

David Loses Two Sons

Sermon 20 in the Life of David Series

2 Sam 12:15-13:33

Last Sunday night we dealt specifically with David's sin with Bathsheba, and this morning we dealt with Nathan's rebuke to David because of this sin (his sins).

In lastweek's sermon I made the statement that I did not lay the blame on Bathsheba's doorstep, as some do – that I believe it was David's sin.

-- I still think that is true, but I might have overstated it a bit.

Now, she was doing something very natural on her roof – remember, they didn't have indoor plumbing – and she could expect privacy – no airplanes or helicopters and it certainly was not her intent to seduce anyone. Of course, the palace of the king was the tallest building around, which meant that he needed to guard his eyes – which he didn't.

It is also true that she was given very little choice when she was summoned by the king.

David was the king – he had all the power – and there was really nothing she could do without the possibility of losing her life.

But – as I said, I might have overstated my case – in reaction to those who blame Bathsheba for immodesty.

The truth is – we simply do not have enough Biblical data.

It could be that she made no attempt to resist him or even was flattered that the King would pay her this kind of attention.

We do know she was quick to let him know that she was pregnant.

And if we could fault her – I would say that under normal circumstances it would be very much to her advantage to bear the child of the king – even illicitly -- except – she was a married woman – married to a very important officer in David’s army.

And she had no way of knowing what would happen next.

If David was willing to go as far as he did to cover his sin – even to the point of murder -- it was conceivable that he could put an end this embarrassing problem by having her put to death as an adulteress.

I. The Death of David and Bathsheba’s Child 15-23

Who knows if the Lord might not relent.

He is a gracious God.

David did the right thing by fasting and praying.

He did all the proper things he could for as long as he could.

He knew the word of the Lord – but He also knew the grace of the Lord.

It is not wrong to pray for someone to be healed.

We will deal with that in detail when we get to the end of the book of James.

We can and should pray in FAITH – BELIEVING

BUT – we also must pray with the understanding – Not MY will but THINE be done.

There are two ways the words of David can be understood.

One seems a little more fatalistic.

There's nothing that can be done now.

I will not bring him back from the dead,

but one day I will join him – **in death.**

This is obviously a true statement and may be what David meant.

But, it is very possible to see a message of hope here to those who have lost children.

It seems to me that David had hopes that he would see this son of his again, one day in Heaven.

So -- we leave the death of infants in the realm of mystery.

Deut. 29:29 -- *The secret things belong to the Lord, but those things that he has revealed belong to us and our children forever.*

We can trust the souls of our precious little ones who are taken in death to the wisdom of a gracious God.

As was said this morning --
Will not the judge of all the earth do right?

II. The Grace of God 24-25

David had his son.

Bathsheba was comforted.

She had lost her husband and her child.

This is the first time the Scriptures call Bathsheba "David's wife".

And greatest of all "The Lord loved him."

This was the chosen child.

This was a child that would do great things.

This was the future king of Israel,
the successor to David,
and the one through whom would come the line of Christ.

In all of this, God never left David.

It has been said by some that God loved David, not because he was such a good man, but because he was such a good repentor.

I would almost agree.

The point I would like to make is David was such a good repenter, because God loved him, and would not leave him alone in his sin.

That's what grace is all about.

III. The King's Triumph 12:26-31

It is possible this incident takes place during Bathsheba's mourning period for Uriah, instead of nearly a year later.

This is the same city that started this whole affair 11: 1.
David had sent Joab, now Joab sends for David.

It's time for David to quit relaxing, and do his duty as king.
Joab showed himself to be a loyal servant by this action.

God gave David a great victory, not because of David's faithfulness, but for the sake of His covenant people.

The Ammonites were turned into servants.

We will hear more about them as we continue through the life of David.

1-6

1. What we often call "love" is really nothing more than "lust".

Love needs time to grow.

Now, Amnon knew Tamar well, she was his half-sister,
They had grown up around each other in the same household.
But Amnon didn't LOVE her – and he proves that by his actions.

The person you will marry is the most important decision you will make.

Do not be a fool.

Do not simply follow your heart.

Listen to what God's Word says.

Get wise counsel from family and friends.

If there is some reason your marriage might not be a good idea, WAIT, and MAKE SURE it is right.

2. Consider this *friend* "Jonadab".

In our way of reckoning relationships --we would call him a COUSIN.

The last thing we need are friends like this.

He was a crafty man.

He was a man who had the morals of a politician.

That's not to say all politicians are bad, no doubt many are honest servants of the people, but many are simply playing the game for their own selfish interests.

That well describes Jonadab.

We'll meet him again before the chapter is done.

The friends you choose are also very important.

Your friends will have a tremendous influence on you.

No doubt, they will give you advice as time goes by.

Will this advice be Godly advice?

Only if they are Godly individuals.

Why do most kids start taking drugs.

Whatever factors there are -- and there are many.

CHOICE OF FRIENDS is the NUMBER ONE determining factor.

If your close friends take drugs -- you will too.

It's just a matter of time.

7-11

So the sin was absolutely pre-meditated.

And again, the sin was absolutely unnecessary – just as David's sin was with Bathsheba.

This story is quite graphic.
I am going to let the Scriptures tell the story for itself.

12-14

We can see she was a virtuous girl in this account.

Remember, we know nothing of Bathsheba's discussion with King David – but here we are told exactly how she responded.

Notice her appeals to Amnon.

1) *No such thing should be done in Israel.*

This is a moral appeal to his conscience.
As God's chosen people, they had His laws.
The law of God strictly forbids this type of behavior.
So the first appeal is a societal appeal to moral standards.

2) *She appeals to human decency.*

If he really loved her, this appeal would have worked.
She talks about her shame.
When someone tries to talk you into immorality, as a boy or a girl,
or a criminal action, or to do something that is wrong:
THEY DO NOT LOVE YOU.

Write it down.
I don't care what they say.
I don't care how they act.

When immorality is involved, they do not love you.
They only are interested in USING you.

When will people ever learn?
People learn the hard way.
And then its too late.

3) *Then she appeals to his self-interest.*

You will be as one of the fools.
Think about your own reputation.
You're next in line to be king.
Don't squander everything now.
It's not too late to stop.

4) *Ask the King for my hand in marriage.*

He's never denied you.
He gives you everything you want!

She also shows her willingness to marry him by this statement.

She also shows keen insight into David's weakness in parenting.

"He will not withhold me from you."
When did David ever say NO to his children.
It was one of his great weaknesses.

14-18

This is a keen insight into human nature.

Tamar is truly a victim in every way.
Now she is sent away as less than human.
Put *this woman* out and bolt the door.

Again, she tries to appeal to his sense of reason and responsibility.

Deut 22:28,29

But instead, out she goes.

19-22

Again, we see sin ruining lives. Look at the carnage!

-- Tamar's life is ruined.

In the culture of that day – this was a mark against her too.
She would never marry – she lived in her brother's household.
And eventually Absalom would have a daughter that he would name Tamar.

- Absalom was bitter and vengeful – to the point of murder.
Because he won't deal with it Biblically, his life is ruined.
- Amnon is unconcerned and selfish.
Because he won't deal with it Biblically, he will be killed.
- David is angry but not willing to do anything about it.
Because he won't deal with it Biblically, he will receive
tremendous heartbreak.

David's response to all of this was so wrong.
It was a gross injustice to his kingdom.
Laws **MUST** be upheld for all and not selectively.
David lost respect in people's eyes once again at this time.

In fact the seeds were sown for Absalom's rebellion.
He would steal the people's hearts.
One of his complaints was "David withheld justice".

It was also a gross injustice against his family.
You cannot raise children to get anything they want.
The human heart is deceitful and desperately wicked.
The things they want are not necessarily the things that are best
for them.

NO is one of the greatest words a child needs to learn.
NO teaches discipline and the reality that **NO ONE** gets
EVERYTHING they want.

23-27

Here is David once again, unwittingly making a decision that is going to
cause great calamity to his family.

28-30

And as I said, we would see Jonadab again – and once again he appears to be playing a political game.

31-33

34-39

Talmi was Absalom's Grandfather on his mother's side.

He was safe there.

But he will be back as we see next week, when we look at Absalom's reconciliation with David.

PRAY

Benediction: (Prov 16:20 KJV) He that handles a matter wisely shall find good:
and whoso trusteth in the LORD, happy is he.