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Date: September 13, 2015

Title: The Giant That Slew David

Text: 2 Samuel 11:1-27

When you think of the life of David, what is the first event that comes to your mind? Likely, you either remember the time young David SLEW GOLIATH OR you remember when David committed ADULTERY with BATHSHEBA. Both events were monumental moments in the life of David. In the first, in his victory over Goliath and even in the passage we looked at last week in 2 Samuel 9 in his kindness to Mipheboeth, David revealed his HUMILITY. In the second, David revealed his HUMANITY. In the first, David proved that he was a man of FAITH. In the second, David proved that he was a man of FLESH. When David met a giant named GOLIATH, we are privileged to witness an incredible victory. When David met BATHSHEBA, we are forced to watch his greatest defeat.

Up until this moment, I don't believe David had lost a battle. Every time he stepped onto a field of combat, David won the battle and walked off the field a victor. However, when David entered the arena of combat within his own heart, he was soundly defeated by a giant far more powerful than Goliath ever was.

Today I want us to look at this painful moment in the life of David. Here we will witness the defeat of a mighty man of God. Here we will see him fall at the feet of a brutal giant. Men continue to fall at the feet of that same giant. Just weeks ago, a pastor and seminary professor committed suicide after he had signed up on a site for those seeking adulterous affairs. Josh Duggar, former TV personality, who once was a spokesman and board member for moral and Christian entities has been found out to have had two accounts to the notorious affair sight, to have cheated on his young wife and to have molested young girls. Men continue to fall at the feet of that same giant.

Today we look into David's sin so that we might avoid the trap that he fell into. I'm not here to gloat over David. I know that were it not for the grace of God, and if my feet were in David's sandals and his circumstances were mine – all fingers might be pointing at me. However, I do want to take this example that God has provided for us and look at The Giant That Slew David. In doing so, we must be aware of the internal giants that we face in life. You see, it's not likely that the giant of sickness, suffering, sorrow, poverty, pain or any other external giant will give you the greatest trouble in your life. The giant who seeks to cause you the most trouble might well dwell within your own heart right now. Things like health problems, death, financial crisis, etc. tend to bring us fear. Yet, we never stop to think that it is the giants that we carry around with us day by day that we need to concern ourselves with most.

I'd like to show you some facts about David's giant. Why is this important? The giant that slew David is out to kill you too!

- 1. The Personality of David's Giant (v. 1).** *"It happened in the spring of the year, at the time when kings go out to battle, that David sent Joab and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the people of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem."* Who was David? He was the king! What were "kings" doing "in the spring of the year"? They went "out to battle". Where was David? He "remained at Jerusalem". **A. David's Giant Considered.** If we really want to understand the nature of the giant that dwelled within David's heart, we need to look back to 2 Samuel 5:12-13. *"So David knew that the LORD had established him as king over Israel, and that He had exalted His kingdom for the sake of His people Israel. And David took more concubines and wives from Jerusalem, after he had come from Hebron. Also more sons and daughters were born to David."* We are told here that God had blessed David and had established His kingdom. We are also told that David recognized the hand of divine providence at work in his life. But, we are also given a piece of distressing news as well (vs. 13). What's wrong with this? After all, David is a mighty king. He is undefeated on the field of battle. He has expanded the kingdom. He has built a great army and seemed to have placed the right men in all the key positions. He has led the nation in growth militarily, financially, and spiritually. Would anyone really care if David indulged his appetite for women by taking to himself many wives and concubines? I would think so, but even if I am wrong, I can say with great confidence that **GOD CARED!** What David did was in direct contradiction to the Word of God in Deuteronomy 17:14-17 (Read this passage). In this passage of scripture, the king was forbidden to do three things: He was not to accumulate HORSES. He was not to accumulate WIVES. He was not to accumulate GOLD AND SILVER. David had honored God's command regarding items number one and three. David had disabled the horses taken in battle (2 Samuel 8:4). He had also dedicated the gold and silver, taken as spoil in the battle, to the Lord (2 Samuel 8:7-12). BUT, He had DISREGARDED what God had to say about accumulating wives. Of the many things (plural) you might do well to

collect, wives (plural) are NOT one of them. David had a giant, and if a name had to be attached to this giant, "Lust" might be its name. It appears that David had strong sexual desires and sought to satisfy his urges by accumulating women. BUT, David, like many others, discovered that many sexual partners will NOT satisfy your sexual desires, they will only INCREASE them. David had problems with a spiritual giant named "Lust." You may not battle that one, but you might well know the name of the one or ones you do battle. In fact, if you have never done so, it might be good for you to identify the identity of YOUR giant. Admitting that it exists is the first step in seeing it defeated! **B. David's Giant Constructed.** Where did this giant of lust come from? How did this giant obtain the power necessary to overcome a "man after God's own heart"? There are several factors that combined to allow David's own giant the power to attack his life. **Neglect of duty** – As king, David should have led his men into battle and not stayed at home while they were out fighting and dying. **Idle Time** – David was IN BED when he should have been IN THE BATTLE! Too much free time allows the mind time to wander in areas where it ought not. An old English proverb says, "An idle mind is the devil's workshop." **Success** – David enjoyed absolute success and victory over all the enemies of Israel. Success is a HEADY thing! Most will tell you that you are never MORE vulnerable than when you have just enjoyed a great success. People tend to develop a feeling of invincibility. **Pride** – David knew that God was with him (2 Samuel 5:12). He may have let that knowledge go to his head. He may have forgotten the truth that God will walk with those who are going His way (Amos 3:3). You see, when people are passing through hard times, they become very DEPENDENT upon the Lord. There's not much room for pride when you are depending on the Lord for everything you need. BUT, when success comes, when the dreams are fulfilled, when you have what you want, it is easy to become lifted up in pride. **Arrogance** – David had come to believe his own press! He believed that he was everything people said he was. He reveled in his celebrity status and it became his downfall (Proverbs 16:18). We all need someone around us who will tell us the truth about ourselves and help us stay humble before the Lord. **Neglect of the Spiritual Man** – We can only speculate, but it seems that David was guilty of neglecting his spiritual health. People who stay close to the Lord through prayer and reading and meditating upon His Word do not do what David did. I am sure there were other causes, but what we need to understand here is the truth that David's giant was something that HE allowed to thrive in his own life. HE could have prevented what happened had he taken the proper steps. Now, I do not want to be too hard on David. Most, if not all, have been guilty of feeding their own giants until they become so powerful that they overwhelm us. When you see yourself falling into the trap that David fell into, you need to know that your giant is getting out of hand. When he does, he will not stop until he has destroyed you, your life and your testimony. You see, David's giant, and the giants that we face DO NOT usually come from WITHOUT. They usually come from WITHIN (James 1:13-14). So we must be certain that the inner man is strengthened so that he can do battle with the giants that lurk within our own heart.

2. **The Power of David's Giant (v. 2-4).** As we examine what happened to David when he faced the giant of lust, we can learn something of the power this giant exercised in David's life. Watching his battle can help us when our own battles arise. **A. It Had the Power to Ensnare His Mind.** (Read vs. 2-3.) David is lying on his bed, when he decides to take a walk out on the roof. This was probably a patio just outside his royal chambers. History tells us that kings often had rooftop patios, which were lavishly furnished and often covered by awnings to provide shade, as places of sanctuary. They would generally be above the noise of the city and they were high enough to give the king some privacy from those below. On this night, David sees a woman bathing. The Bible says that her physical appearance is "*very beautiful to look upon.*" The Bible uses the word "*very*" sparingly in its pages. When it is used, it is there to emphasize a truth. And, when it does use the word, it never does so to exaggerate! Therefore, when the bible says that Bathsheba was "*very beautiful to look upon,*" we can say without reservation that she was the absolute vision of female beauty and physical perfection. And, when David saw her, the giant of lust that dwelt within his heart roared to life. All David can think about is Bathsheba. He wants to know who she is. He wants to know everything about her. I think it likely to assume that his mind is filled with fantasies of what it would be like to be with her physically and intimately. The giant has ensnared his mind and he has forgotten – who he is, who he serves and how he is supposed to behave. The giant had taken control of David's mind! He saw her, he wanted her and he took her! That is how sin works. James 1:15, "*Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.*" This is how it has always worked – ever since Adam and Eve all the way back in Genesis chapter 3. And this is how it will ever work (1 John 2:16). The devil has never changed and the nature of sin has never changed! This is the first step that you and I take when we are about to be overcome by our own giants. A thought develops into a desire

within in our mind and demands to be fulfilled. The mind is the first battlefield with the giants of sin. If the mind falls, the rest of the defenses will tumble like dominoes! God has something to say about the mind and how it is to be guarded at all times (Philippians 4:6-9; 2 Corinthians 10:3-5). *“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ”* (2 Corinthians 10:3-5). The mind must be guarded or the giants will ensnare it and lead the rest of the body into rebellion and sin. **B. It Had the Power to Erase His Reason.** When David inquires about Bathsheba, he is told that she is the wife of a loyal soldier, and that she is the granddaughter of a trusted advisor. This information should have caused David to stop the course of action he was pursuing; instead he pressed on. Such is the power of the giants that assault us. They FIRST ensnare the mind, and then they seem to ERASE ALL REASON. They throw all caution to the wind. People in the grip of lust or some other fleshly desire often do things that they would never do under normal circumstances. When they get in the grip of their giant, they lose their senses and become intoxicated with gratifying their fleshly desires. When a look is allowed to linger, lust will be conceived; and when lust is conceived, sin is always the result (James 1:15). **C. It Had the Power to Eclipse His God.** David knew better! David is no longer an immature little boy. He is fifty years old. He has been king in Israel for twenty years. He is a man of God. He is a mighty warrior. He is the *“Sweet Singer of Israel.”* BUT, at this moment in time, he reveals the truth that he has feet of clay. He brings Bathsheba into his bed and he commits adultery with another man’s wife! He dishonors Bathsheba. He dishonors her husband. David dishonors his wives AND most of all, he dishonors GOD (Exodus 20:14). David has forgotten his relationship with God. The giant of lust has blinded him to the point that he is living as if there were no God! The giant of lust is standing so tall in David’s heart that it has blocked the face of God from his view! David and Bathsheba enjoyed the pleasures of an illicit affair. As the Bible says, *“Stolen waters are sweet, and bread eaten in secret is pleasant”* (Proverbs 9:17). David paid for his moment of pleasure with a lifetime of pain! Such is the power of sin. David forgot God and if you give in to your giants, YOU WILL TOO! There are those who are not here today because they have given in to their giants. When that giant rises up in your heart, know that he will block your view of God. When that happens, you will find yourself doing things that you never thought possible. That is why it is so vitally important that the giants we fight be defeated when they first appear in their attacks against the mind. If we can stop them there, they cannot control our life like they desire to! **Note: I’d like to address a couple of matters before we move on.** I want to remind you that David might not be the only one at fault here. Sure, David is a man of God. He knew better than to do what he did. He was the aggressor in this horrible act. But, surely Bathsheba knew that David, or anyone else for that matter, could see her as she bathed, if they were on a high roof. I’ll not go so far as to say that Bathsheba intended for her affair with David to take place; but, these two people teach us a couple of lessons that ought to be mentioned here. **Lesson 1 – Be careful how you look AT others!** Scripture says rather clearly that adultery is wrong; but Jesus goes so far as to say that looking at someone with lust (sexual desire) constitutes adultery (Matthew 5:28). Be careful HOW you look! Be careful WHERE you look! Be careful HOW LONG you look! Sometimes we can’t help but see certain things. But we ultimately have control over whether we continue to look or turn away. Most would contend that men have a greater problem in this area than women do – so men I am especially speaking to you. Fellows, I would just remind you that every woman in this world is either your sister in Christ or a lost soul that needs Jesus. Seeing women in that light SHOULD help us fight the giant of lust! God’s intent is that a man should not look upon a woman with sexual desire unless he is married to her. Be careful how you look AT others. Lesson 1 is primarily for men and Lesson 2 is primarily for women. (I want to be fair here.) **Lesson 2 – Be careful how you look TO others!** Yes, some men look when they shouldn’t, BUT it is also true that SOME women dress to stir up lust in men! I can’t think of a good excuse or reason for any women who claims to know the Lord to dress in such a fashion that attention is drawn to her body. I think a woman can look beautiful without looking sexual. My very limited fashion expertise tells me that too small or tight or short or low cut articles of clothing are MEANT to attract sexual attention. I struggle to believe that the only reason they are skimpy is to save on the cost of material. For sure – such clothing is intended to make a statement – and that it does! I read just a day or two ago on Facebook a comment from a dad – it said, “I hate shopping for Homecoming dresses. They are all too short.” Moms and Dads, you would do well to help your kids make honorable choices. Who knows what you might be protecting them from? I ask the question – Could it be that when a woman dresses in such a fashion that she is displaying a lack of love for her Christian brothers? Is it possible that when a woman wears immodest

apparel or takes a bath in front of a man – be it a king or a beggar – that she may be a stumbling block to him? TRUE STORY: I and a group of men from our church went on a mission trip to Jamaica a number of years ago. I think it was my third time there. This time we added a service at a church up the mountain. We had never been there. We got there early and found our seats about the middle of the church. It was warm that day so we sat close to the open side door. Just before the service was to begin the missionary came back to where we were seated and said to me, “Pastor, often there is a very voluptuous woman (I trust everyone knows what that means) that often comes out of her home and takes a bath outside the church door during service. I said, “Say that again.” He repeated it. I said, “Like a “NO CLOTHES ON” bath?” He said, “Yes.” I said, “Really?” Now what was I to do with that information? I could only imagine the distraction that might have been during a service. So I gently encouraged our men to move to the FRONT of the church – beyond the sight of the open door. Okay, I more than encouraged – I INSISTED we move to the front of the church. I did it for ME, too. If I had the choice of looking at a beautiful bathing woman or concentrating on a poorly delivered sermon, I wasn’t sure where my attention might go. (I’m not suggesting that the sermon was poor that day.) So before the moment of temptation MIGHT come, I did what I needed to do to remove myself (and others) from a POSSIBLE temptation. So let me ask the question again – Is it possible that when a woman wears immodest apparel or takes a bath in front of a man, that she may be a stumbling block to him? Jesus said this is Luke 17:1 – “...*‘Things that cause people to sin are bound to come, but woe to that person through whom they come.’*” In other words, as believers, we should NEVER do anything that might make another sin. True – No one forces a man to sin with his eyes and his heart, but no one makes a woman dress in such a way that it makes it easier for the man to sin in this manner. Perhaps many a woman doesn’t understand men and how they think. Not knowing is one thing, but when a professing Christian woman dresses to look sexy and attract the attention of men, THAT IS WRONG! The Bible calls for women to dress in modest apparel (1 Timothy 2:9). I know that the original language is not only speaking of dress and behavior but is also addressing the inner life and outward conversation. Wherein the Word tells us that man looks on the outer appearance and God looks on the heart, the Word also indicates that the outer appearance is often a reflection of the inner person. So ask yourself – What might your dress be saying about you? Here’s a word for you single ladies: You are more apt to attract the right kind of man with the right kind of dress (1 Peter 3:3-4). I might add that if your relationship is built on your outer beauty, what happens if it fades?

- 3. The Problem with David’s Giant (v. 5-27).** The problem David experienced with his giant is the same one we all face when we deal with our giant. David FED his giant and IT WANTED MORE! Once the giant of lust was out of its cage, it spread until it consumed David’s life. Notice what the giant of lust did to David. **A. It Led Him Down a Deceptive Path.** David tried every tactic he could to get Uriah to sleep with his wife Bathsheba (once David found out that Bathsheba was pregnant with his child). However, Uriah had more integrity than David did at this point. Look at Uriah’s response to David in verse 11. “*Uriah said to him, ‘The Ark and the soldiers of Israel and Judah are staying tents. My master Joab and his officers are camping out in the fields. It isn’t right for me to go home to eat and drink and have sexual relations with my wife!’*” When Uriah would not go home the first night, David got him drunk the next night. David is using DECEPTION to try and COVER his sins. Instead of stepping up and being a man, confessing his sins to God and dealing with the consequences, David tried to hide like a coward. When people find themselves under the grip and control of their sins, they will try every method to keep their sin covered and hidden. God’s way is openness and honesty. Proverbs 28:13 – “*He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.*” Man’s way is to hide sin. Sin will lead you down a path of deception. **B. It Led Him Down a Deepening Path.** When deception did not work, David settled on a plan to remove Uriah altogether. David devised a plan to get Uriah killed on the battlefield and even sent Uriah back to the war carrying his own death warrant. Joab carried out David’s orders, and would later use the plan against David. Sin was leading David deeper and deeper into its prison and farther and farther away from the Lord. This is how sin ALWAYS works! It is never satisfied, but it will lead you along, taking you deeper and deeper, ever tightening its grip on your heart and life. Don’t be deceived by the giant that dwells in your heart. He will settle for nothing short of your total destruction! When the Bible says “*the way of the transgressor is hard*” (Proverbs 13:15) – it means what it says! **C. It Led Him Down a Devastating Path.** After Uriah dies and Bathsheba fulfills her mourning period, David takes her as his wife. But folks can count, and a thinking person can figure out at least part of what happened. At any rate, David shows no remorse. It appears that his heart is HARD and that he has LOST the SENSITIVITY to the Lord that marked his earlier days. Sin has DEVASTATED his life. It is interesting to note that verse 27 says “*David sent and fetched her.*” This is the second

time David *“fetched”* someone to his house. The first time was in 2 Samuel 9:5 when he *“fetched”* Mephibosheth from Lo-Debar. The first time, David fetched someone to SHOW LOVE. The second time, he fetched someone to satisfy his LUST. This is what sin does? It sears the conscience making sin easier and easier until one’s entire life is devastated and destroyed (1 Timothy 4:2). It dulls a person’s sensitivity to the Lord and His voice. Sin will wreck and ruin your life if you allow it to take hold of you! Be careful! Satan never shows his cards. He never tells you about the worm hidden in his apple. He never tells the drunk that drink will destroy his life and ruin his family. He never tells the fornicator or adulterer that their sexual activities may lead to pregnancy, disease, death or divorce. He never tells the drug user that his habit will control him forever. He NEVER tells the truth about sin! BUT GOD DOES! Romans 6:23 – *“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* Galatians 6:9 – *“And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.”* Don’t let any giant that dwells in your heart destroy or devastate your life.

- 4. Conclusion.** This is a sad place to leave David. Note the last part of verse 27 – *“And when her mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD.”* If you think the story is over – it’s not! In truth, it’s just the beginning! For now, here is the issue that we must deal with: David’s sin was just that – SIN! It could have been committed by anyone of us! Yet, it is magnified by who David was and by how he handled it. The fact is, we are no greater than David. We are AS PRONE to fail as he was. If we are not careful, there is a giant lurking in the recesses of our heart and his desire is our demise. 1 Corinthians 10:12 says, *“Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.”* Are you dealing with a giant that is trying to destroy you? If you are, you do not have to lose the battle! You can have victory and you can have it today! The first step is going to be getting honest with the Lord about the battle you are fighting. It is going to mean telling Him the WHOLE TRUTH and leaning upon Him for strength to fight the battle. If you have already been beaten by the giant, I want you to know that the war is not over! God knows how to restore you and help you out of sin’s grip. If the Lord has spoken to you on any level, whether it is about your own sins, or about what you see another person going through, I invite you to come before the Lord and talk to Him about it. If you have never been saved, I invite you to come to Jesus for salvation. He is calling you! You do not have to lose the battle with your giant! You can have victory if you REALLY want it! Let’s conclude by singing the chorus *“Create In Me A Clean Heart,”* which is the prayer of King David following the time when the prophet Nathan came to him after he had committed adultery with Bathsheba. The words are found in Psalm 51:10-12.