

**Welcome friends to another broadcast of "Morsels for Zion's Poor"**

One of the most heartbreaking and yet instructive moments in all of the Bible occurs in the gospel narrative as Peter denies knowing the LORD. Peter, a man who the LORD himself called Cephas (i.e. a stone), a man who had declared his willingness to die for his MASTER and who would later do exactly that, a man who the LORD endued with great spiritual insight found himself confronted squarely with his sin and unfaithfulness. One of the reasons that we believe the Bible is the GOD-breathed word is because it is always so truthful and without any pretense in its presentation of the people of GOD. Normally in man's writings the heroes and main characters are always presented in a larger than life manner and their frailties and failures are seldom mentioned let alone described in detail. Such is not the case with the Holy Scriptures. King David is one of the central and beloved characters in the Bible as well as in Jewish tradition. He is one who is described as a "man after GOD's own heart. Yet King David's flaws and his terrible sin with Bathsheba are put on display for all to see with no attempt to present mitigating circumstances, situational ethics, or other excuses so commonly used today to lessen the extent of man's sinful acts. As we consider David and Peter we are confronted with these truths:

**Even though we belong to the LORD we have both the propensity and ability to fall into sin.** Paul said, "For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing." There are a lot of well-meaning people in our day who think that by putting the ten-commandments in public places that the desire of men to walk contrary to that law will somehow be altered. While we are certainly not opposed to the Word of GOD being published anywhere and everywhere, we are convinced that the sinful nature of man is not changed by the law nor will his love for unrighteousness be diminished by greater exposure to it. When a man is born again, he is given a new heart which has a delight in the righteousness of the LORD, but he is then locked in a death struggle with the flesh who still exercises himself from time to time. Both David and Peter were instructed and knowledgeable of the law of the LORD, and had a heart to follow HIS way, yet both of them were overcome by the weakness of their flesh and thereby demonstrate the exact reason the law cannot produce righteousness.

**The LORD is faithful to uncover sin in HIS people.** While the flesh may wound us and we be under its siren spell for a season, the LORD will not allow HIS people to be destroyed by it. HE will convict and convince those that belong to HIM of their sin. Just as the prodigal son came to himself so the LORD will deliver HIS own from the hog pen. Though reprobates may go on in their wickedness unhindered, enjoying themselves to the last, those elect children, upon whom the LORD has set HIS love shall be arrested and rescued from the path of destruction. Their pet sins and secret desires will be brought to light. Perhaps not into the light of others but surely into the light of HIS fatherly gaze as both Peter and David attest.

**The uncovering of that sin in the elect always produces repentance.** The LORD does not use the terror of HIS law nor the fear of impending doom to bring HIS children here. In Peter's case it was the LORD's sorrowing look and the crowing of the cock. In David's it was the faithful voice of the prophet saying "thou art the man". The result of HIS exposure of their sin produces more than fleshly sorrow. For HE gives his children a tender heart that they might understand that the awfulness of their sin is primarily that they have sinned against HIM who loves them with an everlasting love, and not that they have broken some law which demands punishment. Sorrow for causing displeasure to the LORD is as natural in the children of GOD as self satisfaction is in the children of the wicked.

**Once repentance has accomplished its work, the LORD restores HIS people.** GOD does not bring sorrow to HIS children in order to punish them but that they may be fitted for the application of HIS mercy. HE told Mary to be sure and include Peter when she told the disciples of HIS resurrection. HE then singled out Peter and brought him to confess his love to HIM and gave him great responsibility to feed the flock of GOD. David's sin was great yet the LORD restored him and used him for HIS glory. *"And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray GOD your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our LORD JESUS CHRIST. Faithful is HE that calleth you, who also will do it."* Has the LORD brought you to a place of repentance before HIM? None shall enter HIS presence without it.

*Thy free grace alone,"#11* **If you would like a free transcript of this broadcast email us at [forthe poor@windstream.net](mailto:forthe poor@windstream.net)**