

The Consequences of Sin
Spilman Memorial Baptist Church, Kinston NC
Dr. H. Powell Dew, Jr.
July 21, 2024

Text: II Samuel 12:1-15

Purpose: David paid a terribly high price due to his sin with Bathsheba. In examining the story of David, we need to learn – before it happens to us – the high cost of disobedience. God does not desire this for us – He wants to bless us. When we sin, we need to remember we have an advocate, Jesus Christ, who is ready to forgive us of our sins and restore our relationship with the Lord once again.

Everyone in the wedding ceremony was watching the radiant bride as her father escorted her down the aisle to give her away to the groom. They reached the altar and the waiting groom; the bride kissed her father and placed something in his hand.



Everyone in the room was wondering what it was that she handed to her father. The father felt the suspense in the air and all eyes were on him to divulge the secret and say something. Therefore, he announced, "Ladies and Gentlemen today is the luckiest day of my life."

Then he raised his hand with what his daughter had given him and continued, "My daughter finally, finally returned my credit card to me."

The whole audience, including the minister, started laughing.

For some strange reason, the poor groom did not... ¹

Today's sermon title is "The Consequences of Sin."

Sin will take us further than we want to go.
Keep us longer than we want to stay.
And cost us more than we intended to pay.

Our expectations are, "What happens in Vegas stays in Vegas." But the reality is our sins follow us the rest of our lives.



I have heard it said related to sin: "You can choose your sin, but you cannot choose your consequences."

For the man David, he heard of his sin through the prophet Nathan and unknowingly pronounced judgment on himself.



David was a man's man. He was what the Bible describes as a man after God's own heart. Most of the poetry found in the Book of Psalms was written by David. Many of the battles that secured the twelve tribes as a United Kingdom were fought personally by David.

David's Anointing



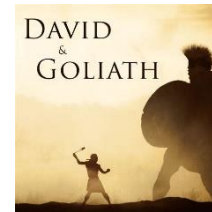
Israel's first King was chosen by the popular opinion of the people. Saul looked the part of a king on the outside, but on the inside, his heart was far from God. After making several key decisions against what the Lord clearly instructed Saul, God withdrew from Saul and choose another person to represent the people.

We first hear of David as a young boy living in Bethlehem and belonged to the family of Jesse. The prophet Samuel was sent by the Lord to Jesse's family to anoint the next King of Israel. As

Samuel looked on seven of Jesse's sons, the Lord told Samuel that the Lord looks at the heart of man, and none of the seven matched up with what the Lord was searching for. When the youngest, scrawniest, fairest of complexion was brought before Samuel, that was the one the Lord saw as Israel's next king. Samuel anointed David the shepherd boy.

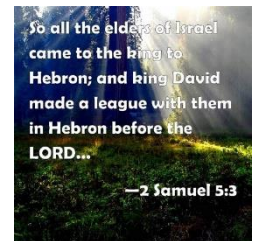


Over the next few years, Saul continued to serve as King and David matured through time and trials.



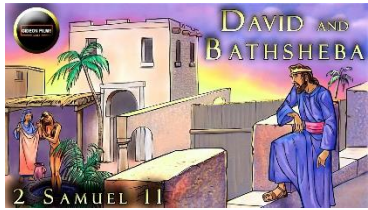
It was this small shepherd boy that faced down the Giant Goliath and defeated him with a slingshot. It was this young man that came and played the harp to sooth King Saul's restless spirit. It was David that became dear friends with Saul's son Jonathan. It was David that went to battle and won the praise and adoration of the people of Israel. Because David was receiving the praise of the people instead of Saul, jealousy began to reign in Saul's heart. Saul set about to destroy David and hunted him among the caves in the wilderness of Israel.

David attracted a band of men that were loyal to him and were willing to die for him. The story of David is expounded upon in I & II Samuel. Once Saul died, David began to consolidate the various tribes together under one kingdom. Because the land was not fully cleared of all the enemies of Israel, David spent many years fighting his enemies. For the first seven years his headquarters was in Hebron. The last thirty-three years of his reign, he established Jerusalem as the capital city.



Once the enemies had been pushed back, the need for David to go out to battle with his army was less. It was when David relaxed and began to take it easy, his troubles really began.

David's Sin



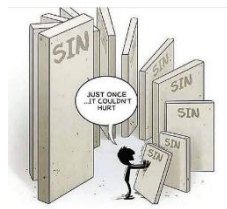
One evening, David was looking down over the area, he saw a beautiful young woman on a rooftop bathing. David inquired about the woman and was told she was the wife of Uriah the Hittite. That didn't

matter to David, he sent someone to bring her to him anyway. A short time later, Bathsheba sent word to King David that she was pregnant.

David tried to bring Uriah back home quickly from the battle to cover up his affair and conceal the pregnancy as Uriah's. But that plan didn't work.



David decided that in the next battle, as it got more intense, he would have the soldiers withdraw, leaving Uriah to receive the brunt of the attack. That plan succeeded and Uriah died. Bathsheba grieved over the death of her husband. After a period of grief, David married Bathsheba and David thought his sin was finally covered up and no one would know.



I have heard some say, "Your sins will find you." In David's case, I am sure many in the kingdom knew what happened and this was prime gossip among many people. The character of the King was under attack due to his sin – the sin of adultery, the sin of deception, and the sin of murder. One sin often leads to a multitude of other sins. One lie will lead to another. Before you know it, you find that sin has

taken you further than you ever wanted to go in the first place. One sin produces more sins. One lie produces more lies.

The Confrontation with Nathan

This is the context in which we find the prophet Nathan coming before the king with a story of a rich man and a poor man. During David's day, when there was a conflict or controversy, the king often became the arbitrator between two parties. The king was accustomed to hearing about injustice and would often offer his opinion and judgment on the situation.

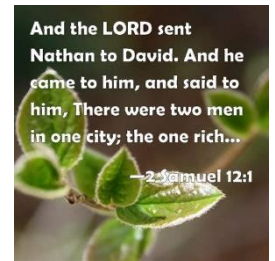
When Nathan came before King David, David probably thought this was another case of injustice that needed the King's authority to straighten out.

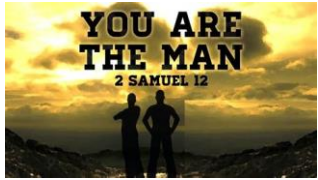
Nathan begins to weave a tale that draws David's heart and emotion into the situation and has him personally engaged.

Nathan said there was a rich man with vast flocks of animals and one poor man that had only one beloved lamb. The poor man raised this lamb as one of the family. The lamb stayed near the poor man, ate from his hand, and he loved this lamb like a daughter.

The story continues that the rich man had out of town company come and he needed to prepare a meal for them. Instead of taking one of the lambs from his flock, he took the poor man's lamb and prepared a meal for the rich man's friends.

When David heard of this injustice, he was angry. As we say here in the south, he was livid! David said this man should surely die for doing this. He should have to pay back fourfold because he had no pity on the poor man.





Nathan paused just a second, looked David in the eye, and said, “David – YOU ARE THE MAN.” I am sure you could hear a pin drop when Nathan turned the story from being about a rich and poor man to being about David and Uriah.

Nathan reminded David that he was given so much by God. He had anointed him king over Israel. He gave his enemies into David’s hands time and time again. Not only did he get the wealth and property of Saul, the previous king, he also got Saul’s wives. If that wasn’t enough, the Lord would have blessed David even more if he simply asked!

Nathan laid some accusations before David that we need to take careful note of as well.



1. **Despised the Commandments.**

The first thing David did wrong was he despised the commandments of the Lord. David knew what was right and wrong. His servants had reminded him that taking Bathsheba from Uriah was wrong – yet he refused to listen and did it anyway. His first look off the balcony turned into something much more. (Breaking Commandment #10 – Coveting your neighbor’s wife, #7 – Committing Adultery, # 8 – Stealing)

2. **Murdered Uriah.** Even though David did not directly cause the death of Uriah, he caused this man to be exposed on purpose during the battle with the Ammonites. David’s actions purposefully caused the death of Uriah. (Breaking Commandment #6 – Thou shall not murder)

3. **False Witness.** David tried to cover up his original sin by calling Uriah back home prematurely to be with his wife and conceal her pregnancy. (Breaking Commandment #9 – Do not bear false witness.)



In doing this, David invited judgment and consequences. The words of judgment that David gave Nathan related to the poor man in Nathan’s story would be the same words of judgment given back to David. Isn’t it funny how our own words come back to judge us and condemn us?

Nathan said:

1. The sword shall never depart from your house – because you despised God’s word and because you have taken Uriah’s wife as your own.
2. An adversary will be raised up from your own family.
3. He also said his wives would also be taken from him and they will be molested out in the open for all to see. Because David did this act of adultery in secret, this will be done openly.



David’s response, as recorded in II Samuel was brief – “*I have sinned against the Lord.*” If you turn over to Psalm 51, you will see a longer confession.

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge. (Psalm 51:1-4)

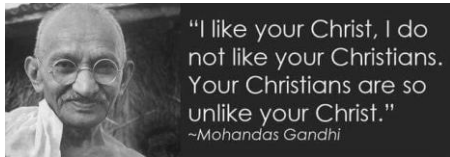
After David's confession before Nathan, there was still more judgment coming for David. Nathan promised David that the Lord would put away his sin and he would not die because of it. Nathan also scolded David because the actions he did not only brought reproach upon David, Bathsheba, David's family, David's kingdom, it also created an opportunity for David's enemies to blaspheme the Lord's name.

David promised forgiveness



- "You shall not die."
 - The same words Nathan said to David when David admitted the sin with Bathsheba
- Those who are most conscious of their own sins make the best forgivers

When you and I sin, we bring condemnation upon our own head. But our sin also brings consequences to innocent people as well. If you are a child of God, when you sin, it creates an opportunity for others to blaspheme God as well. I have heard it said more than once – "If that person is a Christian, then I don't want to have anything to do with their God."



That is why David acknowledged his sin was against God and God alone. Sure, his actions caused Bathsheba pain. His actions caused an enemy to rise up from his own house. It caused his wives to be put to shame many years later. There are always innocent people hurt when someone else sins. *"What happens in Vegas – does not stay in Vegas."* It follows you home!



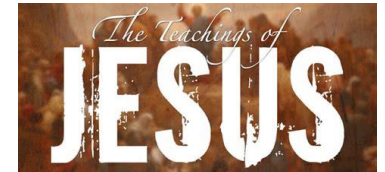
Nathan had one more judgment to pronounce before he left. The child that was conceived due to David's sin with Bathsheba – Nathan said that child shall surely die. David's idle words came back to judge him.

Lessons for Men today

You may be wondering what lesson or application this tragic example from David's life could possibly help us with today. I

believe the lessons learned are important for men to hear. What we can learn from this Biblical example not only applies to men, but there are lessons to be learned here for women as well. There are lessons for younger men and women.

The Importance of Our Obedience to the Commandments of the Lord



First, I must say that the culture in which David lived was vastly different than what we live in today. They were a tribal community living in an area that went to war with nearby neighbors frequently. It was a matter of survival to be loyal to your family and tribe. Life was fragile and alliances were very important.

When one tribe went to war with another, often the women and children were captured and given away as prizes to the victors. When your tribe or community was defeated, the losers were often made slaves for the victors. When men fought and lost, everyone in the community suffered. David was a mighty warrior and won the allegiance of the twelve tribes of Israel and provided protection with his army for many communities and families.

David attributed his safety, his life, his welfare to his relationship with the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He saw his connection with the Lord and knew it was important to be obedient to what the Lord taught. David knew the commandments of the Lord – yet in one particular incident with Bathsheba – it was a clear violation of what God had taught. David was deliberately disobedient and the consequences were tragic and impacted everyone around him.

The first lesson I would impress upon you is the importance of following the teachings of our Lord. Sin has its consequences. It impacts not only us, but all that we love.



I want to impress upon the men gathered here that their sins impact their spouse, their children, and every generation that comes after them. Men, you are especially accountable for your families. I know in a nation like ours, we value and treasure the contributions of both men and women equally. I will be the first one today to champion equal rights in all areas of life for both men and women.

But the role of men is still important and your leadership is vital. Many of the problems in our society can be directly attributed to the failure of men and the abandonment of families by men. Men, what do you want people to talk about when they mention your name? Your sins and all that you did wrong? Or do you want others to talk about how faithful you have been to your wife, children, employer, and the Lord?

I want to encourage our men to make a covenant with the Lord to try to be obedient to all that the Lord has instructed us in His word.

The Forgiveness of God

A second lesson I want to point out to you this morning is the response of God to David's sin. The Lord saw David's sin but waited some time before sending Nathan to confront David. When it came to that point, the Lord's punishment for his sin was severe.

The scripture reminds us of the consequences for sin.

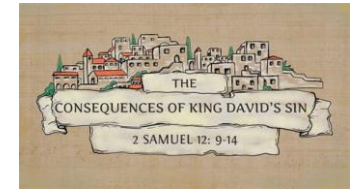
Ezekiel 18:20, "The soul that sins shall surely die."

Romans 6:23 says, "The wages of sin is death."

Hebrews 9:22 quotes from Leviticus 17:11 which says, "without the shedding of blood there is no remission."

In David's case, many died. This one sin impacted everyone.

After David confessed his sin before the Lord and Nathan, there is an amazing statement made. "*The Lord also has put away your sin; you shall not die.*" The consequences of his sin continued, but the Lord forgave David.



What I want you to catch here is no matter what sin you may have done, no matter how many people you may have harmed in the process, no matter what – the Lord is ready to forgive you if you only come back to Him and confess your sin.



I John 1:9 says, "*If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*"

That is why David pleaded with the Lord to blot out his sin and to wash him thoroughly from his iniquity and to cleanse him from his sin. (v. 2) David goes on in Psalm 51 to say, "*Wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.*"

Acts 13:22 describes David when he was first anointed as King as a "*man after My own heart, who will do My will.*" Even though David sinned terribly, David's heart sought quickly to restore his relationship with the Lord.

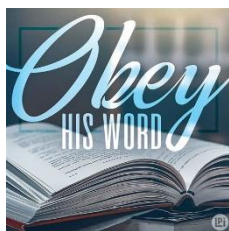
We too are called to that same level of accountability with God. We are called Christians because we follow Jesus Christ. We need to hide God's word so we will not sin against the Lord. When we do, He is faithful and just to forgive us.

Important Lessons that We Should Apply to our Lives

1. **Stay close to the Lord and seek His face daily.** When we stray from this, Satan is right there ready to put a temptation in front of you that you may not be willing to resist. The temptations are numerous and specifically tailored to hit us at our weakest point. Adultery, Drugs, Alcohol, Pornography, Lying, Gossiping, Stealing, Coveting.



2. **Know God's Word and Be Obedient to it.** We need to hide God's word in our heart, and have a willingness and desire to be obedient to it. We may know the Bible backwards and forwards, but if we are not obedient to it, we will face the consequences of our disobedience.



3. **We do not need to be in the judging business.** Only God is our judge. When we are asked our opinion related to someone else's business – we need to step back and be very careful with what we say. The measure in which David judged the rich man in Nathan's story was the same measure in which God judged David. The measure by which we judge others is often the same measuring stick God will use to measure us.



4. **Take care of your own household.** Don't go looking in other places to satisfy your own needs/wants. As one farmer said it, "Plow your own field." When you step outside this boundary – judgment – pain – heartache – disappointment – rejection – even death – may come as a consequence for violating God's standard.



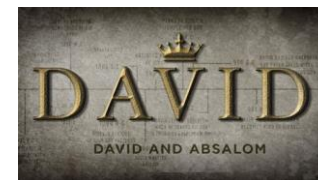
5. **Do what you have been called to do.** If you have been chosen as a leader – then lead. If you are a follower, then do that faithfully as well.



- a. David failed to lead by example and many suffered as a consequence.
- b. Nathan was called to confront David and he did what the Lord instructed him to do.

6. **Innocent people suffer as a result of people's sin.**

- a. Bathsheba apparently was an innocent victim of David's sin. Yet in it all, she too suffered. She lost her husband in battle and her child shortly after birth.
- b. Uriah was a faithful soldier who lost his wife and life due to David's sin.
- c. David's wives were molested by David's son Absalom when Absalom declared himself King of Israel.
- d. David's son Absalom later died in battle trying to secure his kingdom.



A Personal Challenge

I am sure as you were listening to David's sin and all of the consequences of his actions, you may have been thinking of a time in your life. It may have been way back, years ago, or it may have been as recent as this past week.



I want you to know we serve a God that loves us and has already provided atonement for our sin. When Jesus Christ came and died on that cross, His blood paid the price to atone for our sins.

The consequence of our actions may still remain. But we are now forgiven by God.

Today can be the day you turn back to God, confess your sins and start with a new direction in life.

LET US PRAY

Notes:

¹Mikey's Funnies, A Gift Funny, July 11, 2024, forwarded by Adon Brownell