**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | The High Cost Of Low Living |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | 2 Samuel 11 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #1978 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. Second Samuel eleven is a sad chapter in the Word of God which chronicles the story of David’s sin with Bathsheba.
   2. This tragic story helps us answer questions about Christians falling into sin:
      1. Can a child of God sin? Yes.
      2. Can a child of God sin and not suffer? No.
   3. The Bible called David “a man after God’s own heart.”
   4. David was brave.
      1. He killed a lion and a bear.
      2. As a young lad, he went out after and killed the giant Goliath.
   5. David was talented.
      1. He was a king, a warrior, a poet, a musician.
   6. David was humble.
      1. After he had been appointed and anointed to be king of Israel, he went back to tending sheep.
   7. David was noble.
      1. He refused to harm Saul when he had the opportunity, even as Saul was trying to kill him.
         1. 1 Samuel 26:11
   8. When God paints a verbal portrait of a man, He paints the whole thing.
      1. The Bible doesn’t hide the blemishes, the scars.
      2. 2 Samuel 11:1-5
         1. David was a warrior-king; but he did not go to war this time.
            1. This was a time when kings went to war.
            2. But David stayed behind in Jerusalem.
         2. David committed the sin of adultery
   9. This story is a warning to each of us that everyone is susceptible to falling into sin and that there is a high cost to sinful living.
   10. None of us is a better person than David was, perhaps one of the greatest men who ever lived.
   11. David was a man among men, an incredible individual, and yet David fell into deep, dark, hateful, heinous sin.
2. the tragic cause of david’s sin
   1. How could a good man like this fall into sin?
   2. His sin was the sin of idleness.
      1. 2 Samuel 11:1-2
      2. It was the time when kings went to war. But David is there in Jerusalem.
      3. The harvest was over, and the time for battles had begun.
         1. There are two fields that every one of us need to stay in: one is the harvest field, and the other is the battlefield.
         2. If you’re a Christian, God never intends for you to ever get out of either the harvest field or the battlefield.
      4. David is not doing something wrong at this particular time, except that he’s failing to do something right.
         1. His idleness is a sin of omission.
         2. An idle mind is the devil’s workshop.
            1. James 4:17
         3. Every sin, ultimately, is a sin of omission; if you’re doing what you ought to do, you cannot be doing what you ought not to do.
      5. Instead of being with his compatriots in war, David was in bed—in the afternoon, lolling around.
         1. There is a time for a legitimate rest, but you’re not supposed to stay in the bed all day long.
            1. Proverbs 24:33-34
         2. We are to stay busy to avoid getting into trouble.
            1. Young people: don’t sit around all day watching television; help around the house or do yardwork.
            2. If you don’t have a job to do, go serve somebody, even if you don’t get paid.
            3. If you’re retired, that means you’ve got more time to serve God.
            4. God wants you to stay occupied.

Luke 19:13

* 1. His sin was the sin of carelessness.
     1. David was a warrior king, but now he has taken off his armor.
        1. 2 Timothy 2:3
     2. David had begun to take all of his victories for granted and just presumed that God would keep on blessing.
     3. David did not fall because he was weak. David fell because he was strong.
     4. David fell, not at the point of his weakness, but at the point of his strength.
        1. The point of David’s strength, at which he fell, was his integrity.
           1. Psalms 26:1
           2. David fell at the point of his integrity because he got careless.
           3. An unguarded strength is a double weakness.
           4. Other great men of God failed at their point of strength, not weakness.

Simon Peter’s greatest strength was his courage.

Luke 22:33

In the Garden of Gethsemane, he defended Jesus with a sword.

John 18:10

Yet a girl caused Peter to curse and deny Jesus.

Matthew 26:74

* + 1. David is a man who failed because of his carelessness, which the Bible cautions against.
       1. Proverbs 4:23
  1. It was a sin of impulsiveness.
     1. David had not planned to sin that day. He’d not been scheming; he did not intend to do this thing, but he was just impulsive in this sin.
     2. Sin is often a combination of three things:
        1. It is an undetected weakness.
        2. It is an unexpected opportunity.
        3. It is an unprotected life.
           1. You must keep your heart, protect your life because you do not know what is latent in your flesh.

Even if you have been saved a long time, your flesh has not improved one tiny bit.

John 3:6

This is the reason you must bring the mantle of God’s protection over your life by praying each day as Jesus taught us to do.

Matthew 6:13

There are three people sitting in the chair you’re in right now:

There is the person you are right now in this moment.

There is the person you could be for God if you sold out one hundred percent.

There is the person for evil that you may become if you take your eyes off the Lord.

* + - 1. David never dreamed he would do such a thing; but he did.
      2. He had begun to coast, not realizing how cold his heart had become.
         1. We often say, “Look how far they fell.” But we do not know how low they were living.
  1. It became a sin of callousness.
     1. When David discovered that Bathsheba was pregnant, he tried to cover up his sin.
     2. He ended up carrying out a diabolical plan which caused his faithful friend and servant, Uriah, to die by David’s hand.
     3. David’s sin with Bathsheba was a hot-blooded sin rooted in lust.
     4. But his sin with Uriah was a cold-blooded sin which he plotted.
     5. Uriah the Hittite, who would have died for David’s honor, died from David’s hand.
     6. Hebrews 3:13
        1. David had no idea how cold his heart had become.
  2. It became a sin of stubbornness.
     1. God had spoken to David and he was under great conviction.
     2. David went one whole year without repenting and getting right with God.
     3. David was like many who begin to rationalize their sin, stonewalling God, thinking somehow God will forget about it and they can just muddle through and gloss over the thing.

1. the tremendous cost of david’s sin
   1. God did not forget, and He was greatly displeased by David’s sin.
      1. 2 Samuel 11:27
   2. David knew his sin displeased God because of all that happened to him after.
      1. Psalm 38:1-2
         1. When a child of God sins, the first things that happen are words of rebuke.
            1. God the Holy Spirit will speak to you when you sin.
            2. God will rebuke you when you sin.
            3. God will put His finger on the sore spot and say, “That was wrong.”
            4. If you’re living openly in sin and God does not rebuke you, you’re not a child of God.
         2. When David tried to hide his sin, there were arrows of conviction.
            1. Psalm 38:2
            2. God pierced his heart.
            3. God said, “David, what you’ve done is horribly wrong!”
         3. There is the hand of pressure.
            1. If you’re a child of His, God doesn’t toss you away when you sin; He puts His hand on you and squeezes.
            2. In Psalm 51 David spoke poetically of his bones being broken, expressing the feeling that God was crushing him, squeezing the life out of him.
            3. If you’re living in sin and know that kind of pressure, you better thank God for it because He loves you too much to let you go on in sin.

Being under conviction is a mark that a person is saved.

Hebrews 12:8

The most miserable man in the world is not an unsaved man.

The most miserable man in the world is a child of God out of fellowship with God.

When God saves you, God doesn’t fix you up where you can’t sin anymore. But He fixes you up where you can’t sin and enjoy it anymore.

If you’re a child of God and you’re living in sin, God’s not going to let you go. You’re not going to get away with it.

* 1. David’s costly sin wearied him.
     1. Psalm 38:3
     2. Night and day, day and night, the thing David has done is in his heart and in his mind, and he can’t sleep.
        1. A clear conscience is better than any sleeping pill.
        2. Unresolved guilt will sap the strength out of your life, strength that ought to be given to productive purposes.
  2. David’s sin weighted him.
     1. Psalm 38:4
     2. Sin is a weight too heavy for us to bear.
  3. David’s sin wounded him.
     1. Psalm 38:5
     2. This speaks of spiritual gangrene, the corruption on the inside.
     3. This speaks about what happened when that arrow of conviction sliced into him.
     4. Sorrow is a clean wound; it will heal. Guilt is a dirty wound; it only festers until it’s cleansed.
  4. David’s sin worried him.
     1. Psalm 38:6
     2. What a miserable man David was, constantly worried about his sin, wondering if people knew.
     3. He had no peace.
  5. David’s sin wasted him.
     1. Psalm 38:7
     2. David is now talking not poetically, but about an actual disease, possibly a sexually transmitted disease.
     3. Sin promises much, but it pays little.
     4. God’s plan is for a person to keep themselves sexually pure for the one they are going to marry.
     5. Don’t be worried so much about safe sex. Put your attention on sacred sex. That’s always safe.
     6. God’s plan is one man for one woman; premarital chastity, post-marital fidelity.
  6. David’s sin weakened him.
     1. Psalm 38:8
     2. He used to be a mighty warrior. Now he’s broken in body and broken in spirit.
        1. Psalm 38:10, 13
        2. The mighty warrior of Israel is now spiritually blind, spiritually deaf and spiritually dumb.
           1. He’s blind to blessing, deaf to danger.
        3. David is no longer singing, praising, worshipping and glorifying God, his sin weakened this mighty man of God.
  7. David’s sin was also costly to his friends and family.
     1. Psalm 38:11
     2. The word “sore” here is the word for leprosy. David had become a moral leper. He’s unclean. His friends, his acquaintances, his kinfolk, they’re backing away from him.
     3. The tragedy that David’s sin brought to his family is yet another part of the tremendously high cost of low living.

1. the timely challenge to david’s sin
   1. God did not let this go on and on.
   2. God sent Nathan the prophet to confront David about his sin.
      1. 2 Samuel 12:9
   3. There are four steps to how God will deal with a person, challenging them when they are in this kind of a sin.
      1. Conviction
         1. Those words of rebuke, that arrow of conviction, that hand of pressure.
         2. If you are convicted of any sin in your life, even if it seems like a small thing, you should deal with it immediately.
            1. 1 Corinthians 11:31-32
         3. God is not trying to get even with you. God just wants you to be corrected!
            1. When parents punish children, they’re not trying to get even with those children; they’re trying to correct them.
            2. What is wanted is a change of behavior. God wants to try to correct His child, first of all, through conviction.
      2. Chastisement
         1. If conviction doesn’t work, God will carry you to the woodshed.
            1. Hebrews 12:6

Don’t think that God won’t chastise you: the word “scourge” is a word for severe whipping.

* + - 1. God is more concerned about your holiness than He is your health.
      2. God is more concerned about your righteousness than you driving a nice car or living in a big house, having business success or your reputation.
      3. God will appropriately chastise you, not because He doesn’t love you but because He does love you.
         1. He loved David.

Psalm 89

* + 1. Confrontation
       1. God will not let you go on in sin but will bring you to a confrontation, just as he did David.
       2. A confrontation might come to you in many ways:
          1. Through a book or something you read.
          2. The Holy Spirit may just speak to your heart.
          3. Through someone like a spouse, a friend, or your pastor.
          4. Through some circumstance you face.
          5. Through a sermon (even this message, perhaps.)
       3. When you are confronted, you will know that you’re right on the threshold of being judged.
    2. Consummation
       1. 2 Samuel 12:13
       2. God was getting ready to kill David, had he not repented.
          1. There is sin that leads to death for the child of God.

1 John 5:16

* + - * 1. Moses walked to his own funeral because of his sin against God.

Deuteronomy 34:7

* + - * 1. Balaam would have been slain by the angel of the Lord, had it not been for his donkey.

Numbers 22:33

1. CONCLUSION
   1. If you’re living in sin and God is not dealing with you, you need to get saved.
   2. If you’re living in sin and God is dealing with you, you need to get right with God.
   3. God is serious about your life. He wants you to live a righteous and a holy life.
      1. Many Christians will think this message is for other people, for those sinners out there; no, this message is for you.
      2. David’s problem was not the adultery or the murder, it was the coldness of his heart.
   4. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   5. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16