



November 2, 2014
2 Samuel 11
“When Kings Fall”
Pastor Gary Hamrick

In the military world, “Victory Disease” is a term that is used to describe an army or a nation that has experienced a series of military victories, only later to fall into a slump of successive losses. This term was first used during WW2 when Japan was riding high after attacking Pearl Harbor and winning battles in Southeast Asia and the Pacific. The Japanese were overconfident until they suffered a humiliating loss in 1942 at the Battle of Midway, in which they lost all four of their aircraft carriers. In 1945, they suffered devastating defeats when atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. In the book, *Getting it Right: American Military Reform After Vietnam to the Gulf War and Beyond*, authors James Dunnigan and Raymond Macedonia wrote that, “Victory Disease threatens a nation that has a history of military prowess, and it manifests itself in three symptoms - arrogance, complacency, and established patterns of fighting [or we might say, ‘being stuck in a routine’].”

Like the Japanese, David was plagued by victory disease, in that his life demonstrated a little arrogance and complacency, as well as being stuck in a routine. At this time he was about halfway into his 40-year reign, and he was essentially at the “top of his game.”¹ He had experienced one major military success after another, and he was also powerful, successful, wealthy, and comfortable, all of which appear to have made him believe he was invincible. Little did he know that he was about to encounter a battle that would be bigger than Goliath, bigger than Saul trying to kill him, and bigger than the Philistine army! David was about to be challenged by his own flesh, in a battle of his heart. In the war of lust, he was about to suffer a humiliating defeat, one that is recorded for us in the infamous account of his affair with Bathsheba.

Pastor Gary said that it wasn’t his intention to teach on this story as simply the low-point in David’s life, even though it was. His stated purpose was to teach in a way so as to give warning, because any one of us can fall into sexual sin. He emphasized the fact

¹ At this time David was about 50 years old.

² <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2014/04/15/whats-morally-acceptable-it-depends-on-where-in->

that if we believe ourselves to be incapable of committing sexual sin, that we should be warned that that is the time when we are the most vulnerable. It's the ultimate naivety to say, "I feel sorry for those who have that weakness, but I would never do that or that could never happen to me!" In this study Pastor Gary teaches on the occasion, progression, confession, and ramifications of sin.

The Bible And Statistics

1. The apostle Paul sounds the warning in [1 Corinthians 10:12](#), which says: *"So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!"*
2. If we have a humble view of ourselves in this area, that will help us to have a humble, compassionate view of others who have fallen to sexual sin.
3. Pastor Gary said it was not his desire to shame anyone who has fallen into sexual sin in the past; however, he stated that he would not refrain from challenging those who might be currently engaging in sexual sin or warning those who are heading there!
4. Whenever the Bible deals with a subject like adultery, it can be:
 - a. Painful for people who have committed adultery and are remorseful.
 - b. Painful for those who have been betrayed by adultery and are hurt.
 - c. Painful because adultery has led to a failed marriage, a failed family, or perhaps a failed career.
5. It should be noted that even though social mores are ever-evolving in our culture - which is not a good thing in that many are drifting further and further away from God's truth - it is a fact that adultery is still highly ranked as being morally wrong by a majority of people around the world.
 - a. In a recent study of 40 countries, undertaken by the Pew Research Center, 78% of those surveyed viewed adultery as morally unacceptable.²
6. We need to ask ourselves questions such as:
 - a. How am I doing in the area of sexual purity?
 - b. Is my view the same as God's view as outlined in the Bible?
 - i. God's view is that sex is his gift for marriage, between one man and one woman, and that all other sexual expression outside of marriage is sin.
 - c. Do I really know what's best for my life?
 - d. Is the conventional wisdom of the culture what's best for me?

² <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2014/04/15/whats-morally-acceptable-it-depends-on-where-in-the-world-you-live/>

- e. Will things go better for me if I live my life according to the Bible and God's ways?
7. We need to be bold enough to challenge those who say: "You need to get with the times, because your way of thinking is ancient, and, anyway, the Bible is just an old book that's full of outdated ways of thinking and living. We don't live in the dark ages anymore!"
 8. In the 1950s the two commonly reported STDs were gonorrhea and syphilis, but today there are more than 25 varieties of STDs, ranging from pelvic inflammatory disease (which renders more than 100,000 American women infertile each year) to AIDS (42 million people worldwide and has already killed another 23 million people).³
 9. According to a report by scientists at the National Cancer Institute, women who have three or more sex partners in their lifetime increase their risk of cervical cancer by as much as 1,500%!
 10. In another finding that runs contrary to everything the "sex researchers" have been preaching over the years, a survey at the University of Chicago's National Opinion Research Center revealed that married men and women, on average, are sexually happier than unwed couples who live together.
 - a. Cohabitation in the United States has increased by more than 1,500% in the past 50 years.
 - b. In 1960, about 450,000 unmarried couples lived together, but today that number is more than 7.5 million!⁴
 - c. Couples who live together before getting married are 40% to 85% more likely to divorce than those who get married without having lived together.⁵
 11. The truth is that we don't need research studies and surveys to tell us what we should already know: God is good and his standards and his ways are best for us.
 12. **Proverbs 13:15** - *"the way of the transgressor is hard...."*

³ <http://www.crisismagazine.com/2012/kinseys-secret-the-phony-science-of-the-sexual-revolution>

⁴ <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/04/15/opinion/sunday/the-downside-of-cohabiting-before-marriage.html?pagewanted=all&r=2&>

⁵ <http://www.crisismagazine.com/2012/kinseys-secret-the-phony-science-of-the-sexual-revolution>

The Occasion Of Sin

13. **2 Samuel 11:1** - *“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.”*
14. The only thing temptation needs to become sin is opportunity.
15. David was in the wrong place!
16. He should have been with his army in battle, just like he’s always done, and even if he was a 50-year-old king who wasn’t as spry as he used to be, he could have at least been seated atop a horse just to the rear of his forward troops.
17. When we are in the wrong place at the wrong time, we are more vulnerable to temptation, and most especially when we are in the wrong place by ourselves.
18. Isolation feeds temptation, because we are the most vulnerable when we are alone or when we are some place we shouldn’t be.

The Progression Of Sin

19. **2 Samuel 11:2** - *“One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful.”*
 - a. We don’t know a number of the details of this incident, such as whether David went up on the roof because he knew she was there or whether she went up there because she knew he was there.
 - b. What we do know is that there was a progression of sin.
20. There is nothing wrong with the fact that David “saw,” unless he went up on the roof with the intention of seeing Bathsheba.
21. If David saw her and noticed that she was beautiful, and that was it, he did not sin.
22. The moment the progression of sin began is found in **2 Samuel 11:3a**, which says, *“... and David sent someone to find out about her.”*
23. **2 Samuel 11:3b** tells us that word came back to David that she was *“Bathsheba... the wife of Uriah the Hittite.”*

24. **2 Samuel 11:4a** - *“Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her...”*
25. Notice the progression: David saw her - David sent for her - David slept with her.
26. We would do well to remember the old saying:
- Sow a thought; reap an action.
 - Sow an action; reap a habit.
 - Sow a habit; reap a character.
 - Sow a character; reap a destiny.
27. As Pastor Gary noted, sin always begins between the ears, because that’s when our minds are engaged and we have to decide how we will act by the grace of God’s help.
- a. **1 Corinthians 10:13b** - *“God is faithful; he will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.”*
28. David had a way of escape because in the same way the stairs were the way he ascended to the roof, the stairs would have also been the way he would have descended!
29. When David was told that she was another man’s wife, that fact alone should have signaled another way of escape.
30. It wasn’t that David had no way of escape; it was that he made the choice to not escape.
31. **2 Samuel 11:5** - *“The woman conceived and sent word to David, saying, ‘I am pregnant.’”*
32. David initiated a cover-up plan by having Bathsheba’s husband, Uriah, brought back from the battlefield so that there might be opportunity for Uriah to lie with Bathsheba.
- a. Uriah was among David’s “30 Mighty Men,” according to **2 Samuel 23:39**.
 - b. David hoped Uriah and others would think Bathsheba was pregnant with Uriah’s child, and that David’s sin would be covered up.
 - c. David’s deceitfulness was overmatched by Uriah’s integrity!
 - i. Uriah said there was no way he could go home with there was a battle going on, and he stated that he would not accept a “weekend pass” when others were on the front lines.

ii. David's attempt to get Uriah drunk didn't work either.

33. When his plan didn't work, David devised a scheme to have Uriah killed in battle!
- a. David sent word to Joab, the commander of the army, to set things in motion so Uriah would be ordered to the front lines in order to make him an easy target for the enemy.
34. After Uriah was killed, David must have thought to himself, "After the funeral, I'll marry Uriah's grieving widow, adopt her unborn child as a prince in the royal line, and no one will be the wiser."
35. David's planned worked, at least for a time.
36. [Proverbs 28:13](#) - *"He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy."*

The Confession Of Sin

37. In chapter 12, we read that the Lord sent the prophet Nathan to David, with the knowledge of what David had done, to confront him about his sin.
38. We need to give thanks to the Lord for the Nathans he's placed in our lives.
- a. [Proverbs 27:6a](#) - *"Faithful are the wounds of a friend..."* (KJV)
39. Obviously, it would have been better for David if Nathan had had the opportunity to confront him before he went up on the roof.
- a. "Hey, David, knowing you and what you can see up there, I don't think it's a good idea for you to go on the roof!"
40. If you have someone in your life that is brave enough to confront you about the path you are on before it becomes a problem or afterward for that matter, as long as it's his or her motive is to bring healing and restoration to you, you should be thankful someone cares about you!
41. Out of Nathan's story and his conversation with David, came [Psalm 51](#), which is a no-excuses confession.
42. David didn't say, "I was lonely or my wife wasn't meeting my sexual needs or she shouldn't have been taking a bath on the roof in the first place or the devil tempted me."

The Ramifications Of Sin

43. **2 Samuel 12:9-14** - *“Why did you despise the word of the Lord by doing what is evil in his eyes? You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your own. You killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own. This is what the Lord says: ‘Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity upon you. Before your very eyes I will take your wives and give them to one who is close to you, and he will lie with your wives in broad daylight. You did it in secret, but I will do this thing in broad daylight before all Israel.’ Then David said to Nathan, ‘I have sinned against the Lord.’ Nathan replied, ‘The Lord has taken away your sin. You are not going to die. But because by doing this you have made the enemies of the Lord show utter contempt, the son born to you will die.’ ”*
44. What some people don't understand is that God can forgive, cleanse, and restore.
45. Sometimes there's very little consequence, however, there are other times when the fallout from our sin follows us for a long time or in some cases, a lifetime.
46. For example, there will be an abundance of bank robbers, adulterers, murderers, and liars who go to heaven based on the grace and mercy of Christ, however, before they get there, there may be some very painful ramifications in this life, because it's a fact that we reap what we sow.
47. We need to consider the consequences before we engage in sexual sin, because there may be a tremendous price to pay.
48. It's likely that David would say: “Take it from me, don't do it! A minutes of pleasure brought death and devastation to my family. In the end, many people will be hurt, lives will be ruined, and reputations will be lost!”
49. “David was like a bird whose wings were clipped. He would fly again, but never soar quite as high.” - Alan Redpath
50. **Romans 13:14** - *“... clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.”*

51. [1 Thessalonians 4:3-4](#) - *"It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable."*
52. [1 Corinthians 10:13](#) - *"God is faithful; he will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will provide a way out so that you can stand up under it."*

Discussion Questions

1. Review the introduction to the study guide with your group to provide the appropriate background.
2. Read [2 Samuel 11:1-9](#), [Psalm 51:1-9](#), and [1 Corinthians 10:12-13](#) to provide an overview for this study.
3. Read and discuss [1 Corinthians 10:12](#).
 - a. Allow the people in your group to share their experiences about times when they've been overly confident of "their footing" only to find that they fell.
4. Provide an overview of the statistics and research Pastor Gary shared. (See #8 - #9 - #10 above)
5. Was there a time in your life that you disregarded or disagreed with God's standards regarding sexual purity before marriage?
 - a. You may want to include the reading of the Cornerstone Chapel Articles of Faith (#11).⁶
6. How have you responded to those who challenge your out-of-step-with-the-times thinking when it comes to marriage being between one man and one woman or premarital sex or sex outside of marriage?
7. Read and discuss [2 Samuel 11:3-4](#), and focus on the way temptation became an act of sin.
8. Spend time talking about the old saying Pastor Gary shared regarding sowing and reaping. (See #26 above)
9. In what ways have you refused to accept the way of escape when it comes to times of temptation?

⁶ http://cornerstonechapel.net/?page_id=149

10. Read and discuss [2 Samuel 12:9-14](#).
11. Read and discuss [Proverbs 28:13](#) and [Proverbs 27:6](#).
12. Have you ever been confronted by a friend like Nathan?
13. Read and discuss [Psalm 51:1-9](#).
14. Read and discuss the quote Pastor Gary shared from Alan Redpath. (See #49 above)
15. Read and discuss [1 Thessalonians 4:3-4](#) and [1 Corinthians 10:13](#).
16. Close your time in prayer by asking the Holy Spirit to help each person: be vigilant and guarded when it comes to being tempted to any involvement with sexual sin; remember the saying about sowing a thought, etc.; that if they sin, the first thing they need to do is confess their sin to the Lord, so they can receive his forgiveness; understand the depth of the impact and ramifications their sin can have on themselves and others; always remember the truth of the Bible (have someone ready to read [1 Corinthians 10:13](#) and pray the Scriptures).

* Unless noted, all Scriptures quoted are from the New International Version (NIV 1984).