

☞ “Sin will take you further than you want to go, slowly, but wholly taking control. Sin will keep you longer than you want to stay, sin will cost you more than you want to pay.” This is the primary thrust of our study today. This week we are going to be looking at another real-life example of one who faced a temptation, but his outcome was not as encouraging as Joseph’s. Going to take a look at King David’s slide into immorality.

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**1. Some may feel that I’m over doing this by spending 4 studies on this topic.**

- ✓ Virtually every survey done among believers reveals that we are only slightly behind the lost world when it comes to falling into immorality. We need some extra doses of teaching and training in this area. 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel 11:1-16; 26-27; 12:1-14, one of things we are going to see is that David’s fall into this immorality was not near as sudden as it might appear. We are going to see that there were warning signs not heeded as well as vulnerabilities that were ignored.

**2. There are at least 5 key issues in David’s life that made him susceptible to sexual immorality. These are vulnerabilities that we need to heed in our own lives.**

- 1) Success: David was very successful. Success is awesome, but it can do some strange things to us if we let it. We start believing our own stuff, self-confidence as opposed to God-confidence is easy to fall into when we are successful. It seems we are often more susceptible to sin or the enemy’s attacks after a great victory. Sometimes we are never so close to defeat as we are after a great victory.
- 2) Wealth: David was fabulously wealthy. Wealth makes us especially open to temptation, with money I can go places, be out of church and accountability as well as attract people who wouldn’t give us the time of day otherwise. You may think of yourself as not wealthy, but have you been to Mexico?, Cuba?, trust me, you’re wealthy. Do you have a car?, money to eat out on?, money for a movie ticket or plane ticket? You are wealthier than 95% of the world.
- 3) Power: David was King over the people of God – it doesn’t get more powerful than that. When you’re powerful or influential, people are more afraid to call your bluff or to hold you accountable. Power, like wealth, has allure to it: power will make you way sexier than you really are! (sports stars, politicians).
- 4) Leisure: Success, wealth and power usually have this as a by-product. David didn’t need to go off to war anymore because he was wealthy, powerful, and very successful. He could afford leisure for a change and a lot of walking around which got him in the way of temptation. Our successes and wealth can afford us a lot of walking around time as well, be careful! Leisure in itself is not bad, but it can bring us places that are bad. The Old Bromide, “Idle hands are the Devil’s workshop” is loaded with common sense!
- 5) Isolation, all David’s companions were off at war and all of his accountability was elsewhere, this is never good. Isolation makes temptation all the more difficult. Mark it carefully, temptation will increase when you are isolated, for the same reason that a wolf will pursue and isolated sheep over a herd of sheep. To sum it up David was at the top of his game, a person is never more vulnerable than at a time like that. Either David didn’t realize it, or he ignored the signs. What is your vulnerability quotient? What things are making you particularly susceptible to temptation, or sexual temptation? What are you doing to guard your heart?

**3. The best defense is a good offense.**

- ✓ Face the danger squarely, David may have thought he was above the rules but that was not the case, 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 10:12. Fear God, David lost his fear there for a moment, perhaps his bigger than life situation helped cloud that for him, Hebrews 13:4. Flee, 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 6:18: Joseph fled and was victorious and David just walked around and was defeated.
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