

The Drift of Distraction

April 19, 2026

Main Passage: 2 Samuel 11:1-5

Theological Theme

None of us are immune to the temptation to sin, so we should be wise about the situations we put ourselves in.

Introduction

- ❓ How would you describe the difference between idleness and biblical rest?
- ❓ How does idleness often open the door to temptation? How are smart phones often connected to idleness in our current moment?

1. The Wrong Place at the Wrong Time (2 Samuel 11:1)

The text opens with a very important tidbit: Spring is the time when kings go to war. Spring would have been a particularly good time for this activity because crops were already planted and growing in the field and the men weren't as needed for normal industry during this time of year.

- ❓ What stands out to you in this verse? What details do you notice?
- ❓ What clues do we have that David was not where he was supposed to be in this verse?
- ❓ While others were taking responsibility to care for God's people, David stayed behind and was idle. How have you seen idleness make way for temptation?

2. An Idle Mind (2 Samuel 11:2-3)

The palace would have likely been on the highest ground in all of Jerusalem, so looking into any nearby areas would have been easy. It is from this vantage point that David spotted Bathsheba. It's important to note there's nothing in the text that suggests Bathsheba was doing anything untoward or provocative. Bathing outside, where it would have been cooler, wouldn't be outside the norm, and "bathing" here doesn't necessarily mean that Bathsheba was naked. She could have been simply bathing her hands or her face. While Bathsheba was bathing in a private location, David, looking down from the roof of his palace, noticed her and her beauty.

- ❓ How would you describe David's activity here? Where might David have turned from an incidental observation to sinful pursuit?
- ❓ What additional warning signs did David have to stop pursuing his sin in these verses?
- ❓ How does the deception of sin often try and convince us to keep moving past warning signs that would give us pause?

3. The Doorway to Sin (2 Samuel 11:4-5)

In our last passage, David walked right up to the doorway to sin. In this passage, he walked right through it. Any hope that David would avoid moving forward into sin was now lost.

- ❓ What further evidence do we have of Bathsheba's righteousness in these verses?
- ❓ What further evidence do we have of David's sinfulness?
- ❓ How might we prepare now in an effort to better respond to warning signs of sin in the future?

Conclusion

- ❓ Have you ever been faced with temptation after not being in the place you knew you should? How does godly wisdom call us to act in these moments?
- ❓ How does idleness and isolation cause problems for us today? How is this connected to the rise of smart phones? How are you most tempted in this way?
- ❓ How can we encourage one another away from idleness and isolation and toward community and godly responsibility and rest?