

- Have you ever heard of the snowball effect before? I'm sure many of us have heard it used in many different contexts. Some might have heard it used in the financial realm. Others might have heard it used in sports. And I'm sure you've heard it used in many other different ways.
- The effect itself is quite simple. The snowball effect starts with something small. Once this small thing gets rolling, it begins to grow bigger and bigger and before you know it this thing can't be stopped. It continues to grow, pick up steam, and go down hill until it is huge and there is some kind of major end result. You might imagine kids building a giant snowball and they let it go down the hill go grow, but it gets away from them and ends up smashing onto a car or runs over something it shouldn't.
- This type of effect can be used to describe sin along with many other areas. I don't know if there is any better example to show this snowball effect of sin than that of the sad situation we have recorded for us in Scripture of David and Bathsheba (**II Samuel 11-12:18**). Tonight, we want to examine the snowball of sin that took place within this story and then make some applications and take away some lessons from it.

## **I. The Snowball of David and Bathsheba.**

### **A. David not going to battle (11:1)**

1. Up until this point in the story of David, things had been great. David had been dominant as a leader of his army, and God was with him in all that he had done. This decision of **v.1** seems to be a sad turning point.
2. This was the time of the year, during the spring following the winter, when Israel would have restarted their conquest of her enemies. David, for whatever reason, decided to stay and take it easy this time.
3. This wasn't a grave sin by any means as best as we can tell, but it was the small seemingly insignificant decision that was the great turning point in the life of King David.

### **B. Seeing Bathsheba bathing (11:2)**

1. Some have pointed out that it was against good manners to look down upon your neighbor's home, so David should have never seen Bathsheba bathing in the first place.
2. Some have also suggested that Bathsheba wasn't as discreet in her bathing as she should have been.
3. Nonetheless, the fact remains that David saw Bathsheba while she bathed. He had two choices at this point: he could turn away and go back into his home and leave that alone, or he could allow this sight to arouse his fleshly appetite.

### **C. Lusting for Bathsheba (11:3)**

1. David chose for the latter and he allowed his fleshly desire to rule for that moment.
2. David, being king, could very well have been of the mind that he could have any woman that he pleased. This is possibly evidenced by his next action in asking about Bathsheba to see who she was.

### **D. Inquiring about Bathsheba (11:3)**

1. David asked of her and was told who she was.
2. He then sends messengers to her and invites her to come be with him at his house.

### **E. Adultery with Bathsheba (11:4)**

1. We have no indication that Bathsheba resisted David's invitation, thus supporting the thought that she was trying to gain David's attention.
2. They come together and committed adultery against their spouses, and this action leads to a great result.

### **F. Bathsheba's pregnancy (11:5)**

1. Bathsheba becomes pregnant through her relations with David. She is very upset because she and David both recognize that the punishment for such a crime was death.
2. It seems as if she went to David hoping that the king could figure out something to do to keep this from happening.

### **G. Deception of Uriah (11:6-13)**

1. David's plan was to see if he could deceive Uriah into thinking that the child was his by allowing him to come home and be with his wife. Multiple times David tried to get Uriah to be in a position where he would think that the child would be his.
2. Uriah was a man of honor and wouldn't be in such great comfort while his fellow soldiers were at war (quite different from where we see David at this point). David then tries to get him drunk to see if he would be with his wife this way. The plan still does not work for David and Bathsheba.

#### H. Murder of Uriah (11:14-26)

1. David then goes to drastic measures by having Joab put Uriah in a position to be killed during the battle.
2. Even worse is that he sent the order by the very hand of Uriah. David's treachery is at full force by this point.
3. Uriah is put at the very heart of the battle, and he is killed during the fray.
4. Afterwards, David takes Bathsheba for his own wife and the son is born some time after this point. (v.27)
5. The Lord was very displeased with the great evil that David had committed. (v.27)

#### I. Denial of actions (12:1-12)

1. The Lord uses His prophet Nathaniel to tell David a story about a rich man and a poor man with his little lamb. David is outraged by the story and completely misses the fact that he is the man.
2. David was so enraged by the crime of the rich man, yet he was blind to the horrific things he had done with Bathsheba. He had no pity for Bathsheba, Uriah, Joab, or anyone else in this incident. Her certainly missed his own plank for the speck of the rich man.

#### J. Innocent child's death (12:13-18)

1. Through it all, David's house was cursed with violence for the remainder of his days.
2. The poor little innocent child was cursed to die of sickness. The innocent suffered for the sins of the wicked.

### II. Lessons we learn from this sad story:

#### A. We don't have to act upon fleshly desires.

1. We understand that sin is a result of some fleshly desire that we feel. (James 1:13-15)
2. Satan knows our weaknesses and seeks to exploit them in order for us to stumble, but we don't have to stumble.
3. David could have looked away. He could've overcome the beauty of Bathsheba, but instead he chose to give in and the problems compounded greatly from there.
4. We have the same kind of choices in regards to sin. We can overcome with God's strength and help (I Cor. 10:13), or we can give in and allow Satan to be our master and help lead us to more and more sin.

#### B. "Small" sins can lead to major problems.

1. This whole sequence of sin began with a lustful desire for Bathsheba within David's heart.
2. Many would say that this isn't that big of a deal at all! There's no problem looking as long as I don't touch. Or that I can look at the menu without ordering!
3. However, this small sin lead to horrible problems for David. From this point on his house was filled with turmoil, scandal, and conflict. This was part of God's punishment. (12:9-13)
  - a) His daughter, Tamar, was brutally raped by his own son. (II Sam. 13:1-21)
  - b) Absalom sought retribution against Amnon for his evil crime and killed him. (II Sam. 13:23-33)
  - c) Absalom rebelled against his father and had David's concubines on the rooftop where all could see. (II Sam. 16:21-23)
4. What started out as something so small had a drastic and horrifying impact on the rest of David's life.

#### C. Sin is normally not isolated.

1. We sometimes think that our sin affects no one but ourselves, and that couldn't be farther from the truth.
2. Many times our sins have a far reaching impact. Those we love are hurt and affected by our poor choices.
3. This was certainly something that David came to realized during the course of this situation.

#### D. Sin is deceiving.

1. We may think that we can handle and control his one sin in our lives, but sin can quickly get out of control.
2. We may think that our hearts won't become blinded to our sin, but we can quickly become hypocrites to our sin in regards to the sins of others.
3. We can easily look down on the sins of others as David did while absolutely ignoring the faults in our own lives. If it can happen to the man after God's heart in David, then it certainly can happen to us.

While this story of David and Bathsheba certainly is a sad one, it is also one that we can learn many things from. We may think that this small little sin won't come to be anything, but we must be aware that the small sin can quickly snowball into something that we just can't stop. Maybe even more importantly, we learn from this sad story that God's grace and forgiveness will always prevail. David messed up horribly, but his sin was forgiven of him by God. (12:13) May God help us to have the resolve to not allow Satan to control us in this life through sin. May we be the type of people that will use God's strength to overcome the evil one and stop the snowball of sin before it ever starts in our lives. And may we always remember that there is forgiveness for the man that will humbly confess his sins before God.