

When Life Gets DERAILED...How to Recover



"9 Why, then, have you despised the word of the Lord and done this horrible deed? For you have murdered Uriah the Hittite with the sword of the Ammonites and stolen his wife." "13 Then David confessed to Nathan, 'I have sinned against the Lord.' Nathan replied, 'Yes, but the Lord has forgiven you, and you won't die for this sin.'" 2 Samuel 12:9, 13 NLT

- When have you felt like life was derailed and became a train wreck?

Bad decisions can derail our lives and make it difficult to recover. The book of 2 Samuel is mainly about David. The Bible tells us that David was a man after God's own heart (1 Sam. 13:14; 16:7; Also Acts 13:22). Yet, David made a series of bad decisions that had a major negative impact on his life and the lives of others. Bad decisions not only hurt us, but they hurt others.

In the first ten chapters of 2 Samuel, David was prospering. He experienced a series of political, spiritual, and military triumphs. However, in chapters 12-24 his life was derailed. He faced major trouble in his family and his kingdom. *What caused the change?* The answer is chapter 11.

- **ADULTERY (11:1-5)**. In chapter 11, David made the decision to commit adultery with Bathsheba and she became pregnant (11:1-5).
- **MURDER (11:6-25)**. David attempted to cover up his sin with murder (11:6-25). Bathsheba was the wife of Uriah (u-ri-ah), a soldier serving in David's army. David told the commanders of his army to place Uriah on the front lines of battle and have the other soldiers drawback. This resulted in Uriah being intentionally killed in battle (vs. 14-17). David was guilty of murder.

Outline of 2 Samuel:

- I. The Triumphs of David (Chapters 1-10)
 - A. Political Triumphs (Chapters 1-5)
 - B. Spiritual Triumphs (Chapters 6-7)
 - C. Military Triumphs (Chapters 8-10)
- II. The Transgressions of David (Chapter 11)
 - A. Adultery (11:1-5)
 - B. Murder (11:6-25)
- III. The Troubles of David (Chapters 12-24)
 - A. Trouble in David's Family (Chapters 12-13)
 - B. Trouble in David's Kingdom (Chapters 14-24)

Key Verses: 2 Samuel 12:7-14 **Key Chapters:** 2 Samuel 11-12

Central Lesson

Bad decisions can derail our lives and make it difficult to recover.

What Can We Learn from David's Life and Failures?

1. **If David was able to be a man after God's own heart after all the sins that he committed, there is HOPE for us.** Like David, we must genuinely seek God, quickly and fully confess our sins, turn from them, ask for cleansing (1 John 1:9), and fully dedicate ourselves to God (Romans 12:1-2).
2. **God's forgiveness is COMPLETE and thorough.** Even though David had sinned severely, he repented, God forgave & cleansed him. God's forgiveness of David was so complete that David afterwards was viewed as guiltless & faultless (2 Sam. 22:21-25; 23:5). God sends the guilt of the repentant sinner away from Himself as far as the East is from the West (Psalm 103:12), buries it in the deepest sea (Micah 7:19) and remembers them no more (Hebrews 8:12; Isaiah 43:25).
3. **No one is immune to TEMPTATION and SIN.** David was a man after God's own heart but he still faced temptation and fell into sin. The most spiritual person faces temptation and will sin (1 John 1:8-10). All of us must combat the flesh, the world, and the devil. All of us must regularly examine our hearts, confess our sins, surrender to the control of the Holy Spirit, dedicate ourselves to God, take authority over the devil, and resist temptation & sin.
4. **The consequences of sin usually REMAIN even though God's forgiveness is complete.** Uzzah remained dead as a result of touching the ark (2 Sam. 4). Bathsheba remained pregnant (2 Sam. 11). Uriah, remained dead after falling in battle (2 Sam. 11). Amnon remained dead and Absalom was still guilty of murder (2 Sam. 13). Israel still suffered the plague and suffered the deaths of many because of David counting his troops (2 Sam. 24). God forgave David every time he repented, but the consequences of his sin always remained.

Sin will take you further than you want to go. It will keep you there longer than you want to stay. It will cost you far more than you are willing to pay. Don't underestimate the power of sin!

How to Recover When Life Gets Derailed

1. **Quickly CONFESS Bad Decisions and Behavior.**
David genuinely & quickly repented of his sins and sought God for cleansing (2 Sam. 12:13; 24:10; Also Psalm 51 and 32). David fell into sin many times, but he did not stay there. He always turned to God, asked for God's forgiveness and cleansing, and obeyed God from his heart.
2. **Live RIGHT.**
After David confessed his sin, he genuinely sought to live right. David had a heart for God and David was a man after God's own heart (1 Sam. 13:14; 16:7; Also Acts 13:22).

Central Lesson: Bad decisions can derail our lives and make it difficult to recover.

▶ Accept Christ as your Savior. ▶ As a Christian, dedicate your life to Christ. ▶ Invite someone to next Sunday's study. ▶ Attend a small group. ▶ Read the Bible this week & journal meaningful verses. ▶ Pray for friends that need Jesus.