

# COLOSSAL COLLAPSE - 7

## Pursuing God's Own Heart: Lessons From the Life of David

"The LORD detests  
all the proud of heart.  
Be sure of this: they will  
not go unpunished."  
- Proverbs 16:5

"Pride goes before  
destruction; a haughty  
spirit before a fall."

David is at an all-time high. The wave of his success crests at age fifty. For twenty years David has known God's unhindered blessing on his life, "because the LORD God Almighty was with him" (2 Samuel 5:10). The kingdom expands, the people prosper. David is loved by the people. Served by the soldiers. Followed by the crowds. David stands at the highest point of his life, yet never weaker. The pinnacle has dulled his ears to the warnings of others and the voice of his own conscience. David's self-centered indulgence leads to tragic consequences for himself, his family, and the kingdom.

### Welcome

What's the best and/or most difficult thing that has happened to you this past week?

### Word

#### Read 2 Samuel 11:1-5

1. David did what kings don't do: he sent his men to battle and stayed comfortably behind. Why? In what ways did David's servant lace his information with a warning (verse 3)? In what ways does David show himself prideful in these verses?
2. David's temptation led to three specific actions recorded in verses 3 and 4. What are they? How do you imagine David's conscience began to rationalize his behavior? What does this teach you about the nature of sin?
3. At each point in the progression of his temptation, what might David have done to keep from taking the next step? Be specific.

#### Read 2 Samuel 11:6-17

4. What plan does David devise to cover up his sin? What does this teach you about man's way of dealing with sin? Why are we tempted to cover up our sins rather than to confess them?
5. You might be in the middle of a situation similar in principle to that of David. It might involve moral compromises, bad habits, or careless self-gratification. Describe the steps you should take to stop the situation before it's too late.

#### Read 2 Samuel 11:18-27

6. Other people are drawn into the wake of David's sin. As you look back over this passage, how would you explain what led "a man after God's own heart" to commit adultery and murder?

### Worship & Works

Discuss the implications of the following statement: *"Wrong attitudes and thoughts give way to wrong actions. Our sinful attitudes and thoughts are so numerous that their familiarity makes them less noticeable. Jealous thoughts, sudden lusts, quick criticisms, and harsh judgments may be fueled in our minds without any regard toward them as sin."*

Conclude your time together by dividing into smaller groupings for prayer—perhaps a men's and women's group. Ask people to pray in response to the following question, *"In what area of life may God be trying to get your attention right now?"*