

**Word Notes Sunday 02/03/14**  
**Tony Hodge: King David, Temptation, Sin & Restoration**

**Summary** (read this bit out to remind cell members what was said on Sunday)

**Key Text: 2 Sam 11 & 12**

King David, one of the most prominent figures in the Bible and of the ancient world was an athlete, musician, poet, handsome, warrior, king – genius. It's hard to overestimate David's spiritual or secular significance. Described as "A man after God's heart" (1 Sam 13:14), he never fell into idolatry and is known as the most prominent ancestor of Jesus – the Son of David (2 Sam 7:8-13 7 Matt 1:1, 9:27 & 12:23 etc). Yet despite all this David fell into sexual sin with Bathsheba and deceit and murder of her husband Uriah.

David was something of a Rock Star – winning all the battles on the outside but inside losing the war within. Linked with the kind of unlimited power that a vastly successful king in such times had, this was a disastrous combination. Jesus says: *"From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked."* (Luke 12:48).

So how did it all go so wrong for David? In his fall and subsequent actions David illustrates much of the nature of temptation, the consequences of sin yet also ultimately the faithfulness of God to His Word.

**Temptation** – it only took one look, so easy to let ourselves be ensnared if we are not on our guard. You don't just get up in the morning and think "today I'm going to fall heavily into sin" - the enemy knows he can't get you that way so instead he creeps in. Notice his MO – "Did God really Say?", "Scripture says xx so now go and do yy", "surely just allow yourself a little indulgence – God's grace will cover it". Sex is just one of the appetites that was intended for our fulfilment, others are food, stewardship & authority.

**Consequences** – The consequences for David (and Bathsheba) are dire. Their son falls gravely ill and dies – even though David is contrite, fasts and petitions the Lord for his life. We have to recognise that there are consequences to our sin to – forgiveness is not a "get out of jail free" card.

**Faithfulness** – even so God's ultimate plan (2 Sam 7:12-14) was not diverted. David did not get to build the temple but the eternal kingdom God spoke of was established in his line. We too can rely on God for his ultimate purposes in our lives – some things may be denied us but His plan is not diverted. It's highly unlikely you or I will have the same prominence as king David – but that's not to say we will not be used of God in our generation so this message is important to us.

**Application** (this is the bit where cell members get to participate. Lead discussions around these points)

It seems almost daily we hear of people falling from grace – in secular as well as Christian circles.

- Very briefly, and without being judgemental, share some examples from recent times.
- In one word what was the underlying sin issue (sex, greed, power etc)?
- What lessons can us "normal" people learn, what impact on our witness might follow if we don't?

Read Matt 5:21-22 & 27-28.

- How do these comments from Jesus apply to David's fall?
- What do they tell us about the heart of God and how could David have missed this?
- Read 2 Cor 10:5. How does this injunction from Paul apply to us in the "inner war"?

Take some time to reflect on any areas where you struggle in the inner battle with temptation. If appropriate get into pairs, share and pray for each other, otherwise maybe discuss with a prayer partner when you next meet or with your spouse.

**Witness** (this is the bit where the cell talks and prays about how to share the Good News)

Each of us has a story to tell of how we have been changed that can encourage others to believe. What testimony of change in your life would you share?