

# Toxic Pt. 2

Pastor James Foley – Sunday, October 23, 2022

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## INTRODUCTION

Thank you for joining us! Whether you are here in person or joining via the livestream you are most welcome! Please have a Bible at the ready and be prepared to take notes as you like. We have much to cover in a short space of time.

## OPENING REMARKS PT. 1

We are in the midst of an ongoing series on the operation and outflow of human sinfulness.

**NOTE 1** – Last week we noted a simple yet significant spiritual principle concerning sin. Namely, sin is often met with unforeseen and unintended cost or consequence. Thus, the author of the Book of Proverbs proclaims: “There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death” (Prov. 16:25, NIV). This precept alone should keep us from committing sin, as doing so produces toxic fruit.

**NOTE 2** – Of course, there are many reasons to reject sin (i.e., each worthy of consideration and application)! In fact, the more we understand sin and its working(s), the better equipped we will be to say “NO” when Satan seeks to play upon our carnal inclinations. Thus said, today I want to explore a familiar yet instructive cautionary tale that speaks to the penalty and sinister operation of sin. Please turn to 2 Sam. 11.

**KEY** – Allow me to set the stage as we turn to a dark scene in the life of a famous biblical hero, David...

## OPENING REMARKS PT. 2

**NOTE 1** – King David is one of the most fascinating characters in Scripture. He was one of the greatest kings of Israel and author of many psalms (i.e., 73+ in fact). His story is presented primarily in 1 and 2 Samuel, which record his meteoric rise to the throne, reign, and the divine promise of an everlasting dynasty!

**NOTE 2** – However, something tragic takes place in the life of the “man after God’s own heart” in 2 Samuel 11. When David is at the apex of his power and service unto the Lord, we read of the following. This text is lengthy, but let us fulfill the command make time for the “public reading of Scripture” (1 Tim. 4:13)...

**KEY** – As we read, consider the following Q’s...

**Q1. What does this account reveal about the cost(s) and consequence of sin?**

**Q2. What does this account reveal about sin that would keep me from sinning?**

LET’S DELVE IN...

## TO THE WORD

### **2 Samuel 11:1–20a, 21b–27**

1 In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king's men and the whole Israelite army. They destroyed the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained in Jerusalem.

2 One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful, 3 and David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, "She is Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite." 4 Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her. (Now she was purifying herself from her monthly uncleanness.) Then she went back home. 5 The woman conceived and sent word to David, saying, "I am pregnant."

6 So David sent this word to Joab: "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent him to David. 7 When Uriah came to him, David asked him how Joab was, how the soldiers were and how the war was going. 8 Then David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house and wash your feet." So Uriah left the palace, and a gift from the king was sent after him. 9 But Uriah slept at the entrance to the palace with all his master's servants and did not go down to his house.

10 David was told, "Uriah did not go home." So he asked Uriah, "Haven't you just come from a military campaign? Why didn't you go home?"

11 Uriah said to David, "The ark and Israel and Judah are staying in tents, and my commander Joab and my lord's men are camped in the open country. How could I go to my house to eat and drink and make love to my wife? As surely as you live, I will not do such a thing!"

12 Then David said to him, "Stay here one more day, and tomorrow I will send you back." So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day and the next. 13 At David's invitation, he ate and drank with him, and David made him drunk. But in the evening Uriah went out to sleep on his mat among his master's servants; he did not go home.

14 In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it with Uriah. 15 In it he wrote, "Put Uriah out in front where the fighting is fiercest. Then withdraw from him so he will be struck down and die."

16 So while Joab had the city under siege, he put Uriah at a place where he knew the strongest defenders were. 17 When the men of the city came out and fought against Joab, some of the men in David's army fell; moreover, Uriah the Hittite died.

18 Joab sent David a full account of the battle. 19 He instructed the messenger: "When you have finished giving the king this account of the battle, 20 the king's anger may flare up, and he may ask you, 'Why did you get so close to the city to fight? . . . 21 . . . If he asks you this, then say to him, 'Moreover, your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead.'"

22 The messenger set out, and when he arrived he told David everything Joab had sent him to say. 23 The messenger said to David, "The men overpowered us and came out against us in the open, but we drove them back to the entrance of the city gate. 24 Then the archers shot arrows at your servants from the wall, and some of the king's men died. Moreover, your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead."

25 David told the messenger, “Say this to Joab: ‘Don’t let this upset you; the sword devours one as well as another. Press the attack against the city and destroy it.’ Say this to encourage Joab.”

26 When Uriah’s wife heard that her husband was dead, she mourned for him. 27 After the time of mourning was over, David had her brought to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing David had done displeased the Lord.

## **2 Samuel 12:1–14**

1 The Lord sent Nathan to David. When he came to him, he said, “There were two men in a certain town, one rich and the other poor. 2 The rich man had a very large number of sheep and cattle, 3 but the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb he had bought. He raised it, and it grew up with him and his children. It shared his food, drank from his cup and even slept in his arms. It was like a daughter to him.

4 “Now a traveler came to the rich man, but the rich man refrained from taking one of his own sheep or cattle to prepare a meal for the traveler who had come to him. Instead, he took the ewe lamb that belonged to the poor man and prepared it for the one who had come to him.”

5 David burned with anger against the man and said to Nathan, “As surely as the Lord lives, the man who did this must die! 6 He must pay for that lamb four times over, because he did such a thing and had no pity.”

7 Then Nathan said to David, “You are the man! This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: ‘I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. 8 I gave your master’s house to you, and your master’s wives into your arms. I gave you all Israel and Judah. And if all this had been too little, I would have given you even more. 9 Why did you despise the word of the Lord by doing what is evil in his eyes? You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your own. You killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. 10 Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.’

11 “This is what the Lord says: ‘Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity on you. Before your very eyes I will take your wives and give them to one who is close to you, and he will sleep with your wives in broad daylight. 12 You did it in secret, but I will do this thing in broad daylight before all Israel.’”

13 Then David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the Lord.”

Nathan replied, “The Lord has taken away your sin. You are not going to die. 14 But because by doing this you have shown utter contempt for the Lord, the son born to you will die.”

## **BACK TO THE ‘AHARIT**

I shared with you earlier that sin often has unforeseen and unintended cost or consequence...

**Q. In what way does this cautionary tale evidence the reality of this statement?**

**A.** Contrast David at the beginning of this story from the end. The story begins with him supremely blessed of God and at peace, as he rules and reigns over the nation. The story ends with the promise of familial calamity, dynastic upheaval, and the death of an innocent child. Did he foresee or desire such things? No.

**KEY** – Next time you are tempted to sin, consider the cost and consequence your actions may bring forth!

## **SAYING NO TO SIN PT. 1**

**Q. What other principles re: sin can we glean herein—principles that will help us to resist temptation?**

**1) Sin Does Not Satisfy. Sin Does Not Bring about “Lasting” Fulfillment or Contentment.**

**NOTE** – To what degree does David seem satisfied or contented by the life-choices he had made? For a time, David may have enjoyed the excitement, thrill and stimulation of sin, but such pleasure was quite short-lived. Seasons of sinful pleasure are inevitably followed by a sense of emptiness and ruin.

**Q1. How satisfied was David at being exposed?**

**Q2. How satisfied was David upon hearing of coming calamity?**

**Q3. How satisfied was David when he buried his innocent child for his crimes?**

**Q4. How satisfied was David when his own sons built upon the sinful foundation he had laid?**

**Q5. How satisfied was David when he would, in time, go on to bury other sons in kind?**

**QUOTE** – “Sin will take you further than wanted to go, keep you longer than you intended to stay, and cost you more than you wanted to pay.”

**KEY** – Next time you are tempted to sin, remember that sin will not satisfy you!

## **SAYING NO TO SIN PT. 2**

**2) Sin Begets Sin. Sin Begets More and Worsening Sin (i.e., Downward Spiral of Behavior).**

**Q. To what degree was this evident in this account of King David?**

**QUOTE 1** – “A passing glance became a lustful look. It continued with the pursuit of a woman that was married. It continued with adultery, attempts to manipulate the situation, the abuse of God-given authority & the murder of an innocent, loyal man. Each step of the way, sin led to more sin and to worse sin!” –M. Brown

**Q1. Was this really the same man who confronted Goliath by faith and penned Psalm 23?**

**Q2. Was this the same man who reveled in the presence of God, being given an eternal dynasty?**

**QUOTE 2** – “O miserable man, what a deformed monster sin has made you! God has made you “little lower than the angels”; sin has made you little better than the devils.” – Joseph Alleine

**KEY** – Next time you are tempted, consider that begets more and worsening sin! One step leads to another.

## SAYING NO TO SIN PT. 3

### 3) Sin Enslaves. Sin, by Nature, is a Binding Agent that Seeks to Dominate.

**Q1. Does David appear to be free as he was driven to pursue a married woman?**

**Q2. Does David appear to be free as he feverishly works to manipulate the situation?**

**Q3. Does David appear to be free as he implements a plan to have a loyal soldier killed?**

#### **Proverbs 5:22**

22 The evil deeds of the wicked ensnare them;  
the cords of their sins hold them fast.

**QUOTE** – “We easily become addicted to our sinful behavior and habits. Instead of being free to serve God and others, we become subject to the impulses of sin and our fleshly nature. Our life, our time, our energy, our money, our beings become consumed by sin and the fulfillment of our carnal nature. The Jerusalem Talmud has a saying: ‘To what may a sinner be compared? To one who beholds open handcuffs and places his hands into them.’” –M. Brown

#### **Q. How did the Lord address Cain concerning his misdirected anger at Abel?**

#### **Genesis 4:6–7 (Emphasis Mine)**

6 Then the Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? 7 If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it **desires to have [dominate] you**, but you must **rule** over it.”

**KEY** – Next time you are tempted to sin, remember that sin ever seeks to enslave, bind and dominate!

## SAYING NO TO SIN PT. 4

### 4) Sin Degrades & Humiliates. Sin Brings Low those Who Persist in Sinfulness.

**NOTE 1** – I am going to say a name and you tell me the first thing you think of: Judas Iscariot; President Richard Nixon; Jim Bakker; President Bill Clinton; Bill Cosby. Notice how the first thing that likely popped into your mind was an association with some moral failing or depravity! Consider the following excerpt...

**QUOTE** – “Think about that public figure—the president, a sports star, a prominent educator, etc.—that has worked for years to gain the respect of the people and establish a solid reputation. And then look at what happens to that reputation when that person commits gross sin and his sin finds him out. Everything changes! A reputation is sullied, and you now look at that person differently. He or she has been polluted, colored, stained. All the hard-earned popularity, all that individual’s great accomplishments become compromised in a moment.” –M. Brown

**NOTE 2** – Think about how this principle connects with King David. How do you think his children saw him from this moment on? How about his other wives? Bathsheba? His soldiers? The nation of Israel? The surrounding nations and/or enemies? Did people ever look at him the same, even after his restoration?

**KEY** – Next time you are tempted to sin, consider that sin degrades and humiliates!

## SAYING NO TO SIN PT. 5

### 5) Sin Steals Joy.

**NOTE 1** – Joy is a precious commodity that many diligently seek to acquire...

#### 1) Some Pursue Joy in Romantic and/or Sexual Pleasure

**QUOTE** – “Lord Byron—romantic poet and satirist—lived a life of pleasure with women and Mediterranean boys wrote [the following], ‘The worm, the canker and grief are mine alone.’”

#### 2) Some Pursue Joy in Wealth or Material Accumulation

**QUOTE** – “Jay Gould, American railroad financier and speculator, stated the following while dying: ‘I am the most miserable man on earth.’”

#### 3) Some Pursue Joy in Position, Prestige and Notoriety

**QUOTE** – “Lord Beaconsfield, British author and politician, enjoyed more than his share of both. In the end he stated, ‘Youth is a mistake; manhood a struggle; old age a regret.’”

#### 4) Others Pursue Joy in Power or Military Conquest

**QUOTE** – “Alexander the Great conquered the known world of his day. Having done so it is recorded that he wept in his tent, noting, ‘There are no more worlds to conquer.’”

**NOTE 2** – Yet David was a man familiar with the joy of the Lord. His inspired writings recount so...

#### **Psalms 16:11 (Emphasis Mine)**

11 You make known to me the path of life;  
you will fill me with **joy** in your presence,  
with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

#### **Psalms 28:7 (Emphasis Mine)**

7 The Lord is my strength and my shield;  
my heart trusts in him, and he helps me.  
My heart leaps for **joy**,  
and with my song I praise him.

**Q. Yet do we see any indication of joy in the midst of his sin w/ Bathsheba, etc.?**

**Q1. Do we read of David shouting with joy before God? NO**

**Q2. Do we read of David singing songs unto the Lord herein? NO**

**Q3. Do we read of David dancing ‘wildly’ before the Lord herein? NO**

**Q4. Do we read of David penning any psalms of praise unto his God? NO**

**QUOTE** – “When sin enters the picture, our joy is sapped. The strength we once possessed seems to dissipate, and our passion depletes. Our enthusiasm to connect with the Lord in prayer, praise and worship is curbed and our victory seems to depart for far-off shorts. Gone is the bounce in our step and the song in our heart. Why? Because sin steals joy! It promises much, but leaves us guilty, ashamed and hollow.” –M. Brown

**NOTE 3** – What we do see is David pen the following subsequent to his exposure...

**Psalms 51:7–12 (Emphasis Mine)**

7 Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean;  
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

8 **Let me hear joy** and gladness;  
let the bones you have crushed rejoice.

9 Hide your face from my sins  
and blot out all my iniquity.

10 Create in me a pure heart, O God,  
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

11 Do not cast me from your presence  
or take your Holy Spirit from me.

12 **Restore to me the joy of your salvation**  
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

**KEY** – Next time you are tempted to sin, consider that sin steals joy!

## **SAYING NO TO SIN PT. 6**

### **6) Sin Steals Time.**

**NOTE 1** – We only have so much time on this earth...

**Psalms 39:5 (Of David)**

5 You have made my days a mere handbreadth;  
the span of my years is as nothing before you.  
Everyone is but a breath, even those who seem secure.

**NOTE 2** – Each day you are given by the Lord, you are allotted only so much time to accomplish all that have to do (i.e., no more and no less). If you use that time wisely, you can effectively fulfill God’s purposes for your life. If you choose to waste that time, it is forever forfeit.

**NOTE 3** – Few things in life bother me more than wasted time! Stolen goods can be replaced and friendships mended, but lost time cannot be regained; even in eternity. That is why the Word teaches us to make the most of our time!

**KEY 1** – Yet sin inevitable steals time, being the worst time-sink in existence. Consider...

- 1) We Lose Time in Committing Sin**
- 2) We Lose Time Running from God**
- 3) We Lose Time in Even Confession**
- 4) We Lose Time Resisting ‘Next’ Sin**

**KEY 2** – Consider the account of King David...

- Q1. How long was he absent from the front lines, leading his men?**
- Q2. How long did he “lust” after the bathing beauty, Bathsheba?**
- Q3. How long did it take for David to secure her information?**
- Q4. How long did the “one-night stand” with her last?**
- Q5. How long did it take to discover she was pregnant?**
- Q6. How long did it take to recall Uriah from the battle lines?**
- Q7. How long did it take to pen the letter to the General of Israel?**
- Q8. How long did David wait for word from the General and his messenger?**
- Q9. How long did it take for God to speak both to and through the prophet, Nathan?**
- Q10. How long did it take for David to communicate the words, “I Have Sinned” (finding pardon)?**
- Q11. How long did David have to deal with the promised outflow and fallout of his failings w/ Bathsheba?**

**A.** In any event and no matter how you answer such questions, the true answer is far, far, far, far too long!

**KEY** – Next time you are tempted to sin, remember that sin steals time!

## **SAYING NO TO SIN PT. 7**

### **7) Sin Hurts. It Fosters Pain, Harm and Torment in Every Direction.**

#### **1) Sin Hurts the Sinner**

**Q. To what degree was this true in the life of David?**

**A.** I am sure the loss of a child, sullied reputation, familial fallout, etc. was quite painful.

#### **2) Sin Hurts the Sinner’s Friend(s) & Family**

**Q. Who was hurt by the sinfulness of David in this account?**

**A.** Bathsheba; Uriah; the infant who died; the children of David; his soldiers; the nation; his other sons; etc.

#### **3) Sin Hurts the Lord (Hear HIS Heart re: David)**

#### **2 Samuel 12:7b–12, 14**

7 . . . “This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: ‘I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. 8 I gave your master’s house to you, and your master’s wives into your arms. I gave you all Israel and Judah. And if all this had been too little, I would have given you even more. 9 Why did you despise the word of the Lord by doing what is evil in his eyes? You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your own. You killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. 10 Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.’ . . . 11 “This is what the Lord says: ‘Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity on you. Before your very eyes I will take your wives and give them to one who is close to you, and he will sleep with your wives in broad daylight. 12 You did it in secret, but I will do this thing in broad daylight before all Israel.’”

**KEY** – Sin always hurts those we care most about. Next time you are tempted to sin, consider that.

## SUMMATIONS

### Q. Why should you reject sin and the urge to follow your sinful instincts?

**A.** Consider that sin: **a)** comes with unintended cost consequence; **b)** does not satisfy; **c)** begets more and worsening sin; **d)** degrades and humiliates; **e)** enslaves and seeks to dominate; **f)** saps joy; **g)** steals time; and **h)** hurts you and all whom you love!

**KEY 1** – Allow these principles to motivate greater degrees of holiness before God!

**KEY 2** – Those in need of forgiveness will find the Lord more than willing and able...

### 1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

## CONCLUSION

**NOTE 1** – Feel free to give either in person or online at [www.NewLifeBarre.org](http://www.NewLifeBarre.org).

**NOTE 2** – Feel free to participate in our “beyond-Sunday” ministries (MM, WM, CYC, B. Study).

### Numbers 6:24–26

24 The Lord bless you  
and keep you;

25 the Lord make his face shine on you  
and be gracious to you;

26 the Lord turn his face toward you  
and give you peace.