THE MAKING OF A KING

Part 8: David's Slide into Self-Deception – 2 Samuel 11-12:7

Step 1: David drifts from **PURPOSE** to **IDLENESS** vs. 1-2

Not being where he's **SUPPOSED** to be set him up for temptation

ENTERTAINING temptation is the first symptom of self-deception

Step 2: David **NEGOTIATES** with God's boundaries vs. 3-4

Gathering **INFORMATION** about a temptation is negotiating with sin

God's boundaries are **OBSTACLES**, instead of guardrails. Your heart is lying to you

Step 3: David chooses **COVER-UP** over confession vs. 5-13

MANIPULATION escalates as self-protection rises

Prioritizing personal reputation over **GRIEVING** God's heart

Step 4: David rationalizes sin, **MINIMIZES** the damage vs. 14-27

The callous heart loses its **MORAL** sensitivity

Collateral damage and pain are **NORMALIZED** and **NOMINALIZED**

Step 5: David is fiercely **CRITICAL**, yet completely **BLIND** vs. 12:1-13

A callous heart becomes full of **TOXIC HYPOCRISY**

The only way out is brutal **HONESTY** and total **SURRENDER**

Auburn Grace Community Church – November 15th, 2026

Life Application Questions – November 15, 2026

2 Samuel 12:7-8 *Nathan then said to David, "You are the man! Thus says the LORD God of Israel, 'It is I who anointed you king over Israel and it is I who delivered you from the hand of Saul. I also gave you your master's house and your master's wives into your care, and I gave you the house of Israel and Judah; and if that had been too little, I would have added to you many more things like these!*

DISCOVER

1. What are some common ways we accommodate or give credence to temptation?
2. Why are idle hours our most dangerous hours? Why do we experience temptation less when we are doing what God intends?
3. Pastor Phil showed us that there are five stages of self-deception. Can you relate to any of the stages? Explain.

EXPLORE

1. Read 2 Samuel 11:1-2. How was David drifting into idleness? What can be so attractive about idleness? Have you seen periods in your life where tranquil times extended into laziness? Describe the impact and dangers as you experienced them. How do we reconcile God's emphasis on keeping the Sabbath with the exhortation to avoid idleness?
2. Read 2 Samuel 11:3-4. For what purpose does God define boundaries for our thoughts and behavior? Refer to Genesis 2:15-17 and Exodus 20:1-17. Which commandment(s) was David breaking when he inquired about the woman?
3. Sir Walter Scott in 1808 said, "Oh, what a tangled web we weave, when first we practice to deceive." Now read 2 Samuel 11:5-13. What was the tangled web woven by David? Why does deceit become increasingly complicated to maintain? Describe a time in your life where you confessed a shortcoming that had become burdensome to hold inside.
4. Read 2 Samuel 11:14-27. How many people were impacted by David's sin? In what ways should we be alarmed about our own sin and the possible impact on many others? Why does a callous heart lose moral sensitivity? Refer to 1 Timothy 4:2. In what ways is moral insensitivity analogous to death?
5. Read 2 Samuel 12:1-13. What is the correlation between being judgmental of others and blindness to our own faults? Describe escape paths from toxic hypocrisy. What keeps (or should keep) you humble so that you do not fall prey to blindness of your own sin?

EXPERIENCE

1. The story of David and Bathsheba moves from private sin to public exposure. How does living with the awareness that "nothing is hidden from God's sight" affect daily choices?
2. What practical habits (accountability, Scripture intake, prayer, community) help you stay sensitive to the Lord's displeasure rather than becoming calloused?

PRAY

Almighty God, in so many ways, we identify with David. We fall short of the mark and then put on a mask of deception in front of You, family, and friends. May the Holy Spirit be like Nathan was to David in exposing our sin. And may our hearts be like David's as he repented from his sin. Only through Your grace can we be cleansed, white as snow. In Jesus' Name. Amen.