

Message #16**II Samuel 12:1-31**

There are a couple of things we want to say here about David's fall into sin:

- 1) This sin episode is totally out of David's normal character. This was a blip out of character.
David was a very faithful man of God and this sin episode is not the norm for his life.
- 2) David did a lot for God, including risking his own life. David defended God's name.
Just that episode with Goliath is something no one else in Israel would do to defend God.

This is the reason why I think God will show mercy to David and eventually use him again.

Augustine said this fall of David should do two things for those who study it:

- 1) It should cause one who has not fallen to guard himself so he doesn't fall.
- 2) It should cause one who has fallen to have great hope from despair that there is forgiveness.

A while back Mary and I watched a program on the ID channel in which police tracked down a killer 30 years after he committed the crime. How they tracked him down was amazing. In the guy's van they found a bunch of cigarette butts and one of them was a different kind of cigarette. So when they were collecting evidence, they put that in a bag. Now fast forward until today and DNA evidence was taken from that butt, which turned out to be the DNA of the girl who had been killed. So 30 years later, the police arrested a killer, who was married with children and grandchildren, who thought he got away with murder.

Probably one of the most famous fragments of verses in the entire Bible is Numbers 32:23 that says, "be sure your sin will find you out." If you sin against God, be sure your sin will find you out.

When David sinned, it was not just a little mistake; this was a major fall.

- 1) He coveted another man's wife - guilty of covetousness.
- 2) He stole another man's wife - guilty of stealing.
- 3) He committed adultery with another man's wife - guilty of adultery.
- 4) He intentionally got another man drunk - guilty of partaking of another's sin.
- 5) He murdered an innocent man - guilty of murder, guilty of shedding innocent blood.
- 6) He bore false witness in trying to cover it up - guilty of lying.

David had done his best to cover his sin and, quite frankly, from a human perspective, he had pretty much covered his tracks. Uriah, Bathsheba's husband, had been killed in war and David almost looks heroic when he took Bathsheba into his house. But this was all a cover up lie and that cover up was about to be exposed.

Verse 1 says that "the LORD sent Nathan to David." Nathan was a prophet and God sent him to David to confront him. Not an easy job and not a pleasant job, but it was a God-given job. What we see is this:

WHEN DAVID IS CONFRONTED WITH HIS SIN, HE CONFESSES IT AND GOD GRACIOUSLY FORGIVES HIM AND EVEN THOUGH THERE ARE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES FOR THE SIN, GOD CONTINUES TO GIVE HIM MORE BLESSINGS.

When a believer sins, the best thing to do is face it squarely and honestly. Go right to God and confess it. Specifically name what it is you did and own up to it. If you try to cover and hide it, that sin will track you down.

HISTORICAL FACT #1 – God sends Nathan to confront David with his sin. 12:1-12

Several months have passed prior to this happening. We get a description of what was going on in the life of David during those months. Psalm 32:3-4 says his body was wasting away; he was groaning all day long. He could not sleep at night. He lived his life in heavy gloom and his vitality was zapped. Life for David ever since his sin had not been joyful.

When Nathan went to David, he was obviously led by God to go to him. He was directed by God to confront the sin:

(Confrontational Observation #1) - Nathan tells David a story. 12:1-4

Now Nathan initially tells him this story in a non-confrontational way:

Part #1 - There were two men in one city; one was rich and the other was poor. 12:1

Part #2 - The rich man had a great number of flocks and herds. 12:2

Part #3 - The poor man had one little ewe lamb. 12:3

The poor man purchased that little lamb; he took care of it and it grew up with him and his children. He loved that lamb and it would eat his bread and drink from his cup and would snuggle up to him like a daughter.

Part #4 - A traveler came to the rich man's home. 12:4

Some visitor showed up at the rich man's home and he was not willing to provide for him out of his own plentiful possessions.

The rich man was not willing to provide for the traveler from his own flock or herd so he went and took the poor man's ewe lamb and used it.

(Confrontational Observation #2) - David responds to Nathan's story. 12:5-6

When David heard this story, he responded:

Response #1 - David was very angry. **12:5a**

Response #2 - David said the man who did that will die. **12:5b**

David brings the LORD's name into this. David was so angry he was ready to pronounce the death penalty on the man.

Response #3 - David said he must make fourfold restitution. **12:6**

This is critical because this shows us that David knew the O.T. law and the fourfold requirement demanded in this case (Exodus 22:1). If you took another man's sheep, it did not demand the death penalty, but it did demand fourfold restitution.

(Confrontational Observation #3) - Nathan directly confronts David. **12:7-12**

Nathan identifies God as "the LORD God of Israel." That combination occurs 32 times in the Old Testament and it emphasizes that the sovereign God over everything is the covenant God of Israel.

David's sin was a terrible sin against the God who has a covenant relationship with Israel. However, by virtue of the fact that God is the covenant God of Israel, God will not abandon His program even though His anointed King has really done evil.

Verbal Message #1 - David you are the man who has done this evil. **12:7a**

This hit David like a ton of bricks.

Verbal Message #2 - God anointed you to be king over Israel. **12:7b**

You had God's Divine Coronation.

Verbal Message #3 - God delivered you from the hand of Saul. **12:7c**

You had God's Divine Protection.

Verbal Message #4 - God gave you your master's house and possessions. **12:8a**

You had God's Divine Prosperity.

Verbal Message #5 - God gave you your master's wives. **12:8c**

You had God's Divine Pleasure.

Verbal Message #6 - God gave you control of Israel and Judah. **12:8b**

You had God's Divine power and prestige.

Verbal Message #7 - God would have given you many more things. **12:8c**

You could have had more Divine blessings.

Verbal Message #8 - David why have you despised the word of God and done such evil in God's sight. **12:9**

The noun "evil" is a word that refers to sinful, evil, twisted and perverted action in the mind of God. David had killed Uriah, taken his wife and used the Ammonites as part of his plan to do it.

Verbal Message #9 - God will see to it that the sword will never depart from your house. **12:10**

Verbal Message #10 - God will raise up evil against David and allow his wives to be taken. **12:11**

Dr. Charles Ryrie in his study Bible says, "These predictions of judgment were fulfilled in the violent deaths of Amnon (13:28-29) and Absalom (18:15) and in Absalom's public appropriation of David's royal concubines (16:22) (*Ryrie Study Bible NASV*, p. 495).

Verbal Message #11 - God will publicly expose David's secret before all Israel. **12:12**

Not only did God publicly expose this before Israel, but before all of us who have Bibles.

HISTORICAL FACT #2 – David confesses his sin to God and to Nathan. **12:13a**

David does not deny this; he does not excuse this; he immediately says, "I have sinned against the LORD."

He is honest. He is humble. He is contrite. He is guilty and he admits it. In fact, David wrote a graphic Psalm about this very episode in Psalm 51.

HISTORICAL FACT #3 – God forgives David of his sin. **12:13b**

When Nathan spoke these words to David, it brought some vitality and life back to his world. He had some joy again (Ps. 32:11) and he could sing again (Ps. 32:7). Knowing you have the forgiveness of God is the greatest and most guilt freeing knowledge one can ever have.

This is an amazing display of God's grace. His O.T. law demanded that a murderer and an adulterer be executed (Gen. 9:6; Ex. 21:12; Lev. 20:10; 24:17; Deut. 22:22).

Now a critical question is how could God choose to not enforce the death penalty when His law demands it? How could God forgive David?

Two things we want to remember:

- 1) God remembered the times David has stood for God. God never forgets those who defend Him.
- 2) God looked through the Davidic line to One who would nail that law to the cross.

This was God's amazing grace forgiveness, judicially granted to one who did not deserve it.

I don't know what the worst thing you have ever done in life is nor do I want to know. But I would be willing to suggest that it has not equaled the sin level of that which is done here. If God can forgive this, He can forgive you. But you must come to terms with the sin.

HISTORICAL FACT #4 – God pronounces chastising judgment on David for his sin.
12:14-23

Nathan said that because of this deed that has given the enemies of God something for which they may blaspheme God, God would give the death penalty to the baby (**12:14**).

Nathan went back to his house and when the baby was born, it was deathly sick (**12:15**). David went to God and fasted and prayed for seven days and the baby died (**12:16-18**).

Verse 23 is a verse that is often used to suggest that all babies who die go to heaven. Certainly we may conclude that David did look forward to a time when he would get to meet and know this baby and we certainly know David would go to Abraham's bosom and be back here on earth to one day reign with Jesus Christ.

David got up from the ground and washed himself and changed his clothes and he ate.

HISTORICAL FACT #5 – God graciously permits David and Bathsheba to have another baby.
12:24-25

David went to Bathsheba, who probably felt terrible about this whole mess, and God allowed her to conceive and she bore a son that David named Solomon, and the LORD loved him.

They sent word to Nathan the prophet and he called him Jedidiah, which means beloved of the LORD.

HISTORICAL FACT #6 – God graciously permits David to have more victory. **12:26-31**

Joab and David kept at their work and God was giving them victory. In fact, they were increasing in wealth.

They went back to war with the Ammonites and God gave them victory. Joab captured the city of Rabbah. They captured their water supply (**12:27**) and all the spoils.

They took a jewel-covered crown that weighed a talent of gold, which is about 75 pounds of gold. That is worth almost 1.6 million dollars today by our standards (v. 30).

They took many tools and building supplies (v. 31).

David was gaining a great amount of spoil and God gave him victory.

PRACTICAL THOUGHTS:

- 1. Just because one has been greatly used by God does not mean they cannot fall into sin.**
- 2. When a person sins, he needs to own it and face it and confess it.**
- 3. If a person tries to cover sin, God will expose it, even if the person thinks it will never be discovered.**
- 4. Many think there will be great pleasure in sin, but there will always eventually be serious negative consequences.**
- 5. God will graciously forgive the sin of one who honestly confesses it.**