

## February 10, 2021 | Hall of Flaw

### Hebrews 11:32-34 | David, the Envious

We kicked off this series called "Hall of Flaw" by saying, "We can look to the heroes of faith from time to time, but we must always keep our eyes on the Son of God." That, even though Hebrews 11 is filled with good examples, our one and the only perfect example is Jesus Christ. And often, our flaws highlight God's faithfulness.

- In the second week, we studied Abraham. Though the father of Israel, he had trouble overcoming his fear.
- In the third week, we looked at Abraham's better half: Sarah. Unlike her husband, her primary flaw was doubt. How ironic that Abraham, a man known for his optimism, would have a wife known for her skepticism.
- In the fourth week, we moved to a guy named Moses. His primary flaw wasn't fear or doubt but anger. Moses was a hothead. So much so that he'll eventually pay dearly for his lack of restraint.
- Last week we started skimming the bottom of the "Faith Hall of Fame." We specifically focused on Jephthah, a brash, hasty, and, for lack of a better term, thoughtless man. Jephthah simply didn't think before speaking, and, as we well know, he paid dearly for his foolhardy impulses.

Today, as we close our series, we will focus on one of the most famous characters in all of the OT: David. While David wasn't the first king to rule Israel, he proved himself to be a truer king than his predecessor. Where the people chose Saul to be their king, David was handpicked by God. And it's not hard to see why, especially when you compare the two. David turned out to be a brilliant tactician, a merciful opponent on the field of battle, and a bold and daring leader.

What's more, He even added "poet-musician" to his long list of credentials during his rule, as we have him to thank for some of the most popular songs in the book of Psalms. But probably the best praise for David comes from the lips of the Prophet Samuel himself when he said that Saul would be replaced by "a man after God's own heart." David would become what Saul could've been had Saul been a man more concerned with pleasing God than pleasing the people.

Yet, like all heroes in the OT, David wasn't perfect. In fact, many of his failures have now become so famous that they've almost outshined his accomplishments. So much so that often when preachers mentioned David's greatness, they quickly amend their statement by noting David's great flops too. Because, as we'll see today, while David was all those good things listed above, he was also an adulterer, schemer, and, ultimately, a murderer. And while any one of those faults could be David's token flaw, there is yet another defect, one that is the cause of all the others, which we must talk about instead: covetousness. If it weren't for the sin of envy, David's reign would've ended without blemish.

But, as we've done every week, let's see what the writer of Hebrews has to say about David.

**READ: Hebrews 11:32-38 (ESV)**

<sup>32</sup> And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, of Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets— <sup>33</sup> who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, <sup>34</sup> quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight.

Like Jephthah from last week, David comes in at the summary conclusion right at the end of Hebrews 11. What's interesting is that David is listed alongside his mentor and spiritual advisor, Samuel. While we cannot make any firm conclusions about this, it's more than possible that the writer of Hebrews was trying to highlight the two key figures who were primarily responsible for establishing Israel's monarchy.

But missing from David's inclusion into the "Faith Hall of Fame" is any mention of his adulterous affair, the scheming to murder his mistress' husband, the murder itself, or, the cause of it all, his envy.

So, let's look back on David's worst moments and track how David became a man after his own pleasure rather than God's heart.

**READ: 2 Samuel 11 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel. And they ravaged the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup> It happened, late one afternoon, when David arose from his couch and was walking on the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful. <sup>3</sup> And David sent and inquired about the woman. And one

said, "Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?" <sup>4</sup> So David sent messengers and took her, and she came to him, and he lay with her. (Now she had been purifying herself from her uncleanness.) Then she returned to her house. <sup>5</sup> And the woman conceived, and she sent and told David, "I am pregnant."

<sup>6</sup> So David sent word to Joab, "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent Uriah to David. <sup>7</sup> When Uriah came to him, David asked how Joab was doing and how the people were doing and how the war was going. <sup>8</sup> Then David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house and wash your feet." And Uriah went out of the king's house, and there followed him a present from the king. <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> When they told David, "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?" <sup>11</sup> Uriah said to David, "The ark and Israel and Judah dwell in booths, 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? As you live, and as your soul lives, I will not do this thing."<sup>12</sup> Then David said to Uriah, "Remain here today also, and tomorrow I will send you back." So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day and the next. <sup>13</sup> And David invited him, and he ate in his presence and drank, so that he made him drunk. And in the evening he went out to lie on his couch with the servants of his lord, but he did not go down to his house.

<sup>14</sup> In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it by the hand of Uriah.<sup>15</sup> In the letter he wrote, "Set Uriah in the forefront of the hardest fighting, and then draw back from him, that he may be struck down, and die." <sup>16</sup> And as Joab was besieging the city, he assigned Uriah to the place where he knew there were valiant men. <sup>17</sup> And the men of the city came out and fought with Joab, and some of the servants of David among the people fell. Uriah the Hittite also died. <sup>18</sup> Then Joab sent and told David all the news about the fighting. <sup>19</sup> And he instructed the messenger, "When you have finished telling all the news about the fighting to the king, <sup>20</sup> then, if the king's anger rises, and if he says to you, 'Why did you go so near the city to fight? Did you not know that they would shoot from the wall?' <sup>21</sup> Who killed Abimelech the son of Jerubbesheth? Did not a woman cast 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.'"

<sup>22</sup> So the messenger went and came and told David all that Joab had sent him to tell. <sup>23</sup> The messenger said to David, "The men gained an advantage over us and came

out against us in the field, but we drove them back to the entrance of the gate. <sup>24</sup> Then the archers shot at your servants from the wall. Some of the king's servants are dead, and your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also." <sup>25</sup> David said to the messenger, "Thus shall you say to Joab, 'Do not let this matter displease you, for the sword devours now one and now another. Strengthen your attack against the city and overthrow it.' And encourage him."

<sup>26</sup> When the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she lamented over her husband. <sup>27</sup> And when the mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord.

**READ: 2 Samuel 12 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> And the Lord sent Nathan to David. He came to him and said to him, "There were two men in a certain city, the one rich and the other poor. <sup>2</sup> The rich man had very many flocks and herds, <sup>3</sup> but the poor man had nothing but one little ewe lamb, which he had bought. And he brought it up, and it grew up with him and with his children. It used to eat of his morsel and drink from his cup and lie in his arms, and it was like a daughter to him. <sup>4</sup> Now there came a traveler to the rich man, and he was unwilling to take one of his own flock or herd to prepare for the guest who had come to him, but he took the poor man's lamb and prepared it for the man who had come to him." <sup>5</sup> Then David's anger was greatly kindled against the man, and he said to Nathan, "As the Lord lives, the man who has done this deserves to die, <sup>6</sup> and he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity."

<sup>7</sup> Nathan said to David, "You are the man! Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you out of the hand of Saul. <sup>8</sup> And I gave you your master's house and your master's wives into your arms and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah. And if this were too little, I would add to you as much more. <sup>9</sup> Why have you despised the word of the Lord, to do what is evil in his sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and have taken his wife to be your wife and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. <sup>10</sup> Now therefore the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.' <sup>11</sup> Thus says the Lord, 'Behold, I will raise up evil against you out of your own house. And I will take your wives before your eyes and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun. <sup>12</sup> For you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel and before the

sun.”<sup>13</sup> David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the Lord.” And Nathan said to David, “The Lord also has put away your sin; you shall not die.<sup>14</sup> Nevertheless, because by this deed you have utterly scorned the Lord, the child who is born to you shall die.”<sup>15</sup> Then Nathan went to his house.

And the Lord afflicted the child that Uriah's wife bore to David, and he became sick.<sup>16</sup> David therefore sought God on behalf of the child. And David fasted and went in and lay all night on the ground.<sup>17</sup> And the elders of his house stood beside him, to raise him from the ground, but he would not, nor did he eat food with them.<sup>18</sup> On the seventh day the child died. And the servants of David were afraid to tell him that the child was dead, for they said, “Behold, while the child was yet alive, we spoke to him, and he did not listen to us. How then can we say to him the child is dead? He may do himself some harm.”<sup>19</sup> But when David saw that his servants were whispering together, David understood that the child was dead. And David said to his servants, “Is the child dead?” They said, “He is dead.”<sup>20</sup> Then David arose from the earth and washed and anointed himself and changed his clothes. And he went into the house of the Lord and worshiped. He then went to his own house. And when he asked, they set food before him, and he ate.<sup>21</sup> Then his servants said to him, “What is this thing that you have done? You fasted and wept for the child while he was alive; but when the child died, you arose and ate food.”<sup>22</sup> He said, “While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept, for I said, ‘Who knows whether the Lord will be gracious to me, that the child may live?’<sup>23</sup> But now he is dead. Why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he will not return to me.”

Now, while it is true that sometimes bad things happen even when we try to do the right thing, it is also true that consequences naturally follow when we sin. Envy led an already full heart to want more. David laid with a married woman then tried to cover it up. When that failed, he had the man killed. But the rippling effect of bad outcomes continues because God then takes the child who would've been born to Bathsheba and David. Later in David's life, his house would face challenge after challenge because of David's failure. In the very next chapter, David's own daughter, Tamar, would be raped by her half-brother Amnon. Then, in 2 Sam. 15, a rebellion led by his own son Absalom, brother to Tamar, would force David to flee from Jerusalem. And this rebellion ends with David having to mourn over Absalom's loss (cf. 2 Sam. 19:1-8). All told, four of David's children would die early deaths in one way or another, and each end would be directly linked to his sin with Bathsheba.

How many times has God given us everything we need, and yet we want something more? David had all that he could've ever wanted, yet he still wanted more. He wanted stolen waters to satiate his thirst and to eat his bread in secret to satisfy his hunger. But little did David know that the house of envy is built atop a trap door that leads to destruction (cf. Prov. 9:13-18). David broke the 9<sup>th</sup> commandment, and he paid dearly for his actions.

### **SO, WHAT'S THE TAKEAWAY?**

Envy moves us away from things we already have and drives us to things we should never have.

### **READ: Proverbs 14:30 (ESV)**

A tranquil heart gives life to the flesh, but envy makes the bones rot.

### **READ: James 4:1-3 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? <sup>2</sup> You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. <sup>3</sup> You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions

The only cure for covetousness is contentment.

### **READ: 1 Timothy 6:3-10 (ESV)**

<sup>3</sup> If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, <sup>4</sup> he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions, <sup>5</sup> and constant friction among people who are depraved in mind and deprived of the truth, imagining that godliness is a means of gain. <sup>6</sup> But godliness with contentment is great gain, <sup>7</sup> for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. <sup>8</sup> But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. <sup>9</sup> But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. <sup>10</sup> For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

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## VIDEO DESCRIPTION

Wednesday Night Live | Hall of Flaw | Week 6

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Pastor's manuscript can be found here: