

FIRST THING:

- Welcome & Connect Card
- Please check out the QR code or fathomchurch.org/info
 - for everything that's happening
- **SLIDE** COMMISSION JOEL CATHEY as new College Minister

INTRODUCTION

Hey, if you have your Bibles, and I hope you do,

- please grab them and turn to 2 Samuel chapter 11.
- I'd encourage you towards a paper Bible if possible...
- You can use one of the hard-backed black bibles
 - under every single chair.
 - You'll find 2 Samuel 11 on page **262**.

ILLUSTRATION: APPLE TREES

When I moved into my house there were three apple trees in our yard.

And you might think,

- *"That's awesome, man!*
- *Apple trees are great!*
- *I love apples!"*

And you would be wrong!

Apple trees are the worst!

Don't get me wrong...

- They're beautiful when they flower in the spring.
- And they're cool when you eat an apple or two in the Fall.
 - But they require a lot of care and pruning.
 - And they attract a lot of flies.

- And the apples fall on the ground...
 - and your dogs eat them incessantly...
 - and then throw-up apple slop.
- And they're just way more trouble than they're worth.

So, on the day I closed on my house...I cut down three apple trees.

But the problem with apple trees...

- is even once you cut them down,
 - which is hard enough in-and-of-itself...
- every single root of an apple tree...
 - produces what are known as "suckers."
- Suckers are these little shoots that grow up out of the roots.

And so, I cut down my apple trees...

- but for years and years I had to fight...
- all these suckers in my lawn...
- trying to become apple trees, themselves.

So, I brought some apple seeds with me today.

- This one little seed...
 - can produce a tree...
 - which can produce countless suckers...
 - which, if you're not careful...
- can take over the world.

Here, I need someone to hold one of these seeds for me.

TRANSITION

We're in the 10th week of our 2 Samuel sermon series.

- And today, we FINALLY get to David and Bathsheba.

- Even if you're not that familiar with the Bible,
 - you probably know those names...
- and you know that what we're about to get into...
 - IS NOT GOOD.

And gosh, y'all, we're gonna watch David...

- the man after God's own heart...
- the greatest king in Israel's history...
 - make the greatest mistake of his life...
- and it all stems from an itty bitty seed...

So, I'm calling today's sermon **SLIDE HOW TO HAVE AN AFFAIR**

- This is a warning sermon.
 - You want to ruin your life by having an affair?
- Just follow these three simple steps!

Let's get into it: 2 Samuel chapter 11 starting in verse 1:

2 SAMUEL 11:1

[1] In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel. And they ravaged the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem.

POINT 1: DON'T LOOK

Now, the writer is trying to tell us important things in the details here: David doesn't go out **when kings go out**.

It's Spring, so the winter rains have stopped, and so, it's time for war!

- Now, Kings didn't ALWAYS accompany their troops in battle.
 - BUT the writer mentions specifically...
 - that this is the time when kings DO go out.

The writer wants us to take note that David DIDN'T go.

- David SENT and David STAYED.

- He's in the wrong place.

Hey church, you wanna know HOW TO HAVE AN AFFAIR?

Seed number 1:

SLIDE DON'T LOOK at where you are.

- You start by not paying attention to where you are.

Hey, I want you to hear me on this:

- It's far easier to AVOID temptation...

- than it is to RESIST it.

So, DON'T LOOK...

David SENT and David STAYED.

Hebrew scholar, Robert Alter,

- points out that the verb, *to send*, right here in verse 1...
- happens 11 times in this chapter.
 - David doesn't even leave his house...
 - for this entire chapter.
 - All he does is send others to do his bidding.

And here's his quote:

“David, now a sedentary king, has removed himself from the field of action and endowed himself with a dangerous amount of leisure.”

APPLICATION

For some of you, that's a pretty good description of your world...

- it's TV...
- it's your phone...
- it's incessant scrolling...
- it's your hobbies.

You indulge in a dangerous amount of leisure...and it's not good for you.

Are you LOOKING at where you are?

- Cause, gosh y'all, sin begins really small. It's a seed.
- You ever hear someone...
 - after being caught in sin...
 - say something like, *"It all began so innocently?"*

Oh church, right from verse 1 we see...

- that temptation comes and captures us...
- when we are lazy and not alert.

PERSONAL SIN often begins when we neglect PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITY.

- We're the easiest prey for Satan when we're bored.
- And, hear me...
 - if you WON'T find a PRODUCTIVE pastime...
 - the enemy WILL send you a DESTRUCTIVE one.

TRANSITION

So, David has not sinned yet...

- but he's not LOOKING where he's at...
- he's not POSITIONING himself to AVOID temptation...
- and so, here it comes...

Verse 2:

2 SAMUEL 11:2-3

[2] It happened, late one afternoon, when David arose from his couch and was walking on the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful. [3] And David sent and inquired about the woman. And one said, "Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?"

EXPLAIN: BATHSHEBA

So, just note: it's in his laziness...where the temptation shows up.

- Laziness + opportunity...is gonna lead to failure.

And I just wonder...

- how many of us can look back at our past sins...
- and see that very same formula?

But, David asks his people about her...and one of them knew her.

Now, this is a unique feature of this story...

- to introduce a woman by the name of her father...
- AND her husband...
 - is not common in Hebrew literature.

But it's here, because David knew them both.

- Her father, Eliam, was one of David's soldiers.
- And her husband was Uriah the Hittite.

You know who Uriah was?

- When David was a fugitive in the wilderness...
- being hunted down by Saul...
- a group of friends voluntarily came around him.
 - They were called David's Mighty Men.
- And they risked their lives to save David.

And one of David's Mighty Men...was Uriah the Hittite.

- So this isn't just any person...
- this is a man to whom David owes his life.

So, why introduce Bathsheba like this?

- Well, the servant is likely trying to...
 - without overstepping his position...
- let David know that she's off limits.

David's like, "Who dat?"

And the servant is like,

- "Well, I think that's Eliam's daughter...
 - you know?
 - *Uriah's wife.*"
- Like, wink, wink...take the hint, man.

He's trying to WARN David.

POINT 2: DON'T LISTEN

And I'll make my second point about HOW TO HAVE AN AFFAIR:

SLIDE DON'T LISTEN to warnings.

- DON'T LISTEN.
- Don't heed wise counsel.
- Don't be obedient to accountability.
- DON'T LISTEN.

Do you have people in your life who can speak the truth to you?

AND...do you listen to them?

- David has them...
- but he doesn't listen.

One other thing to note in verse 3...

- this is the only time...
- Bathsheba's name is mentioned...
- in this entire chapter.
 - The rest of the time she is "the woman"...
 - or "the wife of Uriah."

And I won't go too much into this...

but the servant is trying to humanize her to David:

- *"That's Bathsheba.*
- *She's Eliam's little girl.*
- *She's Uriah's precious wife."*

But David only sees a woman.

- Oh, my friends, be so careful here.
- Sexual sin dehumanizes.

TRANSITION

And now verses 4 & 5:

Now, every scholar I read mentioned the speed here.

Notice how quick the action is.

- The writer is showing us the rush of events...
- that follows the rush of David's passion.

2 SAMUEL 11:4-5

[4] So David sent messengers and took her, and she came to him, and he lay with her. (Now she had been purifying herself from her uncleanness.) Then she returned to her house. [5] And the woman conceived, and she sent and told David, "I am pregnant."

APPLICATION: FLEE

- He sent;
- he took;
- he lay;
- she left.

The royal deed of self-indulgence does not take very long.

Now, 1 Corinthians 6:18, a verse on sexual temptation,

- Paul tells us to “Flee from sexual immorality.”

The command is to RUN from sexual temptation.

- Think Joseph running from Potiphar’s wife!

Now, let me tell you how big a deal this is.

- In Ephesians 6, Paul says:
 - “Stand firm against the Devil and his schemes.”

Now that’s wild!

- Because that means that if you get home from church today,
 - and you pull up to your house...
 - and the Devil himself is standing in your driveway...
- then the Bible says:
 - “Armor up, and get after him.”
 - *Because greater is he who is in you...*
 - *than he who is in this world.*”
- But if your ex-girlfriend...
- from high school...
- is standing there in a mini skirt...
 - You RUN for your life!
 - You FLEE!

POINT 3: DON'T LEAVE

Hey, you wanna know HOW TO HAVE AN AFFAIR?

SLIDE DON'T LEAVE. Just stick around!

Most of us, when confronted with sexual temptation...

- we don't FLEE...
- we FLIRT.

Every single time you have sinned sexually...

- it's because, when tempted...
- you had an opportunity to leave...
 - and instead of fleeing...
 - you flirted.

I got asked this question hundreds of times when I was a youth pastor:

"Where's the line of what I can do with my girlfriend?"

- But when you ask,
 - *"Where's the line?"*
- It inevitably leads you to ask the next question:
 - *"How close can I get to the line before it's sin?"*
- And if you're asking that question...then the next question is:
 - *"How far OVER the line can I go..."*
 - *and still manage the consequences?"*
- And once you've asked that question you'll find yourself asking:
 - *"How did I get here?"*

TRANSITION

And church, that's **SLIDE HOW TO HAVE AN AFFAIR**

It's that simple!

All you have to do is:

- DON'T LOOK where you are
- DON'T LISTEN to warnings
- And DON'T LEAVE the temptation.

EXPLAIN: BATHSHEBA'S FAULT

Now, one more thing about this story before we move on.

People want to argue about the motives of Bathsheba.

They'll say things like,

- *"well, she shouldn't have been bathing..."*
- *out in the open on the roof."*

But that's not what the text said.

- David was on the roof.
- And David's palace looked down on all the rest of the city.
 - It was the high point.
 - He was a peeping Tom.

And she wasn't, like, in a bubble bath seducing him.

- It was a ritual cleansing bath from her monthly cycle!

Then they'll say,

- *"Well, the text says that she came to him."*

But you need to know the power dynamics here.

- HE'S the king.
- HE sent for her.
- HE didn't say why.
- And it didn't really matter.
 - When the king calls...you come.

And then scholars point out...

- that there's not ONE word said...
- about Bathsheba's emotions or intentions...
- in this entire passage.

Remember: the Bible cannot mean for us what it did not mean for them.

- The writer wants you laser focused on David.

Now, not all women are victims...the Bible's clear about that.

- We saw this with Potiphar's wife...
- and with Lot's daughters...
- and even with one of David's wives, Abigail...
 - back in 1 Samuel 25.

But in this story,

- Bathsheba and Uriah are meant to be seen as the victims...
- of David's choices and sins.

The most telling verb is in verse 4 when it says "he took her."

TRANSITION: OUTCOMES

And oh, how I wish that were the end of the story...

- but sin never happens in a vacuum...
- these were seeds...

But, did you notice that all three points were things you could control?

- YOU CAN CONTROL where you are.
- YOU CAN CONTROL if you listen to warnings.
- And YOU CAN CONTROL if you leave.

Those are all things YOU CAN CONTROL.

And this is a really important truth you need to know for the rest of this text:

- YOU get to control INPUTS...
- But you DON'T get to control OUTCOMES.

You have a TON of control over what SEEDS you plant in your life.

But you have almost NO control over what they GROW into.

And now that David has chosen some really shady seeds.

- And the first outcome that's out of his control is...
 - *I'm pregnant.*
- But now he's gonna try to control further outcomes.

Verse 6:

2 SAMUEL 11:6-8

[6] So David sent word to Joab, "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent Uriah to David. [7] When Uriah came to him, David asked how Joab was doing and how the people were doing and how the war was going. [8] Then David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house and wash your feet." And Uriah went out of the king's house, and there followed him a present from the king.

EXPLAIN

So, we see David's plan is to cover up his mess.

- He brings Uriah back...
- under the guise of getting information...
- on how things were going on the front lines.

And once he's heard enough to make the trip plausible...

- he tells Uriah to **go home and wash your feet.**
 - This is a euphemism for sex.
- And what's implied is,
 - *"Uriah, go be with your wife.*
 - *You've earned it.*
 - *In fact, let me send a present along with you.*
 - *Some wine and some choice foods.*
 - *Go, enjoy yourself, my friend."*

SHOWER, SUPPER, SEX...that's the plan.

- He's trying to get Uriah to sleep with Bathsheba,
- so that the pregnancy can be explained by this encounter.

But remember, you can't control the outcomes.

Verse 9:

2 SAMUEL 11:9

[9] But Uriah slept at the door of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and did not go down to his house.

And that's a shocking twist.

- *"Wait a minute...*
- *your wife is just down the street...*
 - *I can literally see into your house from upstairs...*
 - *not that I'd know anything about that!*
- *What are you doing sleeping here?"*

Verse 11:

2 SAMUEL 11:11

[11] Uriah said to David, “The ark and Israel and Judah dwell in booths, and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are camping in the open field. Shall I then go to my house, to eat and to drink and to lie with my wife? As you live, and as your soul lives, I will not do this thing.”

Uriah essentially says:

- *“Not on my honor!*
- *I would never indulge myself like this...*
- *while my men are at war.”*

Hey, that’s exactly what David SHOULD have done 10 verses ago!

- But that’s gonna bother David...
 - because when you’re in sin...
 - there’s nothing more ANNOYING and UNNERVING...
 - than the INTEGRITY OF OTHERS.

2 SAMUEL 11:12-13

[12] Then David said to Uriah, “Remain here today also, and tomorrow I will send you back.” So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day and the next.

[13] And David invited him, and he ate in his presence and drank, so that he made him drunk. And in the evening he went out to lie on his couch with the servants of his lord, but he did not go down to his house.

Gosh, David even tries to get Uriah drunk...but it doesn’t work.

And so, David has to make a decision:

- Will he confess?
- Oh, surely NOW he’ll confess!

SLIDE JAMES 1:14-15

[14] But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. [15] Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

Oh church, when sin is CONCEALED...sin will COMPOUND.

Verse 14:

BLANK SLIDE

2 SAMUEL 11:14-17

[14] In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it by the hand of Uriah. [15] In the letter he wrote, "Set Uriah in the forefront of the hardest fighting, and then draw back from him, that he may be struck down, and die." [16] And as Joab was besieging the city, he assigned Uriah to the place where he knew there were valiant men. [17] And the men of the city came out and fought with Joab, and some of the servants of David among the people fell. Uriah the Hittite also died.

EXPLAIN: MURDER

So, now Joab is in on this.

- And he's gonna have to fudge his militaristic strategy...
- to cover up David's sin.
 - And yes, Uriah is killed...
- but more of David's men are killed as well.
 - It's not just one murder,
 - but many.

All as a result of David trying to cover it up.

- When sin is CONCEALED...
- sin will COMPOUND.

The seed has grown...and grown...and grown...into a whole grove of trees.

TRANSITION

Now, verses 18-25...

- cover Joab relaying of the information...
- back to David...
- informing him that Uriah was dead.

They're interesting, but I don't have time to go into them.

So we'll skip to the end and look at verse 26:

2 SAMUEL 11:26-27a

[26] When the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she lamented over her husband. [27] And when the mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son.

EXPLAIN: GOT AWAY WITH IT

Now, for David to take her as his wife...

- is an act of nobility...
 - he is the redeemer...
 - of a military widow...
 - after her husband has died.

And so, David becomes the public hero of this story...

- and everyone assumes she got pregnant on their honeymoon...
- and they all live happily ever after.

Hey...listen...**David thinks he got away with it!**

But look at the last words of verse 27:

2 SAMUEL 11:27b

But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD.

EXPLAIN

Two more things before I close up:

First:

- If you have ever been a victim...
 - of sexual abuse...
 - or sinned against sexually...
- I want you to see that sentence...
 - That sentence means that God sees.
 - **And it displeased the LORD.**

But second:

- while David thinks he may have gotten away...
- with this heinous series of events...
 - the FIRST TIME God is mentioned in this chapter...
 - is the moment we realize that justice will come.

But we'll have to wait until next week to see that justice.

CONCLUSION BLANK SLIDE W/PADS

My friends...it all started with a seed.

- Small.
- Unassuming.
- Innocent.

But it grew...and it grew...and it grew.

- He covets.
- Then he commits adultery.
- Then he lies about it.
- And finally he murders to cover it up.

That's like half of the 10 Commandments!

- And this is the great lie with sin...
 - especially with sexual sin.
- We think we're just gonna satisfy the urge...
 - but it's never satisfied!
 - It only grows more hungry.

ENDING

So, what do we take from this terrible chapter?

Well, there's so much...but I'll leave it like this for this morning:

- the seeds of the most terrible atrocities...
 - the capability of the worst possible sins...
- are present in every human heart...
 - even the very best of people...
 - even those saved by God.

Those seeds, right now, exist in your heart.

That's what this chapter is teaching.

- If you begin to say, *"Oh, but I could never..."*
- then you have already taken the first step in your fall.

Don't ever be surprised at what you are capable of.

- Listen to me church...you are capable of this!
- Because it all starts with a seed.

And that apple seed you are holding...here's what I know:

- Apple seeds contain a compound...
 - that if crushed up...
 - and consumed...
 - can produce hydrogen cyanide.
 - **CYANIDE!** That's incredibly toxic for humans.

Did you realize you were holding something that could kill you?

- Now, don't worry, because you'd have to eat 83-500 seeds...
 - to effectively get cyanide poisoning.

But I did the math:

- An average apple produces 5-10 seeds.
 - That means between 17-100 apples could kill you.
- AND an average apple tree produces 1,500 apples per season.
 - So, one tree could kill between 88-150 people.
- My three trees could take out this whole church, no problem!

All from a seed.

**The seeds of compromise are present inside you...
long before the harvest of destruction.**

- And you **WON'T** be able to control...
- **WHAT** they become...
- if they **FIND** the right soil.

So, I'll end with the quote I use all the time from the Puritan, John Owen:

SLIDE *"You must be killing sin or it will be killing you."*

- Crush the seeds.
 - It's far easier than cutting down a full grown tree.
- Already planted them?
 - Dig 'em up.
- They've sprouted a little sapling?
 - Rip it out of the ground, roots and all.

It's far easier.

"Be killing sin or it will be killing you."

- And we'll see the consequences and aftermath...
- of David's sin next week.

Let's pray.

RESPONSES:

Well, every week at Fathom we respond in 4 ways:

- COMMUNION – THE LORD’S SUPPER
- GIVING TITHES & OFFERINGS – fathomchurch.org/give
- PRAYER - fathomchurch.org/prayer
- SINGING

So, I’m going to read the Words of Institution from the Apostle Paul, we’ll take communion, and then we’ll sing:

1 CORINTHIANS 11:23–26 – WORDS OF INSTITUTION

[23] For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, [24] and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” **TAKE**

[25] In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” **TAKE**

[26] For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

Love you church, let’s stand and sing together.

RESOURCES CONSULTED:

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- Greear, J.D. *What Happened?*
- Keller, Tim. *David and Bathsheba*.
- Stuart, Ben. *Kings & Kingdoms*.
- Tsumura, David Toshio. The New International Commentary on the Old Testament. The Second Book of Samuel.