

Series: David: Man of Passion and Destiny

Sermon: David 6 “The Open Window Shade”

Scripture: 2 Samuel 11:1 - 12:24 (David’s sin with Bethsheba)

Psalm: 51

Theme: Repentance.

Text: Psalm 32:1-2 “The one whose wrongdoing is forgiven, whose sin is covered over, is truly happy! The one the Lord doesn’t consider guilty—in whose spirit there is no dishonesty—that one is truly happy!”

Blurb: So far we’ve seen the brilliant hues of David’s faith and the somber colors of his failures. This Sunday we come to the blackest part of his portrait: David’s adultery with Bathsheba and its tragic aftermath. We don’t study this to condemn David, but to humbly learn. This story is Scripture to warn us of sin’s destructive power—even in those who love the Lord. We’ll learn the pain of judgement, but also the release of repentance, and even joy of forgiveness.

Sources: *David: A Man of Passion and Destiny* by Charles R. Swindoll

Opening Song: “How Great Is Our God” - Sanctify

Welcome: Pastor David

Song set: “Corner Stone”

“No Longer Slaves”

“My Lighthouse”

Worship prayer & Lord’s Prayer.

Mission Moment: VBS

Offering

Kids to Kid’s Church

**PP#1:** David: Man of Passion and Destiny. The Open Window Shade.

“The one whose wrongdoing is forgiven, whose sin is covered over, is truly happy! The one the Lord doesn’t consider guilty—in whose spirit there is no dishonesty—that one is truly happy!” -Psalm 32:1-2

David: Man of Passion and Destiny. The Open Window Shade. Psalm 32:1-2 “The one whose wrongdoing is forgiven, whose sin is covered over, is truly happy! The one the Lord doesn’t consider guilty—in whose spirit there is no dishonesty—that one is truly happy!”

**PP#2:** *Image of King Henry VIII.*

King Henry VIII, arguably the greatest king of England, is called a renaissance man, for was gifted in many areas. He was a strong leader, architect, builder of the British Navy, and military planner. He brought about tax reform, wrote on religion and harshly reorganized the church in England. He was an avid hunter, a champion wrestler, and enjoyed tennis and jousting. He was also a man of the arts, a musician and songwriter, and was known for his lavish collections. But most famously, of course, he was gifted with women: six official wives, and several unofficial mistresses.

**PP#3:** *Image of King David, perhaps similar in some way to Henry VIII?*

We've been looking at another king, who lived 2,500 years before Henry VIII. He is considered the greatest king of Israel. And like King Henry VIII, King David was a renaissance man. He was a great military hero. He was a great builder and designer. He was a strategic leader. He was also a gifted musician and composer. And he was also gifted with women. And it is to this last "gifting" that we turn today.

David had a love for God. He had that passion burning in his heart. At times, it felt stronger than others. He desired to please God and to obey all his commands. Yet David also struggled to live it out faithfully, over time, day by day, the way God wanted.

And perhaps here David is most helpful. We see that godliness does not automatically protect us from sin. But we see that having a heart after God's own heart doesn't mean we must be perfect. God loves us passionately, and most of all, wants us to love Him passionately back. This is what God loved about David. And we see that as people of faith, our faith and obedience can fluctuate.

**PP#4:** *Map of King David's Empire at it's height.*

David is now about 50 years old. He's been king for 20 years. He's been very successful against all his enemies, and he has finally subdued the Philistines. He welded Israel into a solid and powerful nation, reaching from the Euphrates River to the Red Sea. Money poured in.

Unlike Henry VIII, David had his multiple wives, all at the same time! David had 8 wives, who gave him 20 sons and one daughter. David also had a number of official mistresses, who also had children. He didn't have Henry VIII's problem of securing an heir. In fact, David had the opposite problem, he had too many heirs, all competing for the throne. But we'll take a look at that next week.

**PP#5:** Deuteronomy 17:14-17

"When you enter the land the Lord your God is giving you... be sure to appoint over you a king the Lord your God chooses.... The king, moreover...*must not take multiple wives*, or his heart will be led astray. He must not accumulate large amounts of silver and gold."

God's law explicitly forbade polygamy, especially for the king. So, although David so often said how he desired to keep God's laws, he indulged his sexual appetites. And the more his harem grew, it seems, so did his lust. And counterintuitively, even though he indulged his desires, he doesn't seem to be really satisfied. This is true for us, too, isn't it? We think there is no harm in indulging our desires, and we can look at God's rules as being obsolete. But then we find ourselves not satisfied with what we think should.

So, here's a root of sin that David helps us see: indulging our desires against God's Word. Another root we also struggle with today: David's life had gotten quite good. He was quite successful...things settled down, and David started taking it easy. His sense of pride and self-security lets his guard down. He no longer had accountability. Anyone who is fighting addiction or a stubborn sin will tell you, accountability is *essential* to keep from slipping up.

David was living a recipe for disaster: self-indulgence, sense of success and security, and lack of accountability. You know, this can also largely describe our American culture! This is the soup in which we swim. Perhaps David's story is timely! Let's take a look and see if we can make any connections for our lives.

**PP#6:** 1 Samuel 11 (CEB)

1 In the spring, when kings go off to war, David sent Joab, along with his servants and all the Israelites, and they destroyed the Ammonites, attacking the city of Rabbah. But David remained in Jerusalem.

2 Samuel 11, verse 1. “In the spring, when kings go off to war, David sent Joab, along with his servants and all the Israelites, and they destroyed the Ammonites, attacking the city of Rabbah. But David remained in Jerusalem.” Did you catch that? In the spring, when kings are *supposed* to go off to war, King David did not. Rather, he stayed in Jerusalem, while sending everyone else.

You know, by my opinion, I think by the age of 50, David earned a season away from the battlefield. But that’s not how this verse puts it. David shirked his kingly duty. He was supposed to be with his men. Even Saul at David’s age, was still leading his men. But David was choosing a life of leisure and comfort...self-indulgence. Also David’s accountability was out on the battle field.

**PP#7:** 1 Samuel 11 (CEB)

2 One evening, David got up from his couch and was pacing back and forth on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing; the woman was very beautiful. 3 David sent someone and inquired about the woman. The report came back: “Isn’t this Eliam’s daughter Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?” 4 So David sent messengers to get her. When she came to him, he had sex with her. (Now she had been purifying herself after her monthly period.) Then she returned home.

Verse 2. “One evening, David got up from his couch....” The meaning here is that David had taken a nap. His nap lasted into the evening. Don’t you normally nap early afternoon? Not David. It looks like he was sleeping in late, then taking a late afternoon nap. So, in the evening, he was idle. “David got up from his couch and was pacing back and forth on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing; the woman was very beautiful.” OK, what should David have done? Divert his eyes! Look away! Leave the area. I wonder what he was doing on the roof? Was it his custom to look around at the neighbors, whose husbands were all on the battlefield? It also makes me ask if the woman was being very discrete. We don’t know much about her, but if you lived next to the palace, wouldn’t you be careful bathing so people couldn’t see you from the palace? Why did she leave the window shade open? Perhaps she was doing nothing wrong. But David keep looking and looking. His self-indulging with lack of accountability determines his next move. Verse 3. “David sent someone and inquired about the woman. The report came back: ‘Isn’t this Eliam’s daughter Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?’”

OK, she’s not available. Not only that, someone living next to the palace had to be someone fairly important in David’s government. He was from present day Turkey, but still a person from David’s kingdom. So, a wife of an important official in David’s government.

David doesn’t stop. Verse 4. “So David sent messengers to get her. When she came to him, he had sex with her. (Now she had been purifying herself after her monthly period.) Then she returned home.” David had wives and concubines to satisfy his needs, but he wants more. No problem breaking God’s law again! The word here is not rape. Yes, it might be hard to stay no to the king, but the meaning here suggests that she consented.

Well, off she goes home, and no one’s the wiser. David’s life resumes.

But then he gets a phone call from Bethsheba. Verse 5.

**PP#8:** 1 Samuel 11 (CEB)

5 The woman conceived and sent word to David. “I’m pregnant,” she said.

“I’m pregnant.” David panics. He didn’t get away with it. He has broken the trust of his family, of her family, broken the law, and now is about to be the center of a scandal. Guess what he does. Yep, he launches a coverup. Quick, get her husband back here, give them some time together, and everyone will think it’s his child. Lies require more lies; sin breeds more sin.

**PP#9:** 1 Samuel 11 (CEB)

6 Then David sent a message to Joab: “Send me Uriah the Hittite.” So Joab sent Uriah to David. 7 When Uriah came to him, David asked about the welfare of Joab and the army and how the battle was going. 8 Then David told Uriah, “Go down to your house and wash your feet.” Uriah left the palace, and a gift from the king was sent after him.

Verse 6 “Then David sent a message to Joab: ‘Send me Uriah the Hittite.’ So Joab sent Uriah to David. When Uriah came to him, David [made it seem he called him to come and deliver a report of the battles. David] asked about the welfare of Joab and the army and how the battle was going. Then David told Uriah, ‘Go down to your house and wash your feet.’ [That means, go enjoy your wife!] Uriah left the palace, and a gift from the king was sent after him.”

Not sure the what the gift was, but I’m sure it was the equivalent of champagne and chocolate-dipped strawberries!

**PP#10:** 1 Samuel 11 (CEB)

9 However, Uriah slept at the palace entrance with all his master’s servants. He didn’t go down to his own house. 10 David was told, “Uriah didn’t go down to his own house,” so David asked Uriah, “Haven’t you just returned from a journey? Why didn’t you go home?” 11 “The chest and Israel and Judah are all living in tents,” Uriah told David. “And my master Joab and my master’s troops are camping in the open field. How could I go home and eat, drink, and have sex with my wife? I swear on your very life, I will not do that!”

Verse 9, “However, Uriah slept at the palace entrance with all his master’s [David’s] servants. He didn’t go down to his own house. [The next day] David was told, ‘Uriah didn’t go down to his own house,’ so David asked Uriah, ‘Haven’t you just returned from a journey? Why didn’t you go home?’ ‘The chest and Israel and Judah are all living in tents,’ Uriah told David. ‘And my master Joab and my master’s troops are camping in the open field. How could I go home and eat, drink, and have sex with my wife? I swear on your very life, I will not do that!’”

“Oh my king, with the Ark of the Covenant, and the general, and all my fellow soldiers are out miserable in the battle field. How could I enjoy the comforts of home? I just couldn’t do that. It would be so wrong!”

David just got shamed by one of his soldiers. His soldier was so noble he wouldn’t think of enjoying himself when others were at risk. Of course, this is exactly what David had done! Ouch!

Plan B. Get Uriah to stop thinking so much and get him to let his guard down. Verse 12.

**PP#11:** 1 Samuel 11 (CEB)

12 Then David told Uriah, “Stay here one more day. Tomorrow I’ll send you back.” So Uriah stayed in Jerusalem that day. The next day 13 David called for him, and he ate and drank, and David got him drunk. In the evening Uriah went out to sleep in the same place, alongside his master’s servants, but he did not go down to his own home.

“Then David told Uriah, ‘Stay here one more day. Tomorrow I’ll send you back.’ So Uriah stayed in Jerusalem that day. The next day David called for him, and he ate and drank, and David got him drunk. In the evening Uriah went out to sleep in the same place, alongside his master’s servants, but he did not go down to his own home.”

Dang! Didn’t work either. The coverup now has to be taken to the next level. Conspiracy!

**PP#12:** 1 Samuel 11 (CEB)

14 The next morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it with Uriah. 15 He wrote in the letter, “Place Uriah at the front of the fiercest battle, and then pull back from him so that he will be struck down and die.”

Verse 14. “The next morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it with Uriah. He wrote in the letter, ‘Place Uriah at the front of the fiercest battle, and then pull back from him so that he will be struck down and die.’”

Arrange it so Uriah will happen to die in battle. I find it so ironic that faithful and noble Uriah carried his death warrant back with him.

Not too long after that, a messenger comes from Joab. Verse 23.

**PP#13:** 1 Samuel 11 (CEB)

23 “The men overpowered us,” the messenger told David. “They came out against us in the open field, but we fought against them up to the entrance of the city gate. 24 Archers shot down on your servants from the wall. Some of the king’s servants died. And your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead too.”

““The men overpowered us,’ the messenger told David. ‘They came out against us in the open field, but we fought against them up to the entrance of the city gate. Archers shot down on your servants from the wall. Some of the king’s servants died. And your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead too.’”

David’s plan worked. But notice, not only was Uriah murdered, other soldiers lost their lives in David scheme to cover up his sin!

**PP#14:** 1 Samuel 11 (CEB)

26 When Uriah’s wife heard that her husband Uriah was dead, she mourned for her husband. 27 After the time of mourning was over, David sent for her and brought her back to his house. She became his wife and bore him a son. But what David had done was evil in the Lord’s eyes.

Verse 26, “When Uriah’s wife heard that her husband Uriah was dead, she mourned for her husband. After the time of mourning was over, David sent for her and brought her back to his house. She became his wife and bore him a son.”

A hasty wedding. Then, a son born by David’s new wife...but the math didn’t add up. Yet again, it seems, nobody said anything. They whisper, but the matter is hushed.

Lust, seduction, adultery, coverup, conspiracy, murder, deception. Yet, David seems to have gotten away with it.

But the chapter ends with those haunting words, “But what David had done was evil in the Lord’s eyes.”

**PP#15: The Open Window Shade**

How we can control our desires:

1. Establish boundaries before being tempted
2. Full disclosure to accountability partners
3. Cultivate healthy alternatives to keep from being idle
4. Cling to the Lord's guidance

Lust can take many forms. How can we control our own desires? As we look at David's web of sin, a few checkpoints would have saved him, and can save us. Boundaries, set before we are tempted. Full disclosure with an accountability partner. Are you keeping secrets? Not good. Stay busy. Idle hands are the devil's workshop, as the saying goes. Hours and hours in front of a screen is not good. And choose to live by God's ways as fully as you can. They keep you on a healthy path. I could unpack these a bit better, but I just can't leave the story here.

**PP#16: Psalm 32**

- 3 When I kept quiet, my bones wore out; I was groaning all day long—every day, every night!  
 4 because your hand was heavy upon me. My energy was sapped as if in a summer drought.  
 5 So I admitted my sin to you; I didn't conceal my guilt.  
 "I'll confess my sins to the Lord," is what I said. Then you removed the guilt of my sin.

When you look at some of the psalms David wrote, it seems that although David had gotten away with all this, it was eating at him on the inside. He loved God, and this darkness just wouldn't set with him. It affected him, his whole life, his body, his energy. He had gotten away with it, but he was miserable. And God's hadn't forgotten. One day, the prophet Nathan shows up to confront David. He begins by telling David a story. Chapter 12, verse 1.

**PP#17: 1 Samuel 12 (CEB)**

- 1 So the Lord sent Nathan to David. When Nathan arrived he said, "There were two men in the same city, one rich, one poor. 2 The rich man had a lot of sheep and cattle, 3 but the poor man had nothing—just one small ewe lamb that he had bought. He raised that lamb, and it grew up with him and his children. It would eat from his food and drink from his cup—even sleep in his arms! It was like a daughter to him.

"So the Lord sent Nathan to David. When Nathan arrived he said, 'There were two men in the same city, one rich, one poor. The rich man had a lot of sheep and cattle, but the poor man had nothing—just one small ewe lamb that he had bought. He raised that lamb, and it grew up with him and his children. It would eat from his food and drink from his cup—even sleep in his arms! It was like a daughter to him.'"

Notice Nathan plays on David's memory as a shepherd boy!

**PP#18: 1 Samuel 12 (CEB)**

- 4 "Now a traveler came to visit the rich man, but he wasn't willing to take anything from his own flock or herd to prepare for the guest who had arrived. Instead, he took the poor man's ewe lamb and prepared it for the visitor."

“Now a traveler came to visit the rich man, but he wasn’t willing to take anything from his own flock or herd to prepare for the guest who had arrived. Instead, he took the poor man’s ewe lamb and prepared it for the visitor.”

**PP#19:** 1 Samuel 12 (CEB)

5 David got very angry at the man, and he said to Nathan, “As surely as the Lord lives, the one who did this is demonic! 6 He must restore the ewe lamb seven times over because he did this and because he had no compassion.”

David hears the story, and goes livid. This injustice must be addressed. The law required restitution of paying back four times the wrong, but David declares restitution must be seven fold, because the man was so greedy and heartless.

**PP#20:** 1 Samuel 12 (CEB)

7 “You are that man!” Nathan told David.

“This is what the Lord God of Israel says: I anointed you king over Israel and delivered you from Saul’s power. ... I gave you the house of Israel and Judah. ... 9 Why have you despised the Lord’s word by doing what is evil in his eyes? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and taken his wife as your own. You used the Ammonites to kill him. 10 ... You despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite as your own....”

Nathan turns and looks David square in the eye, and says, “You are that man!”

What? David’s heart skips a beat. “Yes,” says Nathan, “The Lord remembers Uriah, whom you murdered!”

**PP#21:** 1 Samuel 12 (CEB)

13 “I’ve sinned against the Lord!” David said to Nathan.

“The Lord has removed your sin,” Nathan replied to David. “You won’t die.

David’s guilt comes gushing out. He doesn’t make excuses. He doesn’t try to cover it up any more. “I have sinned.” Admission is the beginning of repentance.

David goes into full repentance, even publically. And God forgives his sin.

Even so, Nathan goes on to explain that there will be consequences for this sin. David’s heirs will not have peace. Inside of David’s family the sin of lust will tear them apart. And the child born to David is going to get sick and die. Forgiven sins still have consequences.

**PP#22:** The Open Window Shade

God knows our sin, but wants us restored.

We can seek forgiveness through repentance!

God didn’t want David’s death. God wanted David restored. That’s why he sent Nathan. David needed this sin reconciled, not only for justice, but for his own sake. It was eating at him. David needed to be saved from the sin he had brought on himself, in which he had ensnared himself. He had sinned and needed forgiveness. He was stuck and needed release!

David was good at so many things, a truly renaissance man. But what kept him close to God’s heart was something else he was so good at. Repentance. David humbly, sorrowfully, and from his heart, came back to God and sought forgiveness.

We who want to have a heart after God's own heart, we need to practice this kind of repentance. Being a person after God's own heart doesn't mean we're perfect or that we don't sin. But it does mean that we are humble to sin, and that we eagerly seek repentance.

**PP#23: The Open Window Shade**

Repentance:

1. Getting sin into the open: confessing to God and others
2. Asking for forgiveness
3. Restoring your relationship with others and God
4. Paying any possible restitution

The components of true repentance are open and honest admission. It's actively seeking forgiveness. It's taking it before God, admitting your guilt and asking God to forgive. It's going to others who have suffered, and seeking their forgiveness, too. And then, if possible in any way, to make restitution for the pain you have caused.

This is the work of the Holy Spirit: to convict you of your sin, to prick your feelings of guilt, to perhaps even send someone to call out your sin. It is a gift, because God loves us so much!

And today, as we close, I want to suggest that we open our hearts to the probing of the Holy Spirit. What is God identifying in you that needs to be admitted, forgiven, and changed? What restitution do you need to do? This is God's work in you, and to have a heart after God's own heart, we need to honestly open our hearts to Him, and let His Spirit work in us.

**PP#24: Psalm of Repentance:**

Psalm 51 "*For the music leader. A psalm of David, when the prophet Nathan came to him just after he had been with Bathsheba.*"

(Red Hymnal in the pews, Page #785.)

We're going to close today with the Psalm that David wrote as his Psalm of repentance. It's Psalm 51. Take your hymnals, and turn to page 785. In our Bibles, this psalm has the title, "*For the music leader. A psalm of David, when the prophet Nathan came to him just after he had been with Bathsheba.*"

Let's pray this psalm together, making it our prayer: our prayer of repentance, our prayer of trusting in God's restoration, our prayer of reconciliation. Those of us on the left side will start, reading the plain printed text. Those on the right side of the room will read the bold printed text.

I would invite you to sit with this psalm this week. As you open your heart to God, go back to the Psalm and use it as a guide to your repentance. God wants life for you, full and abundant life. That means we need to repent.

Psalm 51. We begin.

"Have mercy on me...."

Closing Song: "Everlasting God"

Benediction: Pastor David

A blessing, using Psalm 51 (verses 10 and 12)

May the Lord create a clean heart in you, and put a new and faithful spirit deep inside you.

May the Lord return the joy of your salvation to you, and sustain you with a willing spirit."

Amen! Go in peace.



# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR AUGUST 14, 2016

**Sermon:** “The Open Window Shade”

**Scriptures:** 2 Samuel 11 - 12

## Opening prayer

**Introductions:** Tell about a time someone confronted you about something you did wrong.

**Background:** David as king: 8 wives, 21 children, plus concubines and more children.

## Read 2 Samuel 11

1. If someone had told David when he was young that one day he would commit adultery and murder the an innocent man, he would have exclaimed, “Never!” Yet it happened. What were the small steps that led to this big sin?

2. What are some things that David could have done to protect him from his moral failure?

3. David’s sin illustrates that godliness does not automatically protect us from temptation. In fact, temptations may increase the longer we walk with God. How does living a godly life help us in our temptations? How should we feel about ourselves when we continue to be so tempted?

## Read 2 Samuel 12:1-24

4. Our human attempts to keep sin hidden include:

- Rationalizing
- Shifting the blame
- Justifying
- Making excuses
- Skirting the issue
- Legitimizing
- Intellectualizing
- Avoiding/keeping silent

Create an excuse David might have used for each one of these. Which did David employ?

5. Which of these do you tend to use most often?

6. Tell about an experience of repentance you witnessed (perhaps experienced?), and how it turned out.

7. Describe how you have experienced any of the four guards against temptation: 1) Boundaries, 2) Accountability, 3) Cultivate healthy alternatives, and 4) Stay in God’s Word.

8. Application: What will you take away from these passages? How will you live it out?