

David's Great Fall: Sin Breeds More Sin

Call to Worship: Psalm 128

1st Scripture: 2 Chronicles 16

2nd Scripture: 2 Samuel 11:1-27

Hymn #7 (Supp)- *Calvary Covers it All*

Hymn #704- *Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross*

Hymn #705- *Marvelous Grace of Our Loving Lord*

Introduction:

Some of us have probably had the wonderful experience of unwisely dealing with an annoying blotch of ink, on a white (or light colored) dress shirt. Somehow, a small drop of ink (perhaps from a defective pen) flings up onto your shirt, and there it sits, as a relatively small, liquid dot, daring you to try to wipe it away. And your immediate action, is to do just that. And so, you grab a napkin, or some type of a wiping device, and you seek to remove it from your shirt. Only now, that which was once hardly noticeable, has now become a lengthy smear, across a portion of your shirt. In your attempt to seek to shield yourself from the embarrassment of being noticed, you have multiplied the problem, spreading it, in formerly unaffected directions on the shirt. And now, more than likely, the shirt is ruined.

Last time, we saw that David, having rejected God's way of escape, went forward, took Bathsheba (the wife of Uriah), and lay with her. His sin was grave and serious, but this was yet, only the beginning. When Bathsheba sends word to David, informing him that she is with child, rather than confess his sin, and deal with the consequences accordingly; rather than turn to God in repentance, entrusting God with the necessary consequences, David will take pains to cover and hide his sin. And in doing so, he will smear and extend his original offense, aggravating and escalating his crime, exponentially. Here, we will observe, how, often times, grievous sin, breeds more sin, adding great weight to the already large offense. Like cancer, sin has a way of spreading and infecting healthy cells, in all directions.

I. Sin Breeds More Sin

Bathsheba returned to her house, and David thought that they could simply move on with their lives, brushing their sin under the rug, as it were. But then, a messenger arrived at David's door, informing David that Bathsheba was with child! Since Uriah was at war, and Bathsheba had been cleansed of her impurity (before lying with David), the child was clearly his, and there

was no way of denying it. And rather than face and deal with his sin, David aggravates and escalates it.

He begins by sending a message to Joab, who was leading the Israelite army against the Ammonites, ordering Joab to send Uriah to David. And Joab does so. And David's plan is to bring Uriah back to his home, so he could have relations with his wife, leading him to believe that the child is his own. And so, when Uriah arrives, probably confused as to why he has been called by the king (away from the battle), David cloaks his intentions, by asking Uriah about the war, how everything was going and etc. And then, he attempts to send Uriah home to wash his feet, and to take it easy for the night, as it were. Again, David is attempting to lead Uriah to have sexual relations with his wife. When he sends Uriah off, he even sends a gift of food, to follow Uriah, back to his home. He wants to subtly, but certainly, compel Uriah to take it easy and to relax for the night, especially having just come back from a long journey, and from war. And the irony is, that Uriah, unlike David (from the outset) was so concerned about the welfare and discomfort of the Israelite army during this time of war, that he refused to pursue his own ease, while his countrymen were out at war. Again, it is a direct assault against David's own idle and self-serving sins, unintentionally brought about by Uriah's faithfulness, and intentionally by God's sovereign decree. We will look further at Uriah, next time, Lord willing, but see the blaring irony here. Uriah winds up sleeping at the door of the king's house, refusing to go home, to be with his own wife, while his countrymen are out at war. David, refused to go out to war, from the outset, and took Uriah's wife, for his own lustful pleasure, while his countrymen fought on his behalf [See verses 10-11].

Notice something profound here, brethren! Here again, the Lord would bring something to David's attention, to awaken him even now, before he further aggravates his sin, by all that he is craftily planning. Not only does He shine the righteousness of Uriah, right in the face of David, as David views Uriah's ironic actions (actions, which further expose the gravity of David's sins), but furthermore, also by way of Uriah, He brings the ark, right to the foreground of David's attention, and that, in a way, to which David ought to have been able to relate. What was Uriah's concern, here? "How could I dare go and enjoy a time of respite in my home, while *the ark* and Israel...dwell in tents?" Here is the profound and sobering reality, brethren! Uriah is concerned with that which David had always been concerned about before, but now he had lost his way! The ark! That holy object, which represented God's presence, and which David took

great pains to bring to Jerusalem; that most holy object, which David thought to encase in a temple, when he realized that it didn't seem right for God to dwell in a tent, while David dwelt in a palace made of cedar! Uriah was concerned about the ark! You see, the ark was out in the battle as well...where David should have been the whole time. And the symbolism is dumbfounding, when considering that the ark of God was away from David, when he had fallen into temptation and great sin! What had David forgotten about in all of this? What was he neglecting to recall to mind, during his great fall into sin, and now, during his wicked conniving and scheming, attempting to cover and hide his sin, by leading Uriah to lay with his wife, so that he might be convinced that the child is his? David had forgotten God, hadn't he?! And Uriah's concern here, for the people of God, and especially for God Himself, ought to have shaken David off of the ungodly path, upon which he was presently treading!

But rather than catch all of this, David is further hardened, and all he can think about, is the fact that he cannot get Uriah to lay with his wife! He misses so many divine cues; oh brethren, see the power of sin here!; David misses so many divine cues, calling him even now, to deal appropriately with his sin, but he misses it, and merely moves on to plan B. And sin continues to breed more sin, as David further attempts to hide his sin. He smears the ink further across his shirt, extending the damage into areas, which were formerly unaffected.

Plan B then, is to get Uriah drunk, so that, upon numbing his senses, contrary to his expressed convictions, he may then go and lay with his wife. Notice, that David would go so far as to cause Uriah to sin, and to violate his own convictions, in order to cover his own sin! And so, as Uriah is waiting to be sent back to the battle, honorably desiring to be with his comrades, David compels him to remain at Jerusalem a little longer. And then he calls Uriah to himself, and he dines and drinks with him. And he gets Uriah drunk, hoping that he will now accomplish his devious plan. But even then, when Uriah leaves, he still refuses to return home, to be with his wife. He rather chooses again, to sleep with David's servants. And again, the righteousness of Uriah shines forth (which we will look at, more closely next time, Lord willing), but David still hardens himself further, taking additional, and more heinous measures, so as to cover his sin. And now, his sin will take on the form of murder!

If David cannot convince Uriah to sin against his conscience, then there is only one other option. He needs to get rid of Uriah, so that he can take Bathsheba as his own wife, and thereby, take responsibility for the child. And there is a way of ensuring that Uriah will be killed,

especially in accordance with his desire to faithfully serve with his men in the war against the Ammonites. Again brethren, the horrific reality of how far a regenerate, man of God can fall; of just how hardened even a "man after God's own heart" can be, ought to greatly humble each and every one of us, with a deep sense of sobriety. In truth, brethren, texts like this ought to bring us to tears.

David then writes a letter to Joab, ordering Joab to set Uriah in the forefront of the fiercest part of the battle, only to retreat from him there, so that Uriah will be struck down and killed. And he sends this letter by the hand of Uriah! Uriah carries his own unrighteous death warrant, and delivers it to Joab! Is this really David! Can the man, who has risked his life to deliver animals (sheep) from the bear and the lion; can the man, who has risked his life to deliver Israel from out of the hands of the giant, Goliath; can the man, who has fought hard and much to preserve life (risking his own life on many an occasion); can the man of such great faith, commit such a heinous and careless act of murder...and that, of a godly man!?! And so, Joab, having besieged the royal city of the Ammonites, sets Uriah at the front lines, in a place where he knew valiant and fierce opposition stood. Unwilling to question the king on this occasion (though more than willing to disobey him on other murderous occasions, which served his own interests), Joab sets Uriah up to be murdered. Uriah would not so much as lay with his own wife, out of concern for Joab and the army of Israel, but Joab, is so quick and willing to cut Uriah off, at the order of the king. And so, when the valiant men came out and fought Joab (with archers shooting from the walls), at a location too close to the city, into which Joab would normally not have rushed, Uriah (along with other soldiers) is killed, in accordance with David's wicked plan.

And when Joab sends messengers back to David, to inform him about the progress of the war, recognizing that the decision to move some of the men so close to the city, was normally an unwise decision, which now cost the lives of some of David's men, he tells the messengers to let David know that Uriah was also killed in the battle. Israel's past experience (when Abimelech's head was crushed by a millstone, cast down from the wall of a besieged city, by a woman) would normally have prevented Joab from taking such action. But, he was on a special mission for the king, to oust Uriah, so that David might cover his sin. And in the process, other precious lives were lost, as well. But when David gets the news, which normally would have made him angry, recognizing that this was done, in order to deal with Uriah, his response; his careless, hard hearted, lack of consideration for life response, given in verse 25, is, "This you shall say to Joab:

'Do not let this thing displease you, for the sword devours one as well as another. Strengthen your attack against the city, and overthrow it.' So encourage him." "Joab, it's a war. People die in a war, on both sides. There are always casualties. There is always collateral damage. Don't let this bother you. Keep up the good work. Pull up your boot straps, regroup and strengthen yourself, and take the city! You can do it!" What a careless lack of concern, not only for Uriah, but for the other servants of David, who have now lost their lives, all because of David's sin, and his failure to deal with it properly, in the sight of God. In reality, brethren, David was here responsible for the deaths of several men, and not just Uriah. Can you see that?

And then, following all of this, rather than stop even here, to ponder the great damage he has done with his sin, David takes Bathsheba to be his wife! After she mourns for her husband, David sent for her, and she became his wife. And now, he could father the child, which she has conceived through David! All of that disaster and heinous action; all of that smearing of the original guilt into far and distant directions, because of one sin, conceived in the heart of a lustful man, who idly sat around, when he should have been out at the war, with the ark, and with the people of God!

And so, the closing statement of the chapter is obviously very telling: "But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord" (vs. 27). All of that shuffling; all of that planning; all of that hiding; the whole wicked mess...passed by everyone in Israel, at least in the immediate sense. David seems to have gotten away with ALL of it! But One pair of eyes watched over the shoulder of David the whole time! One pair of eyes, viewed the hidden movie screen of David's heart, the whole time! The Lord, whom David had obviously forgotten; The Lord, whose ark was presently in enemy territory, but whose true presence is everywhere, saw what David had done! And it displeased Him! And out of love for David, and especially out of a deep and unshakable commitment for His own glory, He will have dealings with David, as we will see in the weeks ahead.

II. Closing Thoughts and Applications

Brethren, let us now consider a few closing thoughts and applications, in light of all that we have just gone over, this morning:

1) Brethren, consider how easily sin breeds sin. Notice the chain of hardness, from where David begins, to where he winds up. It starts, when he fails to go out to war. Then, his

idleness leads to lust, as he views Bathsheba, bathing on the roof. Then his lust, leads to covetousness, as he now "must have," that which belongs to someone else. So powerful was this covetous lust, that he passed right by God's warning, through one of David's servants, who informed David that this was the wife of one of his trusted and faithful soldiers, who was at the battle, where David should have been. Then David's covetous lust, leads him to "take" Uriah's wife. He becomes a thief and an adulterer at one and the same time.

And now, the hardening process greatly intensifies, when David finds out that Bathsheba is with child. Rather than confess and deal with his sin, he aims to cover it. And so, adultery leads into gross lying and a willingness to cause another man to stumble, as he calls Uriah home, and attempts to compel him to go and lay with his wife, so that he might believe that the child is his own. And though Uriah refuses to do so, with the utmost of an oath, David then gets him drunk, attempting to lead him to contradict his conscience before God, when his senses were dulled. David is so hardened and set in his way, at this point, that Uriah's testimony, even regarding his concern for the ark of God's presence and the discomfort of the Israelite army, fails to shake him free of his intensifying hardness. And so, lying then leads to all out murder, not only of Uriah, but also of others of his servants, who have died as a consequence of the same scheme. And David then brushes all of this off, as just ordinary casualties of war, before finally taking Bathsheba to be his own wife, after her time of grieving.

Brethren, do you see where sin can lead? Do you see how it can breed more and more sin? You think tampering with a pornographic website is such a small matter? You think a little white lie is no big deal? You think harboring a little hatred or envy or jealousy is nothing to be concerned about? You think a little tale bearing; a little gossip, will not morph into something far worse. Think again! But not for the grace of God, these things can lead to far worse and more intense sins. While we all fall short, brethren, let us never be content with the mindset that sees nothing wrong with tampering with a little sin! If you dip your foot in the water, you are more than capable of drowning.

See David here! See *David* here! So out of character! So unlike him! Look at the seemingly hypnotic process of the hardening of a godly man! The deceptive power is so great and intense! This should lead us to recognize that the mere tampering with sin can draw us into a heap of wickedness! Brethren, no matter where we have come from; no matter how many Goliaths we have killed or victories in Christ we have won or temptations we have resisted, we

are always one step away from putting on the shoes of Saul, and becoming what David became here. Do we not see the very bloodline of the ungodly Saul, running through David's veins right here? Saul unrighteously pursued David, out of his own self-serving, covetous, proud and jealous rage! And David here kills Uriah, out of his own lust driven, lying, proud desire to shield himself from the shame of what he has done. You see, what David could not get past, brethren, and what none of us can get past (at least, in this life), is the fact that all of our bloodlines run back to one man, the man, who rebelled against God in the Garden, eating the forbidden fruit! We are naturally Adam! Thanks be unto God, that by faith, we are in union with Christ, but the nature of Adam still exists within us, until we get to heaven!

And so, as you view the wicked and heinous sins, which are committed anywhere under the sun, don't think for a moment, that any particular sin is beyond the reach of your humanity. If it is out there, it is in the "Yellow Pages" of your heart! Better men and women than us, have shocked the world! There is no low, to which you and I, could not travel! David, the "man after God's own heart," did all that we have considered here, this morning! David! [Ex: One of the curses, which came upon Israel, was that even the most gentle and considerate of their women, would eat their own children, when their city was besieged!]

2) Beware of failing to properly deal with sin, as early as possible. What could have been prevented; what lives could have been spared, if David, even after laying with Bathsheba, properly confessed and dealt with his sin, rather than seeking to cover and hide it! We cannot possibly succeed in hiding our sin, even if everyone on this planet is fooled! For God is not mocked! The All seeing, All sovereign One, knows all things, and He states very clearly, "Do not be deceived! What a man sows, that he will reap!" He who hides his sin, will not prosper in his ways. But, praise be unto God that, "If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness!" There is an atonement, given us in Christ! We are invited by God not to presumptuously sin, but to make good and proper use of the grace of Christ, when we do sin! That takes humility. That takes a willingness to accept temporal consequences. That will leave you exposed and vulnerable to those whom you have sinned against. But, it will also set you in the position for being an object of God's grace, freely given in the crucified and risen Christ, who suffered and bled and died for sinners, even of the worst kind!

And so, brethren, when you sin, deal with your sin properly and swiftly. Fall on your knees before God, and plead for His grace in Christ! Plead that He would keep you from being hardened further into that sin! Plead that He would keep you from aggravating and expanding upon it, recognizing that the power of sin is far beyond your control! And seek every means of grace, for putting to death the deeds of your body, by the Spirit! Remember, even the righteous; even the godly; even the "David's" can forget God and move further and further into grievous sin! At this moment in time, David's desire to hide his sin, was more powerful than his desire to remain faithful to God, even to the extent of committing murder! And so, don't cover your sins! Don't seek to hide them! Rather, deal with sin before sin deals with you!

3) Lastly brethren, let there never be a single day, that we fail to praise and thank God, with all of our hearts, for the Lord Jesus Christ! Oh, where do we find hope, if this is our natural condition? Oh, what joy could there be, in this life, if a David can fall in such a tragic and devastating way as this? What hope have we? Who can deliver us from the body of this death! I thank God for Jesus Christ! I thank God for Jesus Christ! I thank God for Jesus Christ! David is the best of us, brethren, but the best can also manifest our worst! But our Lord Jesus Christ, became one of us, to rescue us, from us! There are no marks in His record, no chinks in His armor, no faults in His actions, no taints in His motives...He is our God-Man! He is the sweetest and most precious news, that ever could exist, in a million, million worlds! He is our love, our life, our all and all! He wipes the tears and the shame and the sorrow, right out of this chapter, and right out of every grievous chapter in our lives, saying, "In me, you have peace!" Fear not! For I am with you to the end...in spite of you. And when you awaken in glory and see Me, you will be as I am!"

Where are you, this day, friends? Are you running from God? Are you frightened by the damage that you have done, by your sins? Do you try to sweep up the mess, only to choke yourself with the dust that floats in the air, and returns back to the ground again? Are you tired of you, and your disastrous sin? Look to Christ! Look to Him and find the sweetest taste of grace, beyond imaginable! Sin may have abounded in your life, but His grace can swallow up all of your sins, like the great fish did to Jonah. And He can send you out, a new and changed person, with a new and glorious mission, in Him! Christ is able to clean and sanctify and make good use of the lost, as well as the filthy Christian, who has walked with David, down such a regretful and heinous path! Call upon Him, wherever you are this morning! Saved or not! Call

upon Him in truth! Confess your sins! Repent of them! Cast yourself before the mercy seat of His grace, and you will find rest and peace for your souls! He can untie every knot and He can send you forward, taking all of your disastrous failings into His embrace, to be crucified on His cross, and buried in His tomb, forever!

Thanks be unto God, brethren, who gives, not simply David, but *us*, the victory *in Jesus Christ!*

AMEN!!!

The Lord's Supper!