Singapore Bible College Petros Yeung

8-March-2020 Message 1 of 1

NASB 15 Minutes

**Guaranteed Knockouts**

***2 Samuel 11***

**Topic:** Leadership

**Subject:** How can we be godly leaders?

**Complement:** With vigilance and integrity

**Purpose:** The listeners will be more on guard where they may be spiritually weak.

# Introduction (arouse interest, challenging a notion)

### Leaders are supposed to be the best of the best, right? They’re the people we turn to for direction and guidance. They have the experience and the skills to accomplish the goals of the people they’re leading. In government, we trust them to make policies for the good of citizens. In the church, we expect them to lead by example and serve the congregation.

### God willing, we are going to be leaders in the church. We may be already, but we may have greater authority in the future.

### [Establish a need to learn to be good leaders.]

#### But how do we become good leaders in the first place? Where can we learn about being a good leader?

##### We’re often told to look to the Bible for models of great leaders to imitate. We automatically will think of Jesus, that’s the standard answer.

##### Others include Abraham, Joseph, Moses, Esther, Solomon, Peter, Paul, and Timothy. I skipped over some on purpose [chuckle] don’t worry, I haven’t forgotten them.

#### [Subject] Today we will observe King Dave and ***how to be a proper leader chosen by God.*** As “a man after God’s own heart,” we should be able to pick out qualities of excellent leadership.

### [Background on 2 Samuel]

#### After all, 2 Samuel 8:15 even says “David reigned over all Israel; and David administered justice and righteousness for all his people.”

#### Before that in 2 Samuel 7, God makes a covenant with David promising a kingdom that will reign forever, a land where his people will not be disturbed, and a son who will build a temple for God. Samuel then records David’s victories against armies and nations, including the 8:15 verse from just now.

#### [Preview] In today’s passage, David is going to teach us ***two ways to be a godly leader.*** When we are given authority and leadership, what are two God-glorifying ways to use them?

### [Introducing the text]

#### We’re looking at 2 Samuel 11. Second Samuel chapter 11: it comes after First Samuel and before Third Samuel. Just kidding. It comes before First Kings and many books before the Psalms. My heading to the chapter reads, “Bathsheba, David’s great sin…” [Pause] Oh yeah, it’s this chapter. Some people wonder why this chapter is included at all, when it’s conveniently absent from the Chronicles, even though they both concern the reign of King David.

(But there it is. David committed a great sin. I’ll tell you now, David committed two sins, if not more. Samuel notes that God is witness to all this in verse 27, calling it evil in the NASB. So, how can we learn from David’s example? The first way to be a Godly leader is…)

# I. Do not corrupt God-given leadership with sin by manipulating others.

[His sex with Bathsheba made him a corrupted and adulterous king.]

## This adultery was possible because David was not fighting the Ammonites with Joab. In the chapters leading up to this Samuel records David defeating his enemies, but chapter 11 opens with a contrast between a time for kings to go to war and David staying behind in Jerusalem. Rather than go out with all the fighting men of Jerusalem, he awoke from a nap and took the opportunity to spy on Bathsheba.

## The story could have stopped there if David didn’t fall into temptation. Instead, he sent for Bathsheba and had sex with her. Now it may be conjecture on my part, but who would refuse a summon from the king? Depending on your political views, it’s as irresistible as getting an invitation from the Prime Minister. It might not even necessarily be a matter of whether you wanted to go, but rather, would you have the ability to refuse? Verse four uses the word “take” and although it may have a certain meaning to us, debating whether or not David raped Bathsheba is not the goal of today’s message. The result was the same. Bathsheba ended up pregnant.

## [APP] The easiest solution is to not commit adultery. That much is obvious, but what about the more subtle temptations surrounding that kind of sin?

### [ILL] When you are the leader of a group project, will you try to delegate every task to your group members without contributing your own work? This not only creates more work for your team but in the end, will you honestly be able to gain a sense of ownership to something you didn’t effectively contribute to?

### [ILL] And when you become leaders in the church or your current roles in your CG or planning committees, do you try to accomplish a selfish agenda so that you can have everything your way? It doesn’t have to be a formal position, God can give you a loud, commanding voice and it can still be abused to coerce your teammates. This happens whenever there are more extroverts than introverts in a group, the loudest ideas win because they’re loud, not because they’re good per se. Meanwhile, the introverts are further repressed and made to go along with the loudest speaker.

(David needed to think fast. God’s anointed leader could not be charged with adultery, especially against one of his loyal elite soldiers. So instead of taking responsibility, David sought to hide one sin with another. From verses 6-21 we learn that the second way to be a good leader is…)

# II. Do not cover up sin with another sin.

[Do not try to hide one sin by sinning further.]

### At first, he tried to cover up his adultery by calling Uriah back from battle to lay with his wife. But Samuel records Uriah as being dutiful and unwilling to go because he would not flout his responsibility to God or the solidarity with his fellow soldiers. Practically in contrast to David, verse 11 illustrates Uriah’s quality, “The ark and Israel and Judah are staying in temporary shelters, and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are camping in the open field. Shall I then go to my house to eat and to drink and to lie with my wife? By your life and the life of your soul, I will not do this thing.” Unfortunately, that would not deter David from escalating his abuse.

### He wrote instructions for Uriah’s death, carried by Uriah himself to Joab. What I found new while reading this chapter was that it wasn’t just pre-meditated murder, but legally also involuntary manslaughter. David wrote instructions that caused the deaths of several other fighters, and Uriah was among the casualties. You can see David’s corruption when he is at first angry at the loss of life, but verse 25 is almost disturbing, “Do not let this thing displease you, for the sword devours one as well as another…” David is practically throwing his hands in the air because his goal is accomplished.

### [APP] Now, how many of you have used your authority to avoid consequences? Again, it doesn’t even have to be an official position. God-given status, or talent, or family are all things we can abuse to gain your way.

#### [ILL] I’m sure that we’ve all heard of helicopter bosses. They’re people who hover over their workers but drift away whenever they feel like it. I used to have such a boss: he only blamed others when business was poor, but it was his leadership that needed correction. He took it out on us by strictly managing our work and limiting many workplace benefits. Our morale suffered and in the end, our company went from 30 people to eight people in two years. They were also very aware that the boss was “Christian” which made the mistreatment worse.

(For anyone who’s had to go through that, please know that God is not blind to injustice. And for anyone who’s been on the giving end… [jokingly] please know that God is not blind to injustice. Unfortunately for David, he was just delaying his consequences.)

# III. Because he corrupted his God-given leadership, he would be judged by God.

[Maybe immediately, but definitely eventually: God will discipline unethical leaders.]

### David thought that he got away with murder AND adultery, but the end of the chapter is clear: he couldn’t hide from God’s sight. If you read verses 26 and 27 as the end of the episode, this would be the cliff-hanger that sets up the next chapter. In 2 Samuel 12, we get to see whether or not David can continue escaping the consequences. Naturally, he does not. God sends Nathan to David to confront him.

### Judgment came for David in the form of death. Because he caused the death of an innocent man, the life of his innocent son from Bathsheba was taken. These are the direct consequences of his actions.

### This serves as a turning point for David, writing Psalm 51 in his remorse, recognizing that God was just in his judgement. He was a man after God’s own heart before this, and in Acts, Paul affirms that special title knowing everything else that was recorded in the Old Testament about him.

### However, we see history repeat itself in 2 Sam 13-18, where David’s other sons repeat his father’s mistakes. A series of events where lust turns to rape and ends in murder. For now, it’s enough to say that this familial strife was the long-term consequence that David suffered.

(David had to learn his lessons the hard way. Power corrupts, so we as leaders also need to be firm against abuse when given authority. This cautionary tale of David teaches us that…)

# Conclusion

### We must lead with vigilance and integrity when we are appointed by God (Main Idea).

### [ILL] My church hired a pastor some years ago. His enthusiasm and intentionality were uplifting. He encouraged us to truly be vulnerable with each other, and that message challenged our church leaders to desire to change. However, this pastor ended up using this message and his counseling privilege to develop an intimate relationship with one of our church members, later deemed adulterous. Whether or not intercourse was involved, the fact is he was not faithful to his wife, we were heartbroken with her. Please lead with vigilance.

### [ILL] Why did I title this message “Guaranteed Knockouts”? Because… the easiest way to win a fight is by beating someone who doesn’t know they’re fighting. Satan knows that as God-appointed leaders he can’t win when we have our guard up, so his true aim is to hit us when we are not expecting it. Are you aware that you are in a constant fight with Satan?

### [APP] Look for areas in your life where you have authority over someone, your group project, your CG, your spouse, your children. Do you see Satan exploiting your temper, your pride, or your insecurity, and leading you into sin? Lead with vigilance and integrity.

# Study Questions (Step 1)

# Context: What did the author record just prior to this passage?

### 2 Samuel 10:17-19 **17**Now when it was told David, he gathered all Israel together and crossed the Jordan, and came to Helam. And the Arameans arrayed themselves to meet David and fought against him. **18**But the Arameans fled before Israel, and David killed 700 charioteers of the Arameans and 40,000 horsemen and struck down Shobach the commander of their army, and he died there. **19**When all the kings, servants of Hadadezer, saw that they were defeated by Israel, they made peace with Israel and served them. So the Arameans feared to help the sons of Ammon anymore.

# Purpose: Why is this passage in the Bible?

### It highlights a blemish of the greatest king of Israel’s Old Testament history.

### It demonstrates that not even a “man after God’s own heart” is invincible to sin.

### The reader will see a pattern emerge in David’s own sons.

# Background: What historical context helps us understand this passage?

### God made a covenant with David to establish his kingdom forever.

### God promised that David’s son would build the temple for the Ark of the Covenant.

### David was a warrior king—he knew how to fight.

### Israel was warring with, and defeating, the surrounding kingdoms with God’s provision.

### At a time when kings went to war, David stayed home.

### David had time to take an afternoon nap before strolling around the roof.

# Questions

### Why didn’t Uriah read David’s letter to Joab?

#### To further illustrate Uriah as an honorable, loyal, and obedient soldier.

### What was Bathsheba’s uncleanness?

#### While NASB implies she purified herself after laying with David, other translations make it parenthetical, implying she had just finished purifying herself from her menstruation.

### Why did David want Uriah to wash his feet?

#### It could have been a euphemism for intercourse, or a general suggestion to relax, hoping that he would be in the mood to lay with Bathsheba.

### Did David rape Bathsheba?

#### While the Bible is not clear, to say that Bathsheba was coerced by the request of her king is not unreasonable.

# Tentative Subject/Complement Statements

The reason David’s sin was so devastating was because he made an opportunity for sin to tempt him.

The consequence of David falling into sin was bringing many people down with him.

The reason even David sinned was because temptation appeared when he wasn’t fighting.

# Possible Illustrations

### Text

# Possible Applications

### Text

# Older Outlines of This Sermon Text or Outlines by Others (Books, Commentaries, etc.)

### Text

**Guaranteed Knockouts**

***2 Samuel 11***

**Exegetical Outline (Steps 2-3)**

# Exegetical Idea (CPT): The way the Lord saw evil in David’s actions was by his abuse of God-given authority through adultery and murder.

# I. The way David abused his God-given kingship was by not fighting wars with Joab and committing adultery with Bathsheba (1-5).

## The way David abused his authority was by being on his roof not fighting wars with alongside Joab (1-2).

## The way David abused his authority was committing adultery with Bathsheba (3-5).

# II. The evidence of David’s abuse of authority was by manipulating and murdering Uriah (6-21).

## The evidence of David’s abuse by summoning Uriah from battle to lay with Bathsheba (6-13).

## The evidence of David’s abuse was by murdering Uriah (14-21).

# III. The consequence of David’s abuse was compromised character and judgment from the Lord (22-27).

## The consequence of David’s abuse was compromised character (22-25).

## The consequence of David’s abuse was the Lord judging it as evil (26-27).

**Purpose or Desired Listener Response (Step 4)**

The listeners will know that even great leaders can be tempted to abuse authority in order to sin

**Sermon Outline** (Cyclical Inductive form)—Steps 5-6

# Introduction

### Interest: Leaders are supposed to be the best of the best, right?

### Need: We’re often told to look to the Bible for models of great leaders to imitate. Don’t you want to know how to lead your small group, your family, your congregation well?

### Subject: Today we will observe King David and how to be a proper leader chosen by God

### Background: After making a covenant with David in 2 Sam 7, God is recorded blessing David with military victory and just kingship (2 Sam 8:15).

### Preview: David is going to teach us two ways to be a godly leader.

### Text: We’re looking at 2 Samuel 11. The heading in my Bible reads, “Bathsheba, David’s great sin…” Wait, no, that can’t be right!

(But there it is, David committed great sin. I’ll tell you now, David actually committed two sins, if not more. The author notes that God is witness to all this in verse 27, calling it evil in the NASB. So, how can we learn from David’s example?)

# I. Do not corrupt your God-given leadership with sin by manipulating others (vv. 1-5).

[By having sex with Bathsheba, someone else’s wife, David became a corrupted, adulterous king.]

## This adultery was possible because David was not fighting the Ammonites with Joab (1-3)

### David sent all of Jerusalem’s fighting men, but he stayed behind (1).

### David was walking on his roof when he saw Bathsheba (2).

## This adultery was possible because David abused his authority as king (4-5).

### David sent messengers to *take* Bathsheba (4).

### Scholars debate whether this was rape, but the adultery resulted in pregnancy (5).

## Do NOT manipulate people with your authority (APP).

### Do not use authority to avoid responsibility. When in a group project or ministry team, do your part.

### Do not use authority to coerce others. Do not bend the church to our agenda in CG or planning committees.

(David needed to think fast. God’s anointed leader could not be charged of adultery, especially against one of his loyal elite soldiers. So instead of taking responsibility, David sought to hide one sin with another.)

# II. Do not corrupt your God-given leadership with sin by covering it up with more sin (6-25).

[Do not hide one sin with another.]

## David tried to cover his adultery by summoning Uriah from battle to lay with his wife (6-13).

## David tried to cover his adultery by murdering Uriah (14-21).

## David did not care for his lost soldiers as long as Uriah was dead (22-25).

## Do NOT cover your sins with your authority (APP).

### Do you use authority to avoid consequences? I used to avoid getting in trouble by saying I was the Pastor’s kid.

Do you use authority to make others suffer the consequences? I used to have a boss who only blamed others when business was poor, but it was his leadership that needed correction.

(Fortunately for us, God would not allow this to escape his justice. Unfortunately for David, he was just delaying his consequences.)

# III. If you corrupt your God-given leadership, you will be judged by God (26-27)

[God will discipline unethical leaders.]

## Although David got what he wanted, the Lord saw it (26-27).

## Judgment came for David in the form of death (cf. 2 Sam 12).

## Remorse came from David in the form of a Psalm (cf. Ps. 51).

## Consequences came for David in the form of familial strife (cf. 2 Sam 13-18)

(David had to learn his lessons the hard way. Power corrupts, so we as leaders need to be firm against abuse when given authority. This cautionary tale teaches us that...)

# Conclusion

### We must lead with vigilance and integrity when we are appointed by God (MI).

### We as leaders will have special access to vulnerable people, but we must not use that for sinful desires like lust or pride. We hired a pastor who ended up committing adultery with one of our members. The church suffered because of it.

### I titled this message “Guaranteed Knockouts” because you need to be aware that you are in a constant fight with Satan.

### As a leader, do you see yourself using people instead of serving them? See where you are a leader. Do you see Satan exploiting your temper, pride, or insecurity, to get you to sin?

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**Rick Griffith**

2020

Message of 17

**Title**

***Passage***

# Introduction

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# I. MP has a blank for the key word \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ answer (verses).

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# Conclusion

### Main Idea has a blank for the key word \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ answer (verses).

### Application question

**Home Group Questions:**

1. Read the passage aloud. Contrast:

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| --- | --- |
| **Issue** | **Contrast** |
| Text | Text |
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1. Text-based question

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Text

Text

1. Application to your own Christian experience

Text

Text

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