CHAPTER 12
The Trials of a King
II SAMUEL 11-12, PSALM 32, 51
THE STORY
Introduction

Why do good people make bad choices?

After David became the king of Israel, he led them in a string of victories that expanded the kingdom from Egypt to the Euphrates River.

Everything David touched turned to gold because God’s hand was on him.
Then came this serious moral failure that was a turning point in David’s life and the nation.

You can spend your whole life trying to live down one night of living it up.

What can we learn from David’s story?
I. Avoid Sin’s Conception.

II SAMUEL 11:1-5
The army went off to war and David stayed home.

David had idle time and wandering eyes.

David was successful at work, but not at home.
As the ark of the LORD was entering the City of David, Michal daughter of Saul watched from a window. And when she saw King David leaping and dancing before the LORD, she despised him in her heart.

When David returned home to bless his household, Michal daughter of Saul came out to meet him and said, “How the king of Israel has distinguished himself today, disrobing in the sight of the slave girls of his servants as any vulgar fellow would!”
David said to Michal, “It was before the LORD, who chose me rather than your father or anyone from his house when he appointed me ruler over the LORD’s people Israel—I will celebrate before the LORD. I will become even more undignified than this, and I will be humiliated in my own eyes. But by these slave girls you spoke of, I will be held in honor.”

And Michal daughter of Saul had no children to the day of her death.

II Samuel 6:16, 20-23
David is faced with a choice. He sees Bathsheba and will he look away or lust? Will he flee or follow his carnal desires?

13 “When tempted, no one should say, ‘God is tempting me.’ For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; 14 but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. 15 Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.”

James 1:13-15
II. Accept Sin’s Cover Up.

II SAMUEL 11:6-27
David tried to cover up his sin. For a time it looks like David’s cover up is working, but it won’t last and it is eating him up on the inside.

“When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer.” Psalm 32:3-4
III. Accept Sin’s Confrontation.
II SAMUEL 12:1-8
David’s sins are exposed by God through Nathan the prophet.

David once again has a choice to make.

• Will he accept or deny the accusation?
• Will he admit his sin or make excuses and blame others?
• Will he kill the messenger?
David found forgiveness and restoration because he admitted his sin to God.

"Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, ‘I will confess my transgressions to the LORD’—and you forgave the guilt of my sin.” Psalm 32:5

We all sin. The difference is in how we respond to our sin.
IV. Avoid Sin’s Consequences.
II SAMUEL 12:9-14
 Forgiveness restores our relationship with God, but it doesn’t cancel the consequences of our sin.

For David, the consequences were great. Verses 9-14

David accepted the consequences of his sin and grew closer to God.
God not only restored his relationship with him. God blessed his marriage and restored David to leadership.

David and Bathsheba have a son, Solomon, who becomes the next king of Israel.

Bathsheba becomes part of the line of Jesus the Messiah along with Rahab and Ruth.
Conclusion

What do we learn from this chapter of the Story?

When we sin, and we all will, the only proper response is honest repentance.

- Don’t make excuses.
- Be a person of integrity.
- Turn from sin.
- Worship a God of grace who forgives and restores.
THE STORY