

**What About the Giant Within Us?
2 Samuel 11-12**

Dr. Steve Horn

August 26, 2012

Text Introduction: Last week, we investigated one of the most well known stories of the Bible—the story of David and Goliath. We learned in that story that God desires to give us the same victory over our giants that God gave David over the giant named Goliath. That great story inspires courage in us as we think about our own personal giants. We could say that we saw last week David at his best.

I want to ask you a question this morning though about giants. What if the giant you are facing is you?

If last week we considered David at his best, today, we consider David at his worst. Perhaps as well known as David's rise to greatness is his "fall from grace," as it is often called, in his sin with Bathsheba. Second Samuel 11-12 gives us the story.

Text: 2 Samuel 11:1-4

In the spring when kings march out to war, David sent Joab with his officers and all Israel. They destroyed the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah, but David remained in Jerusalem.² One evening David got up from his bed and strolled around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing—a very beautiful woman.³ So David sent someone to inquire about her, and he reported, "This is Bathsheba, daughter of Eliam and wife of Uriah the Hittite."⁴ David sent messengers to get her, and when she came to him, he slept with her.

What follows is a further series of calculated sins of David all in an effort to cover up his sin. Not only does he commit adultery, but in essence, he commits murder by having Bathsheba's husband, Uriah, sent to the front lines where there is certainty that he will be killed. After the death of Uriah, David takes Bathsheba as his wife. God's Word is pretty blunt about what David did.

2 Samuel 11:27

However, the LORD considered what David had done evil. (2 Samuel 11:27)

God then sends a prophet named Nathan to visit David with the purpose of telling him a parable to confront David with his sin.

2 Samuel 12:2-7

There were two men in a certain city, one rich and the other poor.² The rich man had a large number of sheep and cattle,³ but the poor man had nothing except one small ewe lamb that he had bought. He raised it, and it grew up, living with him and his children. It shared his meager food and drank from his cup; it slept in his arms, and it was like a daughter to him.⁴ Now a traveler came to the rich man, but the rich man could not bring himself to take one of his own sheep or cattle to prepare for the traveler who had come to him. Instead, he took the poor man's lamb and prepared it for his guest.

⁵ David was infuriated with the man and said to Nathan: “As the LORD lives, the man who did this deserves to die! ⁶ Because he has done this thing and shown no pity, he must pay four lambs for that lamb.”

⁷ Nathan replied to David, “You are the man!”

Introduction: David’s sin with Bathsheba is hard to understand. How could this man who sought God so often fall to sin under these circumstances? Well, that story is played out over and over again in people’s lives today. You see, perhaps **the biggest giant of all is the one inside of us.** Jesus said, “For from within, out of people’s hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immoralities, thefts, murders, adulteries, greed, evil actions, deceit, lewdness, stinginess, blasphemy, pride, and foolishness.” (Matthew 7:21-22)

Some Truths about the Giant Inside of Us:

- **At the root of all sin is pride.**

Think about the pride that filled David’s heart.

1. Pride caused David to believe that he could have his way with Bathsheba. He was warned that Bathsheba was Uriah’s husband.
2. Pride caused David to believe that he could cover up his sin. His plan to cover up his sin is elaborate. Upon learning that Bathsheba is pregnant, he first schemes to have her husband come home. David hopes that her husband being home will erase all suspicion. (By the way, isn’t it unbelievable how irrational we become when we are caught in the grips of sin?) When her husband refuses to go home, due to his loyalty to the king, David further schemes to have Uriah sent back to the front lines where he is sure to be killed. Upon Uriah’s death, then David further tries to cover up the sin by marrying Bathsheba—even taking on the role of hero to the widowed pregnant girl.
3. Pride caused David to be blinded by his own sin while he is able to see clearly someone else’s sin. In chapter 12, David immediately identifies the sinner in the parable told by the prophet Nathan.

Last week we saw David say, “I am the man” when someone was sought to take on mighty Goliath. Now, Nathan, the prophet says, “You are the man.” What took David from saying “I am the man” to Nathan saying, “You are the man”? Pride!

- **At the root of all sin is a pattern.**

With all sin, there is a pattern. Sin starts with a temptation. With temptation, we face two possibilities—act or do not act. David acted. Though the text is silent on this matter, I expect, because of the pride that is obvious, that David failed to deal with a growing problem in his life. What started out as a small thing grew into a giant.

There is another story in the Old Testament that really details the pattern of sin so well. It is the story of Achan in Joshua 7. Achan is a man who specifically rebels against the command of God to not take spoils from war. When confronted with the sin, Achan gives a perfect picture of the

pattern that sin always takes. He said, “I saw...I coveted...I took...I hid. This is exactly what David did, and it is what we do.

John Maxwell said it like this: “If you do not deal with issues in your twenties and thirties, they (the issues) will destroy you in your forties and fifties.”

- **The result of all sin is penalty.**

From the Garden of Eden in Genesis to the descriptions of eternal punishment in Revelation, God’s word is consistent in affirming that the result of sin is penalty. This penalty comes in many forms. One form is just the personal guilt that sin brings. God is not going to let you rest in your sin. The ultimate result of unrepentant and never turning to God is eternal punishment.

Declaring War on the Giant within Us:

You cannot be passive. You cannot be gentle. This is war! Go to war with the giant. David should have had the same tenacity in dealing with this giant in 2 Samuel 11 that he had in facing the giant named Goliath. How do we go to war with the giant within us?

- 1. Refuse to Cover-up Sin.**

If you have to hide something, be cautious.

- 2. Respond immediately and completely to Conviction.**

God will always put up stop signs.

- 3. Realize the necessity of Coming Clean.**

Psalm 32 provides one of David’s testimonies. Listen to verses 3-5: “When I kept silent, my bones became brittle from my groaning all day long. For day and night Your hand was heavy on me; my strength was drained as in summer’s heat. Then I acknowledged my sin to You and did not conceal my iniquity. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,” and You took away the guilt of my sin.”

Coming clean is the same idea as repentance. We must always be willing to repent—“to turn away” from our sin.

- 4. Recognize that sin has Consequences.**

Be afraid of the consequences. This is healthy fear.

- 5. Receive Christ’s grace.**

- 6. Remember that in Christ you have all you need to conquer the giant.**

I am urging us this morning to declare war on sin! Satan has. But so has God!