3-4 But David's men said to him, "Look, we are afraid here in Judah. How much more then if we go to Keilah against the armies of the Philistines?"

⁴ Then David inquired of the Lord once again. And the Lord answered him and said, "Arise, go down to Keilah. For I will deliver the Philistines into your hand."

- In the previous passage David inquired of the Lord.
- Now the people with him are afraid and questioning, so what does David do? Inquire of God again.
- David knows where His direction and counsel comes from.
- He wrote this:
 - **Proverbs 3:5-6** Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

2 Samuel 11:3-5 So David sent and inquired about the woman.

And *someone* said, "Is this not Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?" ⁴ Then David sent messengers, and took her; and she came to him, and he lay with her, for she was cleansed from her impurity; and she returned to her house. ⁵ And the woman conceived; so she sent and told David, and said, "I *am* with child."

- Instead of going to God, David inquires of the woman. He pursues his temptation.
- This pursuit leads to a full blown affair, and now that affair has a consequence – a pregnancy

When we are in a tempting situation – in the first one, the temptation would be to give in to the fears of his men and go back, the second one is Bathsheba – where do we turn?

- Sometimes we don't turn to God because we know what He will say.
- David did not have to inquire of the woman
- David did not have to have her sent for
- David did not have to sleep with her

Sin rarely comes on by surprise. It almost always is pre-meditated.

The answer is don't meditate on it. Meditate on God.

- **Philippians 4:8-9** Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things *are* noble, whatever things *are* just, whatever things *are* pure, whatever things *are* lovely, whatever things *are* of good report, if *there is* any virtue and if *there is* anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things. ⁹ The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

3. What is the outcome of David's reaction?

1 Samuel 23:5 And David and his men went to Keilah and fought with the Philistines, struck them with a mighty blow, and took away their livestock. So David saved the inhabitants of Keilah.

- David obeys and is victorious
- The people of Keilah are saved
- The Philistines are defeated once again

- David's reputation as a conqueror is furthered

2 Samuel 11:6-27

- This is a very long passage explain the military strategies of David and how he used them to murder Uriah (Bathsheba's husband) to try to cover up his sin.
- But note vs. 27 –
 - **2 Samuel 11:27** And when her mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD.
- David has an affair, that affair had an unintended consequence, now David tries to cover it up and ends up murdering someone.
- Sin leads to more sin

What we see in these passages is that victory leads to more victory. And sin leads to more sin.

- **Galatians 6:7-8** Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. ⁸ For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

What is God's reaction?

1 Samuel 23:9-12 When David knew that Saul plotted evil against him, he said to Abiathar the priest, "Bring the ephod here." ¹⁰ Then David said, "O Lord God of Israel, Your servant has certainly heard that Saul seeks to come to Keilah to destroy the city for my sake. ¹¹ Will the men of Keilah deliver me into his hand? Will Saul come down, as Your servant has heard? O Lord God of Israel, I pray, tell Your servant." And the Lord said, "He will

come down.” ¹² Then David said, “Will the men of Keilah deliver me and my men into the hand of Saul?” And the Lord said, “They will deliver *you*.”

- God protects David. God reveals to him what is going to happen
- You might think that since David just saved these people that they would protect him. But God knows all, and intervenes to protect David.
- David continues in the blessing and protection of God by staying connected to God.

2 Samuel 12:1-15

- God sends a prophet (Nathan) to confront David.
- Even though the last passage we read ended with “But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord.” God did not abandon or give up on David
- God sets David up for repentance
- **2 Samuel 12:13** So David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the Lord.” And Nathan said to David, “The Lord also has put away your sin; you shall not die
- David repented and God put away his sin.
- David was disconnected from God. But God does not give up on us.
- By all standards David did something so atrocious and horrible he should have been cancelled. But God had mercy.

We can always return to God.

- **Micah 7:18** Who *is* a God like You, Pardoning iniquity And passing over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He does not retain His anger forever, Because He delights *in* mercy.

What are the consequences of the entire events?

1 Samuel 23:13-14 So David and his men, about six hundred, arose and departed from Keilah and went wherever they could go. Then it was told Saul that David had escaped from Keilah; so he halted the expedition. And David stayed in strongholds in the wilderness, and remained in the mountains in the Wilderness of Ziph. Saul sought him every day, but God did not deliver him into his hand.

- God is with David. Guiding him, protecting him. And all those with him.
- David eventually becomes king, and this battle stays with him as part of his reputation as a conquering king and his mighty men of valor.

2 Samuel 12:15-23

- David's son, the one born to Bathsheba became ill and died. David fasted and wept hoping for God to save him, but he died anyways.
- But... **2 Samuel 12:24** Then David comforted Bathsheba his wife, and went in to her and lay with her. So she bore a son, and he called his name Solomon. Now the Lord loved him
- God maintains His relationship with David. God had forgiven him of his sin, but left him with the consequences of his actions.
- And now we see God working the union of David and Bathsheba for good with the birth of Solomon – where peace and prosperity would follow him for all of Israel. Solomon is also in the lineage of Joseph – of Joseph and Mary.
- But the path to this place was difficult and filled with many things that did not need to happen.

Departing from God will lead to consequences that we will have to live with. Often bringing difficulty, hardship and many tears.

But this is also not the end. God can and does restore. He does not remove consequences, but He can redeem the situation.

- **Romans 8:28** And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose.

What does this mean for us?

1. We should be about that which we are to be about. David was doing what he was supposed to be doing in the first story, but not in the second.

Stay surrendered!

2. Inquire of the Lord. When David was doing what was right, everything that came before him, he took straight to God. Even when those around him were afraid and doubting. But when looking at temptation, instead of going to God, he went further to the temptation. Pursuing it.

Keep your focus on God!

3. When we find ourselves going the wrong way – God will send provision to bring us to repentance. Follow that. Repent. Run back to God.

Remember that God is for you.

4. What we do affects those around us and there are real consequences to our actions. But remember – God forgives and He can redeem any situation. Even a murderous affair!