

**TIME FOR A CHANGE:
WHEN LIFE IS BROKEN
2 Samuel 11:1-25**

There are times in life when a change is in order. With the recent death of a friend, Aunt Bee is feeling particularly blue. She is feeling her age and is listless and without energy. On her way home one day, she sees a handsome man hawking his Colonel Harvey's Elixir as a tonic that will fix any ailment. She buys two bottles and by the time Andy gets home later that day, she is singing and happy. There's seems to be little they can do about Colonel Harvey. His vendor's permit is in order and he's doesn't seem to be breaking any laws. Until they have the elixir analyzed that is and find that it is in fact 85% alcohol and the reason Aunt Bee and her friends feel so good is because they are gassed.

I don't want to perpetuate the role of the snake-oil salesman. I don't want us to be that organization that makes promises, but can't deliver. I don't want us to be that place that is characterized by pious platitudes and vapid lessons.

When change is needed, what do you do? When change is in order, where do you go? There are those times when change is in order.

I. WHEN DESIRE RULES, TROUBLE ENSUES.

- A. David was overcome by desire for Bathsheba when he saw her bathing. He sent messengers to bring her to him. *² Now when evening came David arose from his bed and walked around on the roof of the king's house, and from the roof he saw a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful in appearance. ³ So David sent and inquired about the woman. And one said, "Is this not Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?" ⁴ David sent messengers and took her, and when she came to him, he lay with her; and when she had purified herself from her uncleanness, she returned to her house.*

- B. What is the problem here? Is it desire? God created us with desire/appetites. We are able to enjoy the taste of good food or drink, the appearance of beauty, the success of accomplishment, the pleasure of sexual activity, etc. The problem is not desire itself. The problem comes when desire rules. The problem comes when we are controlled by our appetites. David didn't just see a beautiful woman and note her beauty.
1. He desired her and wanted her for himself – even after he knew her identity as a married woman. By the way, he was a married man himself.
 2. He conspired to find a way to cover up his involvement in her pregnancy.
- C. When we allow desire to rule our lives, we are headed for trouble. Desire must be subject to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in our lives. It must be kept under control by his truth and his desire for our holiness.
1. The ascetics decided that desire was evil and that the body had to be punished. All pleasure had to be avoided in order to find spiritual fulfillment.

II. WHEN LIES PREVAIL, INTEGRITY CRUMBLES.

- A. David's problems didn't end with his desire for another man's wife. David worked to weave a web of lies that would cover up his involvement in the affair and Bathsheba's subsequent pregnancy. ⁵ *The woman conceived; and she sent and told David, and said, "I am pregnant."* ⁶ *Then David sent to Joab, saying, "Send me Uriah the Hittite."* *So Joab sent Uriah to David.* ⁷ *When Uriah came to him, David asked concerning the welfare of Joab and the people and the state of the war.* ⁸ *Then David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house, and wash your feet."* *And Uriah went out of the king's house, and a present from the king was sent out after him.* ⁹ *But Uriah slept at the door of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and did*

not go down to his house. ¹⁰ Now when they told David, saying, "Uriah did not go down to his house," David said to Uriah, "Have you not come from a journey? Why did you not go down to your house?" ¹¹ Uriah said to David, "The ark and Israel and Judah are staying in temporary shelters, and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are camping in the open field. Shall I then go to my house to eat and to drink and to lie with my wife? By your life and the life of your soul, I will not do this thing." ¹² Then David said to Uriah, "Stay here today also, and tomorrow I will let you go." So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day and the next. ¹³ Now David called him, and he ate and drank before him, and he made him drunk; and in the evening he went out to lie on his bed with his lord's servants, but he did not go down to his house. ¹⁴ Now in the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it by the hand of Uriah. ¹⁵ He had written in the letter, saying, "Place Uriah in the front line of the fiercest battle and withdraw from him, so that he may be struck down and die."

1. David sent for Uriah and brought him from the battle.
 2. David tried to create a situation where Uriah would sleep with Bathsheba.
 3. David decided to send Uriah into the worst part of the fighting in Rabbah – modern day Amman.
- B. When we abandon the truth and cover our mistakes with lies, we lose our integrity (moral soundness). The problem with lies is that they must be multiplied. It takes two to cover one and four to cover two and eight to cover four. It becomes a tremendous burden to keep up with a collection of lies. It becomes increasingly difficult to recognize the truth.
1. We lie to get what we want.
 2. We lie to escape responsibility for our actions.
 3. We lie to hurt others.

- C. Christ is the truth. He is truth. When we are joined to him, we are united with his truth. He desires truth in every part of our being. As we are transformed by the renewing of our minds, we develop an appetite for the truth and a distaste for lies. We can seek and find forgiveness for our deception. We can be restored to right relationship with God and with one another. Forgiveness is precipitated by acknowledgement/confession. *⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.* 1 John 1:9 (NASB95)

III. WHEN BROKENNESS IS LACKING, LIVES ARE BROKEN.

- A. Rather than being humbled by his sin, David was emboldened. He sent Uriah into the heat of the battle in Rabbah. *¹⁶ So it was as Joab kept watch on the city, that he put Uriah at the place where he knew there were valiant men. ¹⁷ The men of the city went out and fought against Joab, and some of the people among David's servants fell; and Uriah the Hittite also died. ¹⁸ Then Joab sent and reported to David all the events of the war. ¹⁹ He charged the messenger, saying, "When you have finished telling all the events of the war to the king, ²⁰ and if it happens that the king's wrath rises and he says to you, 'Why did you go so near to the city to fight? Did you not know that they would shoot from the wall?' ²¹ 'Who struck down Abimelech the son of Jerubbesheth? Did not a woman throw an upper millstone on him from the wall so that he died at Thebez? Why did you go so near the wall?' —then you shall say, 'Your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also.' " ²² So the messenger departed and came and reported to David all that Joab had sent him to tell. ²³ The messenger said to David, "The men prevailed against us and came out against us in the field, but we pressed them as far as the entrance of the gate. ²⁴ "Moreover, the archers shot at your servants from the wall; so some of*

the king's servants are dead, and your servant Uriah the Hittite is also dead." ²⁵ *Then David said to the messenger, "Thus you shall say to Joab, 'Do not let this thing displease you, for the sword devours one as well as another; make your battle against the city stronger and overthrow it'; and so encourage him."*

1. Not only was Uriah killed, others of David's soldiers died with him. David's response was, "That's the price of going into battle. Carry on Joab." David's arrogance is astounding. He acted as if he was above God's law and expectations.
- B. It is difficult to isolate our choices and their consequences. Often, there is collateral damage. The whole body picture used by Paul in the New Testament is a reminder that we are interconnected. We are joined in marriages, in family, in work settings, in churches, and in communities. It is difficult to contain the hurt.
- C. It is also difficult to contain the healing. When forgiveness, healing, and restoration come, they cannot be contained.