

- When do you connect with God?
- What is your perspective about why you come to church?
- Who do you have in your life that challenges you to do the right thing and follow God?

*The flesh burns and is in flames. **It makes no difference** whether it is a sexual desire, or ambition, or vanity, or desire for revenge, or love of fame and power, or greed or money..." (IDOLATRY)*

*At this moment God is quite unreal to us. He loses all reality, and only desire for the creature is real. The only reality is the devil. Satan does not here fill us with hatred of God, but with **forgetfulness of God...***

## **2<sup>nd</sup> mistake... 2. David got away from God's presence**

*So Joshua son of Nun called the priests and said to them, "Take up the ark of the covenant of the LORD and have seven priests carry trumpets in front of it." Josh 6:6*

- David sent the ark of God and the worshippers out the army.
- He did not have the **presence of God** with him. (Personal time w/God)
- He couldn't **hear the worship** of God. (Corporate Worship – Sundays)
- Couldn't **smell altar sacrifices** reminding cost of sin. (Show me the condition of heart)

**Q: How do you stay connected to God's presence?**

## **3<sup>rd</sup> mistake... 3. David got away from his friends.**

- David sent all his men out to war. (Sent his friends away).
- In football you would say... his protection breaks down.
- These men would never have allowed David to fall into sin with Bathsheba.
- Servant tried to warn David not an equal.
- Uriah was one of David's "Mighty Men". These are loyal men, David's bodyguards and heroes of the army.

**Q: Who do you have in your life that you trust who warns you?**

### **Conclusion:**

*It's crucial that we keep a firm grip on what we've heard so that we don't drift off. Heb. 2:1 Message Bible*

Questions to ask yourself...

- David was not where God wanted him. What places do you find yourself most tempted?

**This verse gives us all the details of David's failure if we understand the setting.**

Why the spring? Because the winter was a rainy season and it was just too difficult to move horses and chariots through the mud and water.

It was customary for the King to lead his troops into battle. But King David must have decided that the army didn't need him...he was taking it easy.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Mistake... 1. David got away from his purpose**

David was about 50 years old. He had been king for 20 years. He was going through a transition. He had led the battles, he had led the people in worship, led the kingdom. Now, he probably was tired. "Let others lead the battle." **I CAN RELATE**

This turned his heart away from God just enough. He's bored, tired, looking for fulfillment the easy way.

2 Sam. 5:13 – "David took more concubines and wives..."

Violation of Deut. 17:14-17, same mistake Solomon would later make that led to his demise.

- **What was David's purpose?** (Be a leader)
- **David was in bed instead of battle.**
- **Going to war makes you think about bigger picture stuff, like mortality, your family, God.** David is safe back home in his palace he is not thinking about anything but his own comfort and desires.

**Q: What is it that fulfills you in serving God?**

### **Read 2 Sam. 11:2-5**

David forgot he was God's man. He forgot all the lessons he had learned during his days as a youth worshipping God out in the field or in a cave on the run from King Saul.

He sees Bathsheba and is consumed in his imagination with lust. Passion takes over.

In his book **Temptation**, Dietrich Bonhoeffer said,

David most referred to person in Bible except Jesus.

Last week we look at David's victory of Goliath. I pointed out that this victory didn't just come in the moment by their were character qualities shaped in David since his youth.

David had **perspective** that this was a spiritual battle, he was an **overcomer** and he had an **undivided heart** of devotion to God.

Today we're going to look at another well known event in David's life, the story of David and Bathsheba.

We'll look at the reasons David, this **man after God's own heart**, fell into temptation and what we can learn from his failure. Did it happen in a moment? No, a progression.

I am grateful that God inspired the Bible. Man would ignore or cover it over. Throughout the bible the failures of men who loved God are exposed.

David was **human**. He lived in a body and had an old nature like you and I. He loved God on one hand and on the other still wrestled with human emotions and desires. **David was a man of passion**. Satan caused that passion in David to be diverted from God and please himself. This is sin.

There are many little steps to sin and a moral failure.

David was enjoying a season of amazing success. The kingdom had expanded, most of Israel's enemies were defeated, time of prosperity. Why is it when things are going well that men sin? Pride and self-reliance.

Difficult times make us look to God. Tough situations humble us. Comfort causes us to ignore God and think we can handle everything, we even start believing we got us here.

*In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king's men and the whole Israelite army. They destroyed the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained in Jerusalem. II Sam 11:1*