

Remnant Life Church

July 10, 2022

A Tale of Two Kings

Pt 3

The Heavy Cost of Sin

2 Samuel 11:1-17

David lived, to say the very least, a very full life

- Much of it was lived in a way that revealed the power, the glory, and the blessings of God
 - Of course, he defeated Goliath when he was just a teenager
 - He became a great general and leader of men
 - He was a musician and poet
 - He was the man through his line of ancestors, would bring the birth of Jesus Christ

So, when David was good, he was very good. But when he was bad, he was very bad – he was awful!

This morning I want us to take a few minutes to look at perhaps the most well known of David's bad moments and recognize four truths about sin that are just as true for us today as they were for David.

READ – 2 Samuel 11:1-17

Here is the first of the four truths

1. Sin always deceives

- a. When this event occurs, David is likely somewhere in his 50's meaning he has been king for around 20 years
- b. And it would appear that David has gotten a little board, complacent, and lazy
- c. Why do I say this?
 - i. We read in the first verse that David should have been with his men on the battleground but it seems he has had his fill of battle
 - ii. We also read in the 2nd verse that in the evening (not the nighttime) he got out of his bed
 1. Why is he lying around in his bed in the early evening?
 2. This sounds like a man who has withdrawn from his duties
 3. So he is not only at home, where he should not be, but he is in bed lounging around, where he also should not be
- d. And being where he should not be, at home walking around the roof of his palace, puts him in the wrong place at the wrong time
- e. He sees this beautiful woman and his heart is filled with lust for her
 - i. Notice I did not say love, but lust
 - ii. These are two emotional drives that are often confused for one another but could not be more different
 1. Lust is mentioned over 30 times throughout the Bible and it is only as a sin
 2. Lust is never equated with love
- f. But this is where the deception of sin comes in

- i. The lie of sin told David that to sleep with Bathsheba would bring him great pleasure
- ii. Instead, it brought death, long-lasting consequences, and great heartache
- g. Sin is always deceitful and it is how it works its way into your life
- h. If it is wrong and you are trying to justify your actions or minimize what it is, then you are being lied to and you must not listen

2. Sin Always Destroys

- a. One of the other ways that sin deceives is by convincing you that the only one at risk is you
 - i. That simply is not true
 - ii. Look at David's sin with Bathsheba
- b. Who else paid a great price for what David did?
 - i. The first was Bathsheba
 - 1. She was not at fault in this scenario
 - 2. What woman or for that matter anyone of the kingdom was permitted to refuse the king?
 - 3. Her life was forever changed
 - 4. Not only by the act itself but by her becoming pregnant
 - ii. Uriah Bathsheba's husband paid the ultimate price
 - 1. We read how David thought he was going to be able to get away with his sin
 - 2. But Uriah was not only a good soldier, but he was an honorable man
 - 3. David then had Uriah murdered even though it appeared to be as a result of the fighting
 - iii. David and Bathsheba's child paid the ultimate price
 - 1. As a consequence for his sin David's son died
 - 2. David was spared but his son had to pay the price
 - iv. David's descendant's continued to pay the price
 - 1. **2 Sam 12:10** – *Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.*
 - a. We will read later **2 Samuel 13** that Amnon, David's first born would rape his half-sister Tamar and then be killed by Absalom his half-brother and Tamar's full brother
 - b. Absalom would conspire to take the throne from his father but would later be killed in battle
 - c. David had violence and unrest in his family for the rest of his life
- v. And because of that ongoing consequence, God would not allow David to build the temple
 - 1. He forfeited that privilege to Solomon his son
 - 2. Because sin always destroys

3. Sin is always discovered

- a. As we said, David thought he had a full-proof plan by providing the perfect cover-up
 - i. 'I'll just send her husband home for a night, then when she tells people she is pregnant, it will appear to be obviously from her time with her husband'
 - ii. But Uriah was a man of honor who would not sleep with his wife while on leave out of respect for his fellow soldiers
- b. David could not hide his sin
 - i. **Job 12:22** - *He reveals the deep things of darkness and brings utter darkness into the light.*
 - ii. **John 3:20** - *Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed.*
- c. But look how it is found out
 - i. God revealed the sin to Nathan the prophet and told him to confront David

READ – 2 Samuel 12:1-7a

- ii. Notice that Nathan didn't storm in breathing fire at David's sin
 1. He simply told a story and asked David a simple question
 2. David is walking into a trap and he doesn't even know it
- iii. But David condemns himself by the way he answers Nathan's question of what should be done to the man who did this terrible thing
 1. **Vv 5-6** - *David burned with anger against the man and said to Nathan, As surely as the LORD lives, the man who did this must die! He must pay for that lamb four times over, because he did such a thing and had no pity.*
 - a. As soon as David speaks these words, the trap is sprung
 2. Because David even goes beyond what is required
 - a. In the law given by God to Moses on Mt. Sinai, he made provision for the protection of private property
 - b. **Ex 22:1** - *Whoever steals an ox or a sheep and slaughters it or sells it must pay back five head of cattle for the ox and four sheep for the sheep.*
 - c. But David declares that the man must die!
 3. David is still trying to cover his own sin and as a result reacted with great righteous anger over what someone else had done
 - a. That is called transference
 - b. David lashed out about someone else's sin while still holding to his own
 - c. When we live the life of a hypocrite, we become very critical of others

4. Confessed sin is always forgiven

- a. Remember when I said that when David was doing good it was very good?
 - i. Well one thing David always did very well, was confess his sins and ask for forgiveness

- ii. It might be because he had so much practice at it
- b. David's situation here, and in fact his life, would be hopeless but for the grace of God
 - i. David immediately confessed his sin
 - ii. Now you might say that David confessed only because he had been caught but who of us can pass that judgment on someone else?
 - 1. Can any of us say that we have not done the same thing?
 - 2. **Matt 7:3** - *Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?*
 - iii. Look at what Nathan tells David after he confesses
 - iv. **2 Sam 12:13-14** - *Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." Nathan replied, The LORD has taken away your sin. You are not going to die. But because by doing this you have shown utter contempt for the LORD, the son born to you will die.*
 - 1. I don't pretend to know why that innocent child had to die
 - 2. Plus, our understanding and agreement are of absolutely no importance when it comes to the will of Almighty God
 - a. But I consider the entirety of this account I do see a foreshadowing of something to come
 - b. The sin of David required a sacrifice to be made clean
 - c. His innocent child was that sacrifice
 - d. God would one day send His Son, the spotless lamb, to be the sacrifice for you and for me to forgive us of our sins
 - v. David was fully forgiven but it did not remove the consequences for his actions
 - 1. Sin always carries consequence
 - 2. David paid dearly for his moment of poor judgement
 - 3. But we serve a righteous God and sin was then and still is today abhorrent to our Perfect God

Hebrews 11:25 tells us that the pleasures of sin are fleeting

- That is because sin lies to you, it is deceiving
- And then it destroys, and then it is discovered

But, praise God, it doesn't end there

- Confessed sin is always forgiven
- That is just as important a lesson that we learn from David this morning
 - When David was confronted with his sin, he called it what it was
 - **12:13** -...*David said to Nathan, I have sinned against the Lord.*
- Too many are calling sin by other names in order to soften or excuse what they are doing
- Listen to how God views sin so differently than we do:
 - We call it an accident, God calls it an abomination
 - We call it a blunder, God calls it a blindness
 - We call it a defect, God calls it a disease
 - We call it chance, God calls it a choice

- We call it an error, God calls it enmity
- We call it fascination, God calls it fatality
- We call it an infirmity, God calls it iniquity
- We call it a luxury, God calls it leprosy
- We call it freedom, God calls it lawlessness
- We call it a trifle, God calls it a tragedy
- We call it a mistake, God calls it madness
- We call it a weakness, God calls it willfulness

- Sin is never explainable
 - It is never justified
 - And it is never condoned

- I can tell you this, one of the clearest indications of a man or a woman who is growing in the Lord is their willingness to own their sin, confess it, and then even in forgiveness deal with the consequences in a way that brings glory to God by their actions
- I am always fascinated, call it a morbid curiosity, when I observe someone ranting and raving about the difficult circumstances they are dealing with, and how unfair it all is, when I know, as they do, that it was their own choices that put them there.

Sin always deceives, always destroys, is always discovered but praise God when we come to him and confess it, he forgives us completely.