

SERMON NOTES

NOVEMBER 22, 2020

Start by praying and asking for God's help as you seek to grow as authentic followers of Jesus.

LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

1. Read 2 Samuel 11:1-18. Make a few quick observations. What is the context? What happens? What consequences are seen?
2. Identify each of the verbs used to describe David's actions in verses 1-5. How do these demonstrate his progression into transgression?
3. What is David's cover-up Plan A, Plan B, and Plan C in verses 6-18? How many people are now implicated in David's sin and cover-up? Why does covering up sin lead to greater suffering?
4. Read 2 Samuel 11:26-27. Why is it important for you to consider that your sin displeases the Lord? How can making it personal impact our perspective?
5. Why do you think the Bible presents this incident in the life of David rather than "sweeping it under the rug" of history? Why is it important to realize that there is only one hero of the Bible who stands without blemish?

LIVING IT OUT

6. Do you agree with the statement that "it is easier to *avoid temptation* than it is to *resist sin*"? Why is it important to live with self-awareness that acknowledges our weakness?
7. How does a gradual progression toward transgression often set the stage for sin in our lives? What life situations are more likely to bring temptation your way?
8. Why are self-dependence and self-indulgence so dangerous to our spiritual health? How does daily desperate dependence upon God's grace help us in the day-to-day battles against sin?
9. When we sin, we will always move in the direction of either cover up or repentance. What determines which you choose in any given moment? What practices can help keep you moving in the right direction in dealing with your sin?
10. Read Hebrews 4:15-6 says, Jesus is able "to sympathize with our weaknesses...as one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need." What in these verses most encourages you about who Jesus is?
11. Close your time in prayer for one another to resist temptation, to fight against sin, and to quickly turn and trust God's grace when you fail.