

Southeast Valley Bible Church
Sermon Outline – Dr. Joel Tetreau
October 9, 2019

Spiritual Erosion
2 Samuel 11:1-15

Introduction – A few years ago a German couple visiting the giant Redwoods Forest, inexplicitly witnessed the crashing of two of the ancient trees located on what is called “the Trail of 100 Giants” in the Sequoia National Forest. Why would a huge sturdy tree that has stood for over a thousand years all of a sudden just fall? One of things experts have seen over and over again when these mammoth trees fall is that many times the trees lose their internal integrity because of the damage that is done by a small insect – the bark beetle. On the outside the observer is impressed with the height, the strength, the beauty of a tree. However on the inside this small insect is joined by others and after a while the tree is killed from the inside – out! In a sense this represents well the story of David, Bathsheba and the treachery toward Uriah.

Consideration – This morning we look at a portion of Scripture that is not unfamiliar with many Christians. We are painfully aware the same shepherd-boy hero of Israel, the sweet singer of Jehovah, the son of Jesse who takes down the giant Philistine with his simple faith and a Palestinian stone is himself taken down by the failure of lust and adultery. This lesson is a study in spiritual erosion. All of us from time to time will fail. David lusted after Bathsheba from the roof of his palace. He could have asked God for forgiveness and move on. Instead he moved deeper into sin and further away from fellowship with God. This is very much like the man who gets splinters in his hand. If he does not take them out, those wounds will fester. Let’s consider the following graft to illustrate what happens here in “spiritual erosion.”

Time line for spiritual growth or erosion (notice the down ward fall)

H	x – distraction from the mission resulting in idleness
O	
L	x - selfishness
Y	
L	x - lust
I	
V	x – adultery
I	
N	x – murder – (not just murder – but killing one who was probably a
G	member of David’s royal guard (2 Sam 23:39)

I. Consider the “cycle” of sin in this passage.

- A. Casual glance fueled by “idol of the heart.”
- B. A sinful inquiry fueled by “idol time.”
- C. Fall to temptation fueled by “pleasure, passion and polygamy.”

II. Consider the way spiritual erosion took place in David’s life “using others” to hide sin.

- A. David “sent” Joab (v. 1)
- B. David “sent” to find out about Bathsheba (v. 3)
- C. David “sent” messengers to bring her to the king (v. 4)
- D. David had Uriah “sent” to himself by Joab (v. 6) – Notice Uriah out of honor withheld himself from marital intimacy (which was his right) because of loyalty to David and his army. Sadly David demonstrated not loyalty other than to his urge.
- E. David “sent” Uriah to his house (v. 8)
- F. David “sent” instructions to Joab (v. 14) – This not only resulted in the death of Uriah, but other loyal warriors loyal to David (11:24).

Consider - This failure is hard for another reason. God had given David Abigail, wife of Nabal in 1 Samuel 25 in large part because Nabal abused his power and used his position for gain. David, listening to the then wife of Nabal (Abigail) did not use his power for revenge in that episode. Here David abuses his power.

Conclusion – What was the “seed-bed” for David’s failure here? While David has been successful in the field of battle, he had not been victorious in his own home. Consider the evidence of his children (Amnon, Tamar, Absalom) and the relationship with his wife Michael (2 Samuel 6:16-23),

Take Home – Let’s be aware of the dynamic of spiritual erosion. We are either growing closer to our God or our walk with Him is eroding, opening the door for painful failure.