



## “It Will Be Different For Me”

Sermon Notes  
Pastor Barry Bruce



### **Like A Bandit** *Galatians 6:28-10*

Gary Richmond, in his book *A New View From The Zoo*, writes about a lady who raised a raccoon in her home. Despite Gary’s expertise on wild animals and his warnings to her about how raccoons eventually react to captivity, her response was “it will be different for me.” It wasn’t! As a result of her actions against Gary’s warning, she suffered immensely. Like a bandit, the little critter stole away her beauty and her joy.

We have discussed how grabbing a hold of sin is easy, but letting go is very hard. Today’s lesson has more to do with ignoring the warning signs of our lethal affections. As “cute and cuddly” as our pet sins may be to us, things will not be different. We, like everyone else who plays with a “Bandit” will be robbed in the end. It’s just a matter of time. *“We reap what we sow.”*

### **David And The Big Cover Up** *2 Samuel 11*

King David, like Samson, who we used to illustrate our lesson last week, was a leader of God’s people. He was a king! People looked up to him both for protection and spiritual leadership. He was a God loving man and a great leader, but he had a cute and cuddly obsession with women, and because he was a king, it was socially acceptable (*though not necessarily to God*) for him to have a flock of them at his disposal. But one night, David didn’t want what was his, he wanted another man’s wife and he took her. It doesn’t appear that she protested much either. David, and Bathsheba, were sure that things would

be different for them, as far as consequences went. After all...he was King David! One cover up led to another, and before you know it King David was in the league with those he himself would sentence to death!

“Let’s take one step back and look at our lives. Are we in violation of some well known axiom? Are our closest friends or relatives warning us about something? Are we in conflict with the clear teaching of scriptures? Now, repeat out loud the following phrase,  
“Maybe it wont be different for me.” *Gary Richmond*

You can run, but you can’t hide. You can cover up, but you’ll be exposed. Your sin will find you out and the consequences will be painful to you and to others. It will not be different for you. *Just study history!*

### **Nothing Is Unique...Everything Is Common (or what goes around comes around)** *1 Corinthians 10:1-13, 23-24*

The words of Paul teach us that Biblical history provides an important lesson for us. All temptation is common to man, but God always provides a way of escape. It is just that most of us don’t want to take it. He also is very clear on the consequences that we will bring upon ourselves if we do not. One more thing that Paul points out is that the Christian’s freedom permits him to do anything without being thrown away as a son or daughter of the King. God’s grace and forgiveness does not change like our fickle hearts. Like David, we are free to sin and remain royalty, but it is not profitable for us or others that we do so. What goes around will come around... *and tear your flesh off!* (Note: *King David did repent for his sins, and even took Bathsheba as his wife; however, he and Bathsheba were plagued with the consequences of his sin for the rest of their lives. It affected the life of their baby...he died. It affected the life of their future son...he was horrid. And it affected David’s desire to build a temple for God...he could not for he was a “man of bloodshed.” Still, David’s relationship with God grew from that day, and he was even referred to as “a man after God’s own heart.”*)

### **A Clean Heart For The Asking** *Psalms 51:10-15*

King David was forgiven by God when he asked. (*1 John 1:9*) Although he did suffer consequences for his sin, he apparently learned from them and did not return to them again. His prayer was to have a clean heart before God. He had grieved God which he recognized as being far worse than all his sin combined. Will we be robbed of the good that God has for us by the “bandit” of our own desires? Worse still, will we rob God?