

**Slide 1**

# **Sin and Our Attempts To Cover It Up**

## **2 SAMUEL 11:5-27**

### **Introduction**

1. All of us here tonight have something in common with everyone else.
2. As a matter of fact, it is something we have in common with every single human being who has reached a certain point in his or her life.
3. The apostle Paul tells us what that something is in his letter to the church in Rome — we find it in Romans 3:23.

“ . . . for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23, NASB95).

4. Even as he wrote these words, he had already borrowed from the words from another man who had died 1,000 years earlier, one who God declared to be a man after His own heart (1 Samuel 13:14), the man, David.

**Slide 2**

5. The words which Paul borrowed from David are found twice in the Psalms, once in Psalm 14:1-3 and again in Psalm 53:1-3.

There is none righteous, not even one;

There is none who understands,

There is none who seeks for God;

All have turned aside, together they have become useless;

There is none who does good,

There is not even one.

(Romans 3:10–12, NASB95)

6. If anyone knew this to be true it was David himself, for he engaged in one of the greatest attempts to cover up his own sin that we find anywhere in Scripture.

7. You may remember the sin. It involved adultery with a woman named Bathsheba who was the wife of Uriah the Hittite.
8. To complicate matters even more, Uriah was one of David's elite warriors, one of his thirty-seven mighty men (2 Samuel 23:39; 1 Chronicles 11:41).
9. It happened at a time when Uriah and the army were away, having laid siege to Rabbah, the capital city of the Ammonite kingdom.
10. David had stayed in Jerusalem, and on one evening when David could not sleep, he got up and went to the rooftop of the palace.
11. There he happened to see a woman bathing — “she was very beautiful in appearance” (2 Samuel 11:2).
12. He inquired of her and learned that she was Uriah's wife.
13. Still, he sent for her, and committed adultery with her — sometime later, she sent word back to David that she was pregnant.
14. David was faced with a dilemma — the law said, “If there is a man who commits adultery with another man's wife, one who commits adultery with his friend's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death” (Leviticus 20:10).
15. Instead of confessing his sin, David decided to cover it up.

**Slide 3**

## I. David's Attempts To Hide His Sin

### A. DAVID BROUGHT URIAH HOME FROM THE BATTLEFRONT IN ORDER TO MAKE IT APPEAR THAT THE BABY IS HIS (VV. 6-11)

1. David sent a message to Joab, the commander of the army, to send Uriah home — “Send me Uriah the Hittite” (2 Samuel 11:6).
2. Uriah, a mighty man of valor, is being sent home to give a simple report on the battle, something which a messenger could have done.
3. When he arrived, David asked him “how Joab and the troops were doing and how the war was going” (v. 7).
  - a. David isn't truly concerned about any of these things.

- b. His one preoccupation is the covering up of his sin.
- 4. After receiving the report, David tells Uriah, “Go down to your house, and wash your feet” — he also sent “a present from the king” (v. 8).
- 5. However, Uriah being the dedicated soldier that he was did not go home that night, but slept instead at the door of the palace with all of David’s servants (v. 9).
- 6. When David learned of this, he questioned Uriah, “Haven’t you just come from a journey? Why didn’t you go home?” (v. 10).
- 7. Uriah being the loyal man that he was replied, “The ark, Israel, and Judah are dwelling in tents, and my master Joab and his soldiers are camping in the open field. How can I enter my house to eat and drink and sleep with my wife? As surely as you live and by your life, I will not do this!” (v. 11).

**Slide 4****B. GET URIAH DRUNK SO THAT HE WILL DO WHAT HE WOULD NOT ORDINARILY DO WERE HE SOBER (VV. 12-13)**

- 1. By this time, David is getting desperate.
- 2. Never had he considered that Uriah would refuse such an offer.
- 3. David knew that Uriah would never violate his loyalties as a soldier while his mental faculties were intact.
- 4. So, he has Uriah join him for dinner on his last night at home before he goes back to the battlefield in the morning.
- 5. He succeeds in getting Uriah drunk (v. 13).
- 6. However, Uriah still does not go to his house, but again sleeps outside the palace (v. 13b).

**Slide 5****C. SEND URIAH BACK TO THE BATTLE FRONT WITH HIS OWN DEATH WARRANT (VV. 14-17)**

- 1. Even drunk, Uriah has proven to be a better man than David.
- 2. Believing himself to have no other option, David sends Uriah back to Joab

with a letter — his own death warrant.

3. In the letter, David instructed Joab, “Place Uriah in the front line of the fiercest battle and withdraw from him, so that he may be struck down and die” (2 Samuel 11:15).
4. In giving this order, David makes Joab a part of his conspiracy.
5. David’s sin continued to encompass more and more people, leading to greater and greater sin.
6. The fact that David would make Joab complicit in his crime is unthinkable, especially after Joab’s own murder of Abner, the former commander of the army under King Saul (2 Samuel 3:26-30).

### Slide 6

#### **B. THE EFFECT OF DAVID’S SIN UPON HIM (vv 18-25)**

1. After Uriah’s death in battle, Joab sent a messenger back to David with a report on the battle.
2. The messenger delivers the message a little differently than planned (vv. 19-24).
3. David’s reaction to the news reveals a different man from years earlier (v. 25).
  - a. On the surface, David’s words seem to be gracious and understanding, even sympathetic.
  - b. In reality, he is saying something to the effect of “Tell Joab not to worry about it. You win a few, you lose a few. That is the nature of war.”
4. This response to the death of Uriah is much different from David’s responses to the deaths of . . .
  - a. Saul and Jonathan in which he tore his clothes and mourned, wept and fasted for these two men who had been killed in battle (2 Samuel 1:11-27).
  - b. Abner, in which he instructed Joab and those with him to tear their clothes, put on sackcloth and lament for Abner, while he himself

chanted a lament (2 Samuel 3:28-39).

5. The difference now was that David had become calloused by his own sin.

### Slide 7

## II. What Are We To Learn From David's Sin and Attempted Coverup?

### A. EVEN THOUGH WE ARE CHRISTIANS, WE CAN STILL FALL

1. David was a man after God's own heart.
2. Yet, in spite of his trust in God and his beautiful psalms, he still fell deeply into sin.
3. We must never forget, if David could fall, so can we.
4. In 1 Corinthians 10, after telling of all that God did for Israel as He led them through the wilderness, the apostle Paul informs the Christians in Corinth "Now these things happened to them as an example written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall" (1 Corinthians 10:11-12).

### Slide 8

### B. WE CAN FALL JUST AS FAR AS DAVID

1. David not only committed adultery, he was also guilty of murder.
2. We must realize *there is no sin of which we as Christians are not capable.*
3. Have you ever heard someone say, "I don't know how a person could do this or than and still claim to be a Christian."
4. Just like David, there may be a time when others do not recognize us as God's servants.

### 8b

### C. WE CAN FALL JUST AS FAST AS DAVID

1. It didn't take very long at all for David to fall into these sins.
2. From the point that he learned of Bethsheba's pregnancy it took only a few days until Uriah's death.

3. Though David's sin started as a private act between two consenting adults, it rapidly snowballed out of control.
4. It eventually reached the point where . . .
  - a. A true and loyal friend (Uriah) was treated as an enemy.
  - b. David's enemies (the Ammonites, and to some extent Joab) became his allies.
5. Without God's help, each of us, like David, can fall very far, very quickly.

**Slide 9****D. WHEN WE SEEK TO CONCEAL OUR SIN, THINGS ONLY GET WORSE**

1. David acknowledged this aspect of his sin in one of the two psalms he wrote related to this event:

When I kept silent about my sin, my body wasted away

Through my groaning all day long.

For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me;

My vitality was drained away as with the fever heat of summer. ”

(Psalm 32:3-4, NASB95)

2. It was Solomon, David's second son by Bathsheba, who wrote the words we find in Proverbs 28:13.

“He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper,

But he who confesses and forsakes them will find compassion.”

(Proverbs 28:13, NASB95)

3. How much better it would have been for David to have confessed his sin before it grew any worse.
4. Like David, when we attempt to cover up our sins, we only make them worse.

**Slide 10****E. URIAH'S DEATH REMINDS US THAT GOD DOES NOT ALWAYS DELIVER THE RIGHTEOUS FROM THE HAND OF THE WICKED IMMEDIATELY, OR EVEN IN THIS LIFETIME**

1. Daniel's three friends, Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, who refused to

bow down before the golden image which King Nebuchadnezzar, told the king that their God was able to deliver them from the fiery furnace (Daniel 3:16-18).

- a. They did not presume that God would deliver them, or even that He must deliver them.
  - b. We know from the story that God did deliver them.
2. Too often we tend to look upon their deliverance as the rule, rather than the exception.
  3. Even though Uriah faithfully served His king, he still lost his life.
  4. We should not expect God to “bail us out of trouble,” or keep us from tribulations because we trust and obey Him.
  5. A strong faith is no guarantee that we will not suffer in this life.
  6. If anything, the opposite is true:

“Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God” (Acts 14:22).

“Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted” (2 Timothy 3:12).

7. Sometimes, God delivers His servants from the hands of wicked men, but oftentimes He does not (cf. Hebrews 11:13-16, 32-40).

## **Conclusion**

1. The guilt of David’s sin continued to eat away at him until God sent a prophet named Nathan to confront David with his sin.

### **Slide 11**

2. It was at this point that David finally confessed his sin, “I have sinned against the Lord” (2 Samuel 12:13).
3. God forgave him and the burden of David’s guilt was lifted away.
4. Listen to what David later wrote in Psalm 32:

I acknowledged my sin to You,  
And my iniquity I did not hide;  
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord";  
And You forgave the guilt of my sin.

(Psalm 32:5, NASB95)

5. The blessing which David felt because God had forgiven his sin prompted him to write . . .

How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven,  
Whose sin is covered!  
How blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not impute iniquity,  
And in whose spirit there is no deceit!"

(Psalm 32:1-2, NASB95)

6. It is not different for those of us who are Christians today. We must still confess our sin and seek God's forgiveness:

"If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:8-9, NASB95)

7. If you are not a Christian this evening, you are carrying a tremendous load of sin and the guilt that accompanies it. The removal of that burden comes only through Jesus Christ.

**11a**

8. I will say to you the same thing that a man named Ananias said to Saul, a man who was guilty of persecuting Christians even to the point of death.

"Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name." (Acts 22:16, NASB95)