

05 – COVER OR CONFESS?

- ✓ We're going through case studies in temptation. We've looked at Eve, Joseph, Peter, and Judas. Let's move on to David. (The main thing we'll learn from David is: **Don't try to hide your sin.**)
- ✓ To me, David is the "king of the cover-up". He committed adultery with Bathsheba. Then, to cover it up, he had her husband killed. (For thirteen months, the cover up continued.) Here's the problem with that:

Prov. 28:13 – "He who covers his sins will not prosper."

- ✓ The Hebrew says it this way: "**He who covers his sin will not advance** (or 'make progress')." If you're looking for a way to bring your spiritual life to a standstill, this is it!
- ✓ When you cover your sin, you jump on a spiritual hamster wheel. You're going through the motions and expending a lot of energy. But you're not getting anywhere. You don't grow. You don't bear fruit. And you don't move forward. (Now look at the rest of the verse.)

Prov. 28:13 – "He who covers his sins will not advance. But whoever confesses and forsakes them will receive mercy."

- ✓ According to this verse, when we sin, we have two choices. We can cover it, or we can confess it. As I already said, David chose the former and became the king of the cover-up. Let's look at his story.
- ✓ Background: It was spring – the time when *most* kings were leading their troops into battle. But not David. Not *this* year. He decided to let his commander, Joab, lead the troops while *he* remained in Jerusalem. (David's taking a vacation here – not that that's wrong.)

2 Samuel 11:2 – "And it came to pass **at evening time** that **David arose from off his bed** ... (Did you catch that? What's he been doing? Sleeping all day!) ...**and went for a stroll on the roof of the palace. As he looked out over the city, he noticed a woman taking her evening bath.**"

- ✓ Think about it. **David couldn't help the first look.** He walked up on the roof, and there she was, naked. You can't fault him for that. (Sometimes people ask, "Why was she bathing out in the open, anyway?" She thinks that all the men have gone to the battlefield. The only men in town were *outside the gate* protecting the city. So, in her mind, she's not being immodest.)

*"As he looked out over the city, he noticed a woman taking her evening bath. The woman was stunningly beautiful. So, **David sent someone to inquire about her.**"*

- ✓ David's done nothing wrong, so far. He couldn't help the first look. And, trying to find out who she was, wasn't wrong. (They were allowed to have multiple wives back then. David already had five. I'm sure he's thinking, "Maybe she'll be number six.")

*"So, David sent someone to inquire about her. The report came back: 'Her name is Bathsheba. She is the daughter of Eliam, and **she is the wife of Uriah the Hittite.**'"*

FLAG #1 –  – She's Married!

- ✓ He should have taken an off-ramp, right here. But he didn't.

v. 4 – "**David sent some messengers to bring her to his palace. She came to him, and he slept with her.** Then she returned home. Before long she realized she was pregnant. She sent word to David: 'I'm pregnant.'"

- ✓ David has another choice. He can get on his horse, ride out to battle, and have a chat with Uriah the Hittite. Or ... he can try to cover his sin. Of course, he chose to cover it.

David's Plan

- ✓ Without reading the whole account, I'll let you in on the plan. David's going to bring Uriah home and ask him for an update on the battle. After Uriah gives his report, David will send him home (for a couple of days) to visit his wife. No doubt, Uriah will sleep with her

and when she turns up pregnant ... *Uriah's* the father. Problem solved.

"v. 6 – "Then David sent a message to Joab (the commander) saying, 'Send me Uriah the Hittite.' So Joab sent Uriah to David. When he arrived, David asked him for news from the front—how things were going with Joab and the troops and with the fighting. Then he said to Uriah, 'Go home. Have a refreshing bath and a good night's rest.' When Uriah left the palace, an informant of the king was sent after him. But Uriah didn't go home. He slept that night at the palace entrance, along with the king's servants.

"When they told David that Uriah didn't go home, David said unto Uriah, You just came from a long journey. Why didn't you go home? And Uriah said unto David, 'The men of Israel and Judah are away in battle, and the Ark is with them; my Commander Joab and his officers are camping out in the open. How could I go home, eat and drink, and sleep with my wife? I solemnly swear, I will never be guilty of acting like that.'"

FLAG #2 –  – Uriah's Faithfulness

✓ This should have melted David's heart – but it didn't. Uriah wouldn't cooperate with "Plan A", so David will move on to "Plan B".

v. 12 – "'All right,' said David, 'have it your way. Stay for one more night and I'll send you back tomorrow.' So, Uriah stayed in Jerusalem for the rest of the day. David invited him to eat and drink with him, and David got him drunk." (If he gets drunk, maybe he'll get sentimental and go home.) But in the evening Uriah again went out and slept with the servants. He didn't go home. In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it with Uriah. In the letter he wrote, 'Put Uriah on the front line where the fighting is the hottest. Then pull back and leave him exposed so he'll be struck down and killed.'" (Cover up.)

✓ Here's another proof of Uriah's character. He's carrying his own death warrant. And here's the amazing thing: Between Jerusalem and Rabbah, he didn't steam it open.

What Did David Do?

- He didn't control his thoughts. Once he knew that she was married, he should have dismissed her from his thinking. Obviously, he didn't. (What you meditate on, you'll eventually act on.)
 - Like Judas, he ignored the red flags and missed the off-ramps.
 - When he sinned, he tried to cover it up. (It may have been covered up outwardly, but he couldn't "shake it" inwardly.)
 - He forfeited his peace – Ps. 51:3 – "My sin is always before me."
- ✓ We're all going to sin sometimes. When you do, use 1 John 1:9 as quickly as you can. When you forsake your sin, you can move ahead. (When you won't repent, you lose your peace & joy and u stagnate.)

Jesus' Temptation

Matt. 4:1 – "Then was Jesus led of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. After he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. And when the tempter came to him, he said, 'If you are the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.' But he answered and said, 'It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes out of the mouth of God.'

"Then the devil took him up into the holy city, and and placed him at the highest point of the temple, And said, 'If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down ... for it is written, He will command His angels concerning you; They will bear you up in their hands, so you will not strike your foot against a stone'. Jesus told him, 'It is also written: Do not test the Lord your God.'

"Once more, the Adversary took him up to the summit of a very high mountain, showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time; and said to him, 'All this I will give you if you will bow down and worship me.' Jesus answered, 'Go away Satan! It is written: Worship the Lord your God and serve only him.' Then the devil left him, and angels came and ministered to him." (Luke 4:13 – "And when the devil had ended every [the complete cycle of] temptation, he [temporarily] left Him until another more opportune and favorable time.")

What Did Satan Do?

- He came when Jesus was in a weakened condition. He'll do the same with you. When you're tired, angry, hungry, sad, afraid, or emotional, that's "prime time" for a visit from the tempter. Expect it.
- He tried to get Jesus' eyes off His true identity. "IF thou be the Son of God ..." There was no chance of *Jesus* forgetting who He was. This is, however, something the devil will try with you. (And you *can* forget.) If he can get you to forget who you really are, you'll be at a tremendous disadvantage. Never forget, you're a new creature with everything you need to be victorious over temptation.
- Like he did with Eve, Satan appealed to all three areas of temptation. Stones to Bread – lust of the flesh (food), Throw Yourself Down – lust of the eyes – (wouldn't it look good/attract attention?), Worship Me – pride of life – (I'll give you position, all the kingdoms of the world).

What Did Jesus Do?

- He answered with the Word – ("It is written ...")
- He spoke with authority – "He answered and said (epo)"
- He told the devil to leave – ("Go away, Satan!")

What Have We Learned? (Main Points)

- 1.) Eve – Keep your distance. Distance is your friend.
- 2.) Joseph – Sometimes the most spiritual thing you can do is run.
- 3.) Peter – Prayer is a huge part of overcoming the flesh.
- 4.) Judas – Take the off-ramps that come along.
- 5.) David – Don't cover up your sin.
- 6.) Jesus – Speak the Word with authority.