**The Power of Passion**

2 Sam. 11:2-17

Introduction:

A. David, a man after God’s own heart, surrendered to the power of passion.
   1. Can happen when anyone lets his guard down (cf. 1 Cor. 9:27).
   2. Shows how emotion can easily overrule reason and right.
   3. Teaches us two great lessons: Nip sin in the bud and let God’s word rule rather than passions.

B. David’s walk on the roof began a downward slide to shame and sorrow.
   1. Sins are seldom isolated — one thing leads to another.
   2. No one knew this better than David — “walks” - “stands” - “sits” (Psa. 1:1).

C. Let’s trace each step of David’s downward path and learn from each step.

Discussion:

I. First, There Was His Wayward Walk (v. 2a).
   A. Should have been out with his army (v. 1).
   B. Sin often committed because people are where should not be at the time. (Peter’s denial).
   C. Too much leisure can lead to many sins (cf. 2 Th. 3:11; 1 Tim. 5:13)

II. Next Came His Lustful Look (v. 2b).
   A. May not have avoided seeing her, but could avoid looking.
   B. Maybe Bathsheba should been more careful — David still responsible.
   C. Should neither:
      1. Look to lust (Matt. 5:28).
      2. Nor make selves objects of lust (Matt. 18:7; 1 Tim. 2:9; Prov. 7:10).

III. Next Came His Adulterous Act (vv. 3-5).
   A. His act was not made more sinful by her conception.
   B. Too much attention on temporal consequence, not enough on spiritual (aids, pregnancy).
   C. Adulterers and fornicators lost (1 Cor. 6:9) — secret or open, caught or not.

IV. Next Came His Dishonest Dealing. (vv.7-9).
   A. David pretended to favor Uriah, but was trying to cover his own sin.
   B. Uriah’s sense of duty complicated David’s scheme.
   C. David should have confessed his in here — but did not until forced to by Nathan (12:1-6).

V. Next Came His Deadly Deed (vv. 14-17).
   A. His love affair had turned deadly — How often it happens!
      1. Probable never dreamed it would go this far.
      2. Was as guilty as if it had been his own sword (12:9).
   B. Need to remember that sin has a way of picking up momentum.

VI. Then Followed His Heavy Heart.
   A. Of remorse and guilt (12:13).
      1. After realizing the seriousness of his sin (12:1-7).
      2. After realizing the goodness of his Lord (12:7-8).
   B. Of sorrow and memory.
      1. Could erase guilt, but not consequences and memory.
      2. The loss of his son and damage to his family (12:10-13).
      3. The loss of much of his influence (12:14).
      4. Likely followed him the rest of his life (Psa. 51:3)

Conclusion:

A. Passion is a powerful force — Godly conviction needs to be stronger.
B. Passion must be curbed before it unleashes a course like David followed