

2nd Samuel Ch12

Though it's only been a week for us since the happenings of 2nd Samuel Ch 11, for David it's been nearly a year. And this whole time David has sought to sit on his sin thinking he's buried it well, and it's been covered and concealed. You know his story, he decided to kick back in leisure at his palace rather than go out to the battle where he belonged. And as he was pacing back and forth up on his terrace one evening he looked out over his roof and there was this beautiful woman bathing there in plain view. And temptation turned to lust, lust turned to opportunity, opportunity turned to adultery, adultery turned to pregnancy, and just as sure as Bathsheba conceived, David began to conceive a plan in order to cover his sin which ultimately led to the murder of Bathsheba's husband Uriah and taking her into his home as his wife before she began to show. But like Achan in Joshua Ch 7 David's going to discover that when you have hidden sin under your tent, sin that you've sought to cover and conceal rather than confess and come clean with it, you just won't prosper. And I don't know what it is that's with in us that's more afraid of being found out by man than being guilty before God, because that's messed up.

But in His grace God gave this window of time to David whereby he might repent on his own, but instead of seeing that window of time as God's mercies in allowing him to come clean, he just saw it as him getting away with it and apparently God sort of winked at this one and just sort of let this one slip by. And we can be so like that, we misinterpret God's grace in not immediately dealing with us as Him looking the other way for that one and letting us get away with it. (As though the Word of God doesn't apply to us, we're somehow above the Law). And so rather than repent we just kind cruise silently through life never repenting of our sin on our own initiative, but we wait for God to deal with us. Oh we know what we've done is wrong, David knew what he'd done was wrong, but he didn't repent, and because of that he was miserable. Sure things may've seemed fine outwardly as he carried on in his kingdom duties, but inside he was despondent, depressed and dejected. We read in Ps 32 where he wrote, "*When I kept silent, my bones grew old Through my groaning all the day long. For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was turned into the drought of summer.*" Ps 32:3-4. And that's what unrepentant sin will get you, the heavy hand of conviction at rest upon your life, and your strength dries up and comes to nothing, you're just miserable. But I'm so glad that God loves us enough to get out the bit and bridle when He needs to in order to steer us in the right direction. He'd like to lead us by His guiding eye, but if we won't go there, or respond to Him in that way, just being sensitive to His leading, eventually He'll get out the bit and bridle that we might be compelled to go His way. And that's the way Ch 12 serves for David, God leading him in the way he should go as by the bit and the bridle. Because as we read in the last ½ of vs 27 there in Ch 11 concerning this whole episode in David's life, "The thing that David had done displeased the LORD." And you can be sure that when you as God's child do something that displeases Him, He'll deal with your life, and if you won't come to Him with it, He'll come to you with it, so we read there in vs 1 of ch 12.

Couple of thing briefly here before we get too far into this, #1 we see that God sent Nathan to David. Now God had already sought to deal with David privately, and David refused to respond and so now God is going to deal with him publicly. Now Nathan is God's prophet and he's the same man who had the privilege to administer God's heart towards David when David wanted to build God a house and God said through Nathan, "No thanks David, but I'm going to build you a house." And God promised David that the Messiah would be his descendant, and that his throne would be established forever.

But now he's the one-with the responsibility to administer the position of God's heart towards David regarding the sin in his life. One thing we notice as we go through the scriptures is that regarding sin in your life, God always desires to keep it to the fewest people possible as far as who knows about it. He would that we would just repent, and be done with it rather than it get dragged out and exposed before everyone because that really doesn't bring Him glory, quite the opposite really. But when we won't respond the nudging of His Spirit, then it goes to the next step and He begins to involve human instruments. But what I want you to see here is that Nathan was not David's enemy, God involved someone who was very near and dear to David to administer this discipline, someone who was for him and not against him, someone whom he could receive from knowing that he was non-vindictive, had no desire to harm him or do damage to him. And let me just say that if you a vindictive nature in a certain scenario, or you don't have a desire to accurately administer the heart of God in the midst of a sin situation, and your motives are messed up, then you are not the one whom God is calling to deal with that situation no matter what you may be aware of in regards to it. Because the heart of God is to minister to that person in such a way as to lead them to repentance, not send them away with their tail between their legs but no change in their lives, just embarrassed and humiliated.

Now again sometimes people just refuse to repent no matter how delicate you may be, but it's important that our motives be right when approaching a situation. Nathan is coming in to this room with all the instruments of open heart surgery at his disposal, and he's going to take that scalpel of conviction and cut David right open, remember what we learned regarding the way Jesus dealt with the woman at the well? With out conviction there's no conversion, now the law may've come through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ He was gracious no doubt, but He didn't avoid the truth, and that's what we're seeing here with Nathan. He was gracious and delicate in his approach to David, (especially in that he was a leader, he respected his position), but he was truthful as well, didn't avoid the facts. And he's crafted this story in such away as to hold a mirror up to David that he might see the reality of what he's done for what it is. And that's the way God's word works in our lives, just like a mirror, and it reflects back to us the reality of who we are. Now as Nathan approaches David, David no doubt thinks there's a situation brewing out there in Israel that needs some justice, Nathan is giving him facts, and asking what needs to be done, now Nathan never asks David to pass judgment, but David jumps the gun being incensed and in doing so condemns himself.

The story seems simple enough, yet it would immediately grab David's attention having been a poor shepherd boy himself. And Nathan says to him, "Here's the situation David. There's 2 men in Israel, one of them is rich, has everything his heart could desire and has no lack. The other one is poor has nothing outside of his family save this one little ewe lamb. And he loved that little lamb David, it was as one of his own family members, he nourished it, took care of it, allowed it to eat from his very dish and drink from his very cup. It was like one of his children, but this stranger came through town and the rich man decided to take him in, only instead of preparing and taking care of the situation from his own supply, his own abundance, he had that ewe lamb stolen away from the poor man, slaughtered it, and used it to feed the stranger." And with that David's about to respond, but up until this point he's shown really no emotion, here Nathan says this little lamb ate with that man, drank with that man, even lay in the bosom of that man. But David's wheels should be turning because Uriah told David when David wanted him to go be with Bathsheba, "Shall I go to my house to eat and drink and lie with my wife?"

To us this story is obvious, David is the rich man with all that his heart desires, has several wives, the kingdom of Israel and Judah, but Uriah was just a poor man, the only thing he really had of value was his wife, yet David stole her away, and took her from him to satisfy that wayfarer of lust and temptation that came his way.

Vs5

It's amazing how easy it is to see sin in the life of someone else isn't it? And we want to take major issues in our lives and sweep them under the rug and pretend they don't exist, but we want to make a capital offense out of someone else's minor grievance. The bible teaches that the way we're able to identify sin in the life of another is because so many times we're guilty of the very thing we're accusing in someone else, if not physically then I've gone there in my heart in times past. Rom 2:1 says, "*Therefore you are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things.*" And here David prepared to make a capital offense out of this minor grievance in this hypothetical situation, but you're not going to find in the law where sheep stealing is punishable by death. We've got the log and spec syndrome happening here. Jesus said, "*Why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not perceive the plank in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me remove the speck that is in your eye,' when you yourself do not see the plank that is in your own eye? Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck that is in your brother's eye.*" Luke 6:41-42 In other words make sure you're hands are sterile before you begin to operate on someone else.

What David had done was a capital offense, but he trivialized that, what this man supposedly did was trivial in the big picture, but David exaggerated and inflated the issue so that he was prepared to see the man who stole a single sheep put to death. But as we'll see David is merely passing judgment on himself, sentencing himself for his own crime, notice what else David says needs to be done.

Vs6

Because he'd done this thing, with out pity towards the man who had been violated he was to restore 4-fold. Why do I point that out? Because Ex 22:1 says, "*If a man steals an ox or a sheep, and slaughters it or sells it, he shall restore five oxen for an ox and four sheep for a sheep.*" In other words David was familiar with what the law stated regarding this offense, it's as if he's saying, "I know what the bible says about this, and a 4-fold restitution is required." David's sin didn't diminish his knowledge and understanding of the bible. He could still quote you the words of the bible but he was distant from its Author. And it's common for people to seek to hide under their knowledge of the scriptures to seek to deflect the attention away from themselves. I know people who can quote all kinds of scripture, and if you were reasoning with them about the bible they could chime right in on the conversation, but they're not right with God. It's easy to employ the words of the bible with out being right with it's author, and that's what David is doing here.

And you can just see Nathan standing there silently listening to David's demand for justice and in doing so not even realizing that he's opened himself up for that penetrating thrust of the sword of the Spirit that's preparing to divide and discern the thoughts and intents of his heart. But Nathan in a master swordsman, and now that the timings right and David finds himself exposed and unguarded, Nathan's preparing to thrust a single quick yet decisive blow right through David's heart. So far it's been Logos you know, just the word in general, but Nathan is about to employ Rhema and this is about to turn personal. And that's what that means when it talks about the sword of the Spirit being the Word of God, a specific utilizing of God's Word, to dismantle or deal with a specific issue. And so with a single sharp thrust Nathan says to David.

Vs7-9

So Nathan holds up the mirror for David to gaze upon himself in, in reality. And I'll bet you could hear a pin drop in that court room as David's jaw hung ½ open, ashamed and embarrassed as his sin is being shouted from the rooftop after having thought he covered it so well, it's been said that secret sin on the earth is open scandal in Heaven. And there were no doubt those present who didn't know what had happened, and there's this sense of shock and chagrin in everyone there but all the more in David who just been undone before God and man. And here God accuses David of being ungrateful, disrespectful, a murderer and a thief. He says, "David I gave you everything, and if protecting your life, and anointing your life, giving you the nation and all the perks that go along with it wasn't enough, you should've come to me, I'd have given you more." And notice how God considers our disobedience to His word an act on our behalf of despising His direction for our lives, and doing evil in His sight. And notice 3x in vs 9 God uses the word, "You", and once the word, "Your," "David, you did this, and you did that and you are responsible for this, this is your deal." God refused to allow David to play the blame game; he will assume personal responsibility for his actions. And God will always hold us accountable for our personal decisions regardless of what anyone else says or does, we make our own choices.

Vs10

Here comes the harvest, David had Uriah killed by the sword, and so the sword will never depart from his house, there'll be violence and bloodshed in his own home. Because he troubled another man's house, his house will be troubled. And it's interesting that David demanded 4-fold restitution in this earlier scenario, and 4 of his sons will die. Uriah was put to death, there'll be 4 die in his own home, Bathsheba's son from David, Amnon, Absalom and Adonijah.

But there's a practical insight here for you and me, in vs 9 David is accused of despising God's word through disobedience, in vs 10 it's paralleled with despising God Himself. He says, "You've despised Me, and taken the wife of Uriah," and you guys this is an important point that we need to receive. To despise God's Word is to despise God Himself, in other words if you or I willfully shelve one aspect of God's word that pertains to our lives because we want to somehow indulge our flesh, then we're despising His word and God says that in such case we're despising Him. "Well, I don't despise God, I just want to do this, or engage in that, I know His word warns against it but hey, I'm only human." *"If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth."* 1 John 1:6 You cannot reject some portion of the word of God and claim to have fellowship with God or a viable relationship with Him. You've chosen rather to despise Him and allow your sin to separate you from Him. It's amazing how many people choose to lead lives of secret sin, or sometimes open sin, and yet they really think in their minds that they're walking fine with God, but the word of God says otherwise my friend, if you're in sin, you're not ok with God.

Vs 11-12

Jesus put it like this, *"There is nothing hidden which will not be revealed, nor has anything been kept secret but that it should come to light."* Mark 4:22 and Again, *"For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, nor hidden that will not be known. Therefore whatever you have spoken in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have spoken in the ear in inner rooms will be proclaimed on the housetops."* Luke 12:2-3 David has sown to the wind and he'll reap the whirlwind, he shamed Uriah in secret, but he'll be humiliated before all of Israel.

Vs 13-15

Now there are a few things we need to see here before we move on, #1 David's open and honest confession. "I have sinned against the Lord." He takes full personal responsibility, and doesn't in anyway seek to pass the buck. It's amazing how many people want to find some sort of scapegoat for their sins.

Something to justify their sin, be it the way they were raised, or what their dad did to them, or how their mom mistreated them, but the bible gives no such credence to those types of claims. The bible demands personal responsibility for personal decisions made, and as soon as someone seeks to explain why they've done what they've done you can already know the yellow lights flashing concerning their repentance.

I'm not saying that someone can't explain their point of view, but if it's to in anyway lessen the responsibility for their personal sin, then "Houston, we have a problem" they're not repenting, they're excusing. David says, "I did it, I sinned." Doesn't blame Bathsheba for being there, or say, "I was in such a moment of weakness." Just, "I've sinned against the Lord." 2^{ndly} notice when forgiveness was administered, the very moment repentance took place, David confessed, God forgave, just like that. He didn't make him gravel and do some type of penitence, forgiveness was immediate predicated on honest and open confession. The bible says, "*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*" 1 John 1:9 What David did was worthy of death, God forgave him and said, "You shall not die."

But what we need to see here is that even though God forgave David, that didn't cause the ramifications of his actions to somehow evaporate. We need to understand that forgiveness, and sowing and reaping are 2 different things entirely, Can a man repent, yes, can a man be restored, yes, does that erase ramifications? No, does that alleviate one's responsibility? No, Solomon, David's son wrote, "*Whoever commits adultery with a woman lacks understanding; He who does so destroys his own soul. Wounds and dishonor he will get, And his reproach will not be wiped away.*" Prov 6:32-33

David's repentance was genuine and sincere, he would never commit adultery again believe you me, he'd learned his lesson, and we can read the articulation of his heart over this deal in Ps 51. It's there that he speaks of God's desire for truth in the inward parts, his desire to be washed of his sin, to have a new heart created in him and a steadfast spirit renewed in him, how he pleaded with God not to take His Holy Spirit from him as he did with Saul. And he says, "God if you'd have wanted sacrifice I'd have given it, or a burnt offering I would've provided it, but the sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and contrite heart—These, O God, You will not despise." In other words God doesn't put any stock in how things appear outwardly, nor does He care how well you play the game, it's truth in the inward parts He's after, the motive and purpose of your heart.

But what I want you to see here is how often it's the innocent who suffer for our sins. Had this child done anything? No, am I going to pretend to know the why for's and the how to's of God? How can I explain why certain things happen, I don't know, I know the more appropriate question isn't why do bad things happen to good people, because there are no good people, what I don't understand is why good things happen to any of us, because none of us deserve it. But be that as it may this innocent child would in part pay for David's sin, the innocent suffering because of the guilty, is it fair? Who am I to question the ways of God, was it fair when Jesus suffered for our guilt, and our sin? No, but so often the innocent find themselves suffering and paying for the sins of the guilty when forgiveness is extended don't they?

Do infants and small children go to be with the Lord when they die? I believe they do, and I believe David understood that and states that here. And in this believe me this was far harder on David and Bathsheba than it was for the child, he's with the Lord, they're bearing the weight of their sin. And notice how David took that to God in prayer and fasting, he's coming back to that place of dependence upon God and a resolve to obey the word of God and be at peace with that regardless of what that may entail for his life.

And we do well to take note of the fact that fasting and prayer didn't change God's mind, but rather it changed David's heart, prepared him to be in that place of peace with God's will for his life. He was able to rise up and worship God and bear responsibility for his actions, again fasting isn't a motive to get our will done in Heaven, but to get us in line with God's will on earth. It's a denying of the flesh and a feeding of the spirit that we might be in that place that God would have us to be, bringing us into submission to His will. David Guzik makes this comment regarding David's going into the house of the Lord to worship upon the hearing of the news of his child. "This shows that David's extraordinary prayer and fasting were answered. He had a sense of peace when the child died, knowing he did all he could to seek God's mercy in a time of chastisement." And again he states, "The ability to worship and honor God in a time of trial or crisis is a wonderful demonstration of spiritual confidence."

Vs24-25

This is the 1st time that Bathsheba is mentioned as David's wife apart from Uriah, now that David has repented, his sin has been put away. But notice God didn't command David to put her away, or anything like that, was his marriage to her sin in the 1st place? Yes, but once that was repented of God called them to lead their lives together as husband and wife from that point forward, we're to live as God has called us today. If you're married to your 2nd husband, or 3rd wife and now you're a believer, don't think, "Well is this person truly my spouse or should I go back to my 1st one?" Once you've repented of the sin in your life, live as you're called today, God's going to bring the Messiah through Bathsheba, let that rock your world in regards to the depth of the riches mercies and grace of God. God forgives repentant sinners and will use their lives for His glory. Solomon means, "Peace" David has peace and has made peace with God, but God calls Solomon Jedidiah which means, "Beloved of God." Kinda God's way of saying that He would love and bless this their son and that He'd placed their past as far as the east is from the west and that all things had become new.

Vs26-31

This whole year they've not had victory, because there was sin hidden in the camp and until it was dealt with David's kingdom business was put on hold. But as soon as he repented, victory came, do you see that. There was no victory until David got right with God and got back out on the battlefield.

And because David responded to God's voice with confession and repentance there was still a crown for his head. God won't condemn us to a life of failure and defeat if we'll just repent and confess before the Lord and get our lives right with him in humility subjecting ourselves to His will for our lives. There's still a crown waiting for you, just respond to God's voice, humble yourself before Him and He'll restore your life, doesn't mean there'll never be hard times, but God's forgiveness is complete.