

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Good evening church, this evening we are going to continue our study through the book of 2 Samuel.

This is chapter where David's sin is going to be exposed and we will see how he responds.

Let's pray...

So last week, we saw King David suffer his greatest defeat.

He gave into temptation and committed adultery with Bathsheba – and then he sank even further by murdering her husband, Uriah, as David handed Uriah his own death warrant that he was to take to Joab – who put him on the front lines and then retreated the troops, leaving Uriah to die in battle - all of this was done to cover up his sin.

David even got to add another wife to his collection as he married Bathsheba and now they are the parents of a son.

Now, David must have initially thought that he got away with it.

It appeared that God was still blessing him despite what he did – however, I mentioned in the study last week that this was a very troubling period in his life because of the conviction of his sin.

Unfortunately, he did not respond to that conviction of the Holy Spirit with repentance –

So here in chapter 12, the Lord sends someone else to bring David a word of correction.

He is going to use Nathan –

Now, we saw Nathan a few chapters ago when David had the desire to build God a temple.

Initially Nathan had told David to do what his heart desired but the God to Nathan to tell David that it wasn't his purpose to build a house to the Lord however, he was still going to be blessed mightily.

So this word of correction is going to come from someone David had a good relationship with.

[2Sa 12:1-31 NKJV] 1 Then the LORD sent Nathan to David. And he came to him, and said to him: "There were two men in one city, one rich and the other poor.

Nathan comes to David and begins to tell him a story –

Notice that Nathan never tells David whether the story is even true.

In his role as king, David would have been constantly asked to sit as judge over matters like the ones in this story.

So as far as David knows, he is being asked by Nathan to give a judgment on this particular matter.

So we have two men – one rich and one poor

2 "The rich [man] had exceedingly many flocks and herds. 3 "But the poor [man] had nothing, except one little ewe lamb which he had bought and nourished; and it grew up together with him and with his children. It ate of his own food and drank from his own cup and lay in his bosom; and it was like a daughter to him.

During this time, it was not uncommon for people to have baby lambs as pets – especially if the mother died while giving birth.

People would raise them like we would a puppy.

They would nourish it and play with it and even allow it to sleep with them.

So the poor man had this one little lamb.

4 "And a traveler came to the rich man, who refused to take from his own flock and from his own herd to prepare one for the wayfaring man who had come to him; but he took the poor man's lamb and prepared it for the man who had come to him."

A friend of the rich man came to visit him and instead of killing one of his many lambs – he instead took the poor man's only lamb.

The rich man took something that didn't belong to him – therefore he stole the poor man's lamb.

5 So David's anger was greatly aroused against the man, and he said to Nathan, "[As] the LORD lives, the man who has done this shall surely die! 6 "And he shall restore fourfold for the lamb, because he did this thing and because he had no pity."

Nathan is still in the middle of telling the story – when David heard enough and pronounces judgment upon the rich man for what he had done.

And the first thing he pronounces is that the rich man shall die for what he did.

One of the problems with his judgment was that the stealing of a lamb was not a capital offense.

We just studied it this past Sunday in Exodus 22, if someone stole a lamb/sheep God ordered the restitution to be fourfold –

But because of the guilt that David carried because of his hidden sin – his sense of righteous indignation was therefore skewed.

Therefore he judged harshly.

Many times we will be quick to point out, over react and pass judgment on someone's sin when we ourselves can struggle with the same sin.

We tend to make excuses for our sins, but when we see someone else do it – even the same sin - we react differently.

7 Then Nathan said to David, "You [are] the man!"

David - the rich man in the story is you!!!

Now, some people will say – in the story that Nathan provided the rich man stole the lamb from the poor man. David committed adultery – he didn't steal.

In Leviticus 18 – the Lord gave Moses the laws of sexual morality.

And it describes the sin of uncovering the nakedness of those other than our spouse.

The idea is that the nakedness of others does not belong to us – the nakedness of our spouse belongs to us – so what David did when he committed adultery was that he took something that belonged to someone else.

He took the nakedness of Bathsheba which belonged to Uriah.

So let's continue in verse 7 -

Thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. 8 'I gave you your master's house and your

master's wives into your keeping, and **gave you the house of Israel and Judah.**

And if [that had been] too little, I also **would have given you** much more!

God reminds David about how much he had been blessed by him already and God tells David that He would have blessed David with even more – because He had so much more to give – but David stopped seeking the Lord and instead sought out sin.

9 'Why have you despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in His sight? You have killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword; you have taken his wife [to be] your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the people of Ammon.

In Psalm 19, listen to what David writes -

[Psa 19:8 NKJV] 8 The statutes of the LORD [are] right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD [is] pure, enlightening the eyes;

But here, the Lord says that because of his actions, David has despised Him.

One cannot despise God's commandments without despising Him.

You will hear people say, I don't agree with that portion of scripture – therefore I am going to continue to do it – and I will still be able to have fellowship with Him.

That is not what scripture says -

[1Jo 1:6 NKJV] 6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

We cannot have fellowship with Him and despise Him at the same time.

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.' 11 "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. 12 'For you did [it] secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel, before the sun.' "

One of the consequences of David's sin was conflict in his house.

He would have one trouble after another for the rest of his life.

The sword would be in David's house:

Amnon would be killed by his brother Absalom.

Absalom would be killed by Joab.

Adonijah would be killed after trying to subvert Solomon's kingdom.

In verse 11,12 – it speaks of what Absalom did to David's concubines, after he chased David out of Jerusalem –

He is told to take David's concubines and have sex with them on top of the roof so that everyone would be able to see.

The person that gave Absalom that advise was no other than Bathsheba's grandfather, Ahithophel.

Even though David will confess his sin and be forgiven, there will still be consequences to his sin.

13 So David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." And Nathan said to David, "The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die.

After being confronted with his sin –

David admits it.

He didn't reject Nathan – he could have easily sent him away or even worse, he could have had him killed – after all, he was the king.

He didn't even make excuses – a lot of times when people are confronted with sin – they will tend to make up excuses – I have had a bad day at work or my kids made me do it or I am not perfect.

He didn't put the blame on Bathsheba or didn't say it was ok because he was the king and all the other kings were doing it – he acknowledged that he had sinned against God.

He was sincere in his confession – unlike King Saul, - if you remember when we studied the life of King Saul in 1 Samuel, there were times where he showed remorse

for getting caught for disobeying God or for trying to kill God's anointed – but that actually never led to repentance.

After this incident, we no longer see David committing adultery.

Now, in Psalm 51 we get a glimpse of what was going in David's heart during this time.

[Psa 51:1-4 NKJV] 1 To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David when Nathan the prophet went to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba. Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin. 3 For I acknowledge my transgressions, And my sin [is] always before me. 4 Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done [this] evil in Your sight--That You may be found just when You speak, [And] blameless when You judge.

And Nathan responds to David's plea of forgiveness by telling David that God has forgiven him and is going to show mercy upon him by not requiring his life.

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."

One of the worst parts of sinning is that we bring reproach to the name of Jesus.

Nonbelievers will look at us and they will say that we are just like them – therefore there is no reason for them to believe that they are in need of a savior.

That is what David did when he committed adultery and killed Uriah

The Israelites were supposed to be set apart – and here their king has acted just like a pagan king.

So because of the reproach that David brought – even though he was already forgiven, there was another consequence of his sin that he would have to endure.

15 Then Nathan departed to his house. And the LORD struck the child that Uriah's wife bore to David, and it became ill.

God decided that the child born from David's adultery would not live.

Notice that God still refers to Bathsheba as Uriah's wife. Even though Uriah is dead and she is now legally married to David.

The reason is that the baby was conceived while Uriah was still Bathsheba's husband.

16 David therefore pleaded with God for the child, and David fasted and went in and lay all night on the ground. 17 So the elders of his house arose [and went] to him, to raise him up from the ground. But he would not, nor did he eat food with them. 18 Then on the seventh day it came to pass that the child died. And the servants of David were afraid to tell him that the child was dead. For they said,

"Indeed, while the child was alive, we spoke to him, and he would not heed our voice. How can we tell him that the child is dead? He may do some harm!" 19
When David saw that his servants were whispering, David perceived that the child was dead. Therefore David said to his servants, "Is the child dead?" And they said, "He is dead."

Here we have an example of David pleading and fasting on behalf of his son – however, it was not God's will that the child recover.

It wouldn't matter how fervent David prayed and fasted. It was not God's will.

You see fervent prayers and fasting are not tools that we use to get whatever we want from God.

Fervent prayers and fasting are actions that demonstrate our submission and surrender to God's power and will.

And we see that here – David's servants are afraid to tell David that the child is dead – they don't know how he is going to react -

But let's see what how he reacts -

20 So David arose from the ground, washed and anointed himself, and changed his clothes; and he went into the house of the LORD and worshiped. Then he went to his own house; and when he requested, they set food before him, and he ate.

Here we see that David's fervent prayers and fasting were answered as David had a sense of peace when his child died, knowing he did all he could to seek God's mercy in a time of chastisement.

And notice that he doesn't mope around the house – he goes out and to worship the Lord.

21 Then his servants said to him, "What [is] this that you have done? You fasted and wept for the child [while he was] alive, but when the child died, you arose and ate food." 22 And he said, "While the child was alive, I fasted and wept; for I said, 'Who can tell [whether] the LORD will be gracious to me, that the child may live?' 23 "But now he is dead; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me."

The servants can't figure out David's action – they feel that he should be more upset after the death of his child -

So they come to him and ask him

David knew that he would not be able to bring the child back.

But he fully expected one day to go to the child, seeing him in heaven.

24 Then David comforted Bathsheba his wife, and went in to her and lay with her.

So she bore a son, and he called his name Solomon. Now the LORD loved him,

So after the death of their first child, Bathsheba gets pregnant again and then they have Solomon –

So here we have a picture of God showing grace in the middle of our sin.

We all know what happened to the first child –

God could have said, “I am not going to honor your relationship with Bathsheba” – you blew it and nothing good is going to come out of that relationship”

But our God is the God of second chances, and here He blesses David’s relationship with Bathsheba.

Remarkably it is going to be Solomon – the son born out of a marriage that began in adultery – that will be heir to David’s throne.

God chose this son among David’s many sons to be heir to the throne and the ancestor of the Messiah to demonstrate the truth that God forgives repentant sinners.

25 and He sent [word] by the hand of Nathan the prophet: So he called his name Jedidiah, because of the LORD.

Solomon has two names –

Solomon which means peaceful – and it describes David’s relationship with God and with himself.

Jedidiah is his other name – it means “loved by the Lord”

26 Now Joab fought against Rabbah of the people of Ammon, and took the royal city. 27 And Joab sent messengers to David, and said, "I have fought against Rabbah, and I have taken the city's water [supply]. 28 "Now therefore, gather the rest of the people together and encamp against the city and take it, lest I take the city and it be called after my name."

Joab has been fighting the Ammonites for quite a while now –

This was a war that started back in chapter 10 –

This was the war the David decided to not go to that led to the trouble with Bathsheba.

And here Joab is making progress and he sends word to David that if he doesn't show up and help fight, he is going to take credit himself for the victory

29 So David gathered all the people together and went to Rabbah, fought against it, and took it. 30 Then he took their king's crown from his head. Its weight [was] a talent of gold, with precious stones. And it was [set] on David's head. Also he brought out the spoil of the city in great abundance. 31 And he brought out the people who [were] in it, and put [them to work] with saws and iron picks and iron axes, and made them cross over to the brick works. So he did to all the cities of the people of Ammon. Then David and all the people returned to Jerusalem.

So, here at the end of chapter 12, David goes back to where God wanted him to be – leading His people in the battlefield – and we see that the consequences is the Lord once again blesses him with victory.

God was not done blessing David –

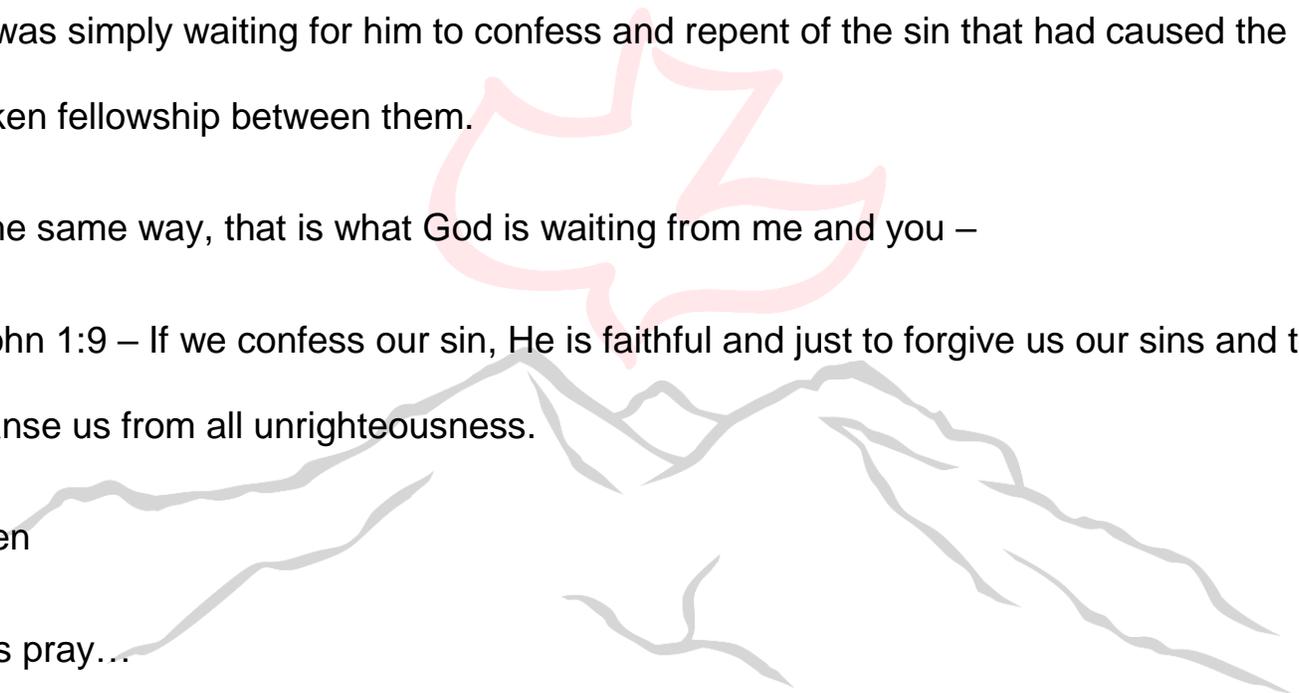
He was simply waiting for him to confess and repent of the sin that had caused the broken fellowship between them.

In the same way, that is what God is waiting from me and you –

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

Amen

Let's pray...



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