

David's Restoration: The Consequences

Call to Worship: Isaiah 40:12-26

1st Scripture: Numbers 20:1-13

2nd Scripture: 2 Samuel 12:1-15

Hymn Insert- *The Power of the Cross*

Hymn #35- *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

Hymn #87- *Holy, Holy, Holy*

Introduction:

Last time, we began to consider, the way in which God had confronted David with his sin, by means of the prophet, Nathan. And ultimately, this will both, serve the purpose of restoring David unto sweet fellowship with God, and uphold the holiness and glory of God, which David has greatly offended.

In the first part of Nathan's confrontation, he brought the magnitude of David's sin, right to the heart of David, by the effective use of a parable. This morning, we move on then, to the second part of the confrontation, where Nathan proclaims the severe consequences, which David has now incurred, by his great sins. And by these means, the invaluable holiness and glory of God, will be magnified and preserved. Brethren, may God be pleased to secure a sober reverence toward His holiness, in our hearts this morning, as we ponder the very preface, to all of the painful and disheartening sorrows, which David will face in the chapters ahead. It would be an understatement to declare that David, by his grievous sin, will have pierced himself through with many sorrows, for the duration of his reign. Indeed, the short, ultra temporal, moments of joy and pleasure, which come by sinful means, are so, not worth the long-term consequences, which often come with it! The word "regret" finds its great power and most dreadful colors, in the consideration of this comparison!

I. The Consequences

There are two consequences (temporal judgments), which David's sin, will have incurred for him:

1) There would be ongoing conflict and adversity within David's own household. David's sin would now bring great turmoil within his own home, continually:

Verse 10- "Now therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised Me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife."

And, as David had deceptively and secretly taken the wife of Uriah, someone from within David's own home, would take several of David's wives, and defile them publicly. Though David tried to hide his sin, he would now be shamed publicly, before all to see.

Verse 11-12- "Thus says the Lord: 'Behold, I will raise up adversity against you from your own house; and I will take your wives before your eyes and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun. For you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel, before the sun.'"

And indeed, brethren, we will move forward to consider the fulfillment of these things, in the upcoming chapters. We will find this adversity arising in the incidents surrounding Amnon and Tamar, Absalom and Amnon, Absalom and David, and Adonijah and Solomon (later on). And David's son Absalom, will be the one to bring much grief to his father's heart, concerning the taking of David's wives, in the sight of all Israel. Indeed, by and large, much of the remainder of 2 Samuel, will address these very matters.

2) The second consequence of David's great sin, is that the child, presently in Bathsheba's womb (indeed, the very product of their adultery), would die, soon after birth.

Verse 14- "However, because by this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme, the child also who is born to you shall surely die."

We will consider this grievous event, in the next section of our present chapter.

And so, these are the two severe consequences, which David's sin had incurred.

II. The Reason for these Consequences

Three indicators, given in our text, lead us to grasp the reason for these very severe consequences:

Verse 9- "Why have you despised the commandment of the Lord, to do evil in His sight?"

Verse 10- "Now therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house, *because you have despised Me*, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife."

Verse 14- "However, because by this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme, the child also who is born to you shall surely die."

And so, very clearly, we find in these three statements, that the great weight of David's sin is especially determined by the object of his offense. Indeed, while David's sin was a great offense toward many, including Israel, and especially Uriah himself, the greatest object of his offense, was his Living and Holy God. David despised the commandment of *The Lord*. David despised *The Lord Himself*. And David gave great occasion for the enemies of *The Lord*, to blaspheme *The Lord*.

And so, brethren, we might sum up these three statements in the following way: David's sin was a gross affront on the holiness of God. Because God is rightly jealous for His own holiness, and how He is viewed by His creatures, and how He is viewed by the way, in which, He is represented by those who bear His Name, David's sin was a high offense, requiring severe consequences, unto the preservation of God's perceived holiness by all! God is holy, and He must be regarded by all, as holy, and especially by those who represent Him before all.

David was a redeemed child of God, placed in a great position of authority and influence, and as such, much was expected of him, in properly representing the holy and righteous character of His God. When he failed in this regard, he is said to have "despised the Lord and His commandment," and to have given opportunity for the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme, because by his actions, he presented a marred representation of the holy character of his God. The highest end of God, in all things, is to glorify His own Name, and our God is glorified, not by adding anything to Him, but by simply rightly magnifying who He really is! To do otherwise, is to despise Him! And to do otherwise, as one of His chosen vehicles of grace, is to give His enemies an opportunity to blaspheme Him, because He is inevitably (indeed, He desires and ordains to be) represented by those who are set apart ("hallowed") unto His service. And so, in David's great failure to do this, God must vindicate His holiness, as it were, by bringing about severe consequences, to accompany David's actions, so that David's sin would not infringe upon the holiness of God. God, as it were, draws a line of separation, between Himself, and David here, in this instant, so as to preserve His own holiness and glory. The consequences cast upon David, confirm God's great disapproval for David's actions, and further serve to declare His holiness, as He chastens His own child, when he moves away from God. And so, both God's grace and His righteous judgment, temporal and/or eternal (in David's case, temporal), serve to glorify God, in the preservation and declaration of His holiness!

[Ex: Moses struck the rock, and was not allowed to enter the Promised Land! Numbers 20:12- "Then the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, 'Because you did not believe Me, to hallow Me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them."]

III. Closing Thoughts and Applications

Brethren, let us then close, by considering a few concluding thoughts and applications, in light of all that we have gone over this morning:

1) What we do, brethren; how we speak, act, live; the things that we value in this life, all reflect upon, how others view God, in, by, and through us. It takes ongoing, conscious work, to daily walk, faithfully with our God. We bear His Name, when we bear His confession! Are you Christ's? Consider, how all that you do, reflects upon Him, and will affect how others view Him! How many, by their marred testimonies; how many, by their shipwrecked faith, have done great harm to the Kingdom of God, and the glory of Christ? Let us be a sweet, self-denying, other's focused, unified body of believers, consciously, daily, striving to magnify the glory of Christ, to all who surround us! Let us pray that we might finish well, to this end!

None of us are perfect, brethren. We all fall short. But, let us strive to faithfully represent the One, who died and gave Himself for us, righting our wrongs, and doing all to please Him, who has graciously and lovingly enlisted us into His Gospel army...for His glory! Let us do all to avoid "taking the Name of The Lord our God in vain," by marring the impression of His Name upon us, His beloved children! Brethren, David despised God and his commands by his actions, although he had obviously deceived himself into thinking otherwise. By your actions, you can glorify (ascribe worth; worship) God, and by your actions, you can despise Him! Let us show, in every way, that we love, cherish, revere and delight in, our God! [Ex: Being here on time]

2) Note that, there is a greater responsibility placed upon those, who are ordained unto positions of leadership and authority. Leaders will affect; are meant to affect, followers. And because of this; because their sins do not only affect their own interests, but also the interests of others, they have a greater accountability before God, and they will receive a stricter judgment. Pray for the leaders of our country, to this end! Pray for us, your pastors, to this end! [Consider that the qualifications for the eldership, include "blamelessness"]

3) Note again, brethren, that while David never lost his salvation (that is an impossibility for the child of God), there were severe, temporal consequences, which had come about, because of his sinful actions. Consider how his actions affected Israel? His family and children? His unborn child? We may not incur the wrath of God by our actions, but as a means of preserving His own glory, God will, at times, issue forth great temporal consequences, even toward His most beloved children!

Brethren, consider that caving into your sinful desires, can actually harm your unsaved loved ones; your spouse, your children, your brethren...etc. Never presume upon God, by thinking for a moment that you can take sin lightly, because God's grace will always abound toward you! Never sin presumptuously! Never take the grace of God for granted! For, in so despising God; in your disregard for the holiness of God, you may reap terrible consequences (in this life) for such presumptuous actions. Never take sin, to be a light matter! Indeed, God is beyond gracious, but to sin presumptuously is dangerous, dangerous ground! Again, David here warns us, loudly, "Avoid this path, for it has often plagued me with misery, for the remainder of my time on earth!" God must be regarded as "holy," by all who would draw near to Him. His grace and His love and His mercy, must never be viewed, severed from His holiness! To do so, is itself, blasphemous!

4) To the unsaved, you were created by God, for God, and in the very image of God. You belong to Him! And yet, you have fallen short of His glory! Death is an evident consequence of this, but, you can be spared from eternal death; indeed, you can live eternally in His glorious and gracious presence, if you obtain forgiveness for your sins, and redemption, in the Lord Jesus Christ! Repent and flee to Him now, before it is too late! Don't die in your sins! AMEN!!!

Benediction: Jude 1:24-25