

Notes - 2 Sam 11 and 12

Many women (Christian and not) find themselves in the place of Bathsheba. They get involved with someone, allowed sin to become part of the relationship, and wind up pregnant. This is a major inconvenience and problem for their lives. If Bathsheba were alive today, if her first thought was not “God, how are we going to make it through this?” then very quickly the idea of an abortion would seem to be the solution to solve this problem.

David did not look first to the Lord as to what is the right thing to do. He tried to pass the child off as being another man’s child. He came up with an elaborate plan to fool Uriah into thinking the child was actually his. He sent a servant to the place where the army was with a message to bring Uriah back to the palace on a weekend pass. Uriah came to the palace to see the king.

Sin brings us to either confession or cover-up. We usually try to weigh the choices in the balance. Here was a man, who loved the Lord, who chose to take the path of cover-up, because he was afraid of what he might lose.

There is one thing about sin we should never forget. Although the choice to sin is ours, we never get to say what the final consequences are going to be no matter how well we try to plan things in advance. When we choose to sin, we always give someone else some control and influence over our lives they did not have before. Sin is a kind of voluntary enslavement. We are the slaves of the one we choose to serve. In the words of Joshua, “Choose you this day whom you will serve.”

Isn’t it amazing how much easier it is to spot sin in others, than it is to see it in ourselves. Here David is trying to play Mr. Righteous to impress the prophet of God, only to discover that the prophet knows all about what David thought he had successfully covered up.

At this point, David is struck with the fear of the Lord, because he knows that God has the power to make all these things the prophet is prophesying to come to past. He had no idea at the time, than in taking another man’s wife, he was putting his own wives in jeopardy. He had no idea that in giving that death note to Uriah, that he would find himself fleeing for his life from the sword. Saints, we need to fear God, because God is looking out for our own best interest when he gives us His commandments.

2. There is moral epidemic sweeping America today. This epidemic is attacking the home, with incredibly destructive results. Christians are not exempt, even those who truly love the Lord and have sound and conservative beliefs. This epidemic is called by many names, but perhaps the best name for it is the name the Bible gives it: adultery.

3. In our morally bankrupt society, rare indeed is the adult who will not be brought face to face with this temptation at some point. The difference between being a victor and a victim may very

well lie in knowing what the Bible says about the subject.

4. We need to distinguish between two different types of adulterers.

- One is the serial adulterer. This person is a sexual predator whose life is a string of illicit relationships. For this person it is not a question of if, but just a question of when. They are simply waiting for the next opportunity.

- The other is the person like David. They didn't go looking for an affair, it's almost like it came looking for them. Once the relationship ends, it's likely they will never repeat this sin again.

I. PREPARATION

1. Like most Christians, David didn't set out to dishonor God by committing adultery. David was, "a man after God's own heart..." Why would godly David fall into this trap? Because prior events in his life had made him vulnerable. When we read 2 Samuel 6-10, we find out that David:

- had a troubled marriage (chapter 6)
- found out he wouldn't get to fulfill lifelong ambition of building the temple (chapter 7)
- emotionally battered by the death of his best friend (chapter 9)

The above sounds like psychoanalytical mumbo-jumbo. The thing that makes us vulnerable to sin is not "the events in our life" but simply our failure to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit as opposed to giving in to temptation.

2. Over the last quarter century of ministry, I have seen dozens of devout Christians fall into adultery. All of them had experienced some common factors that had made them susceptible to adultery.

? Unmet expectations (some realistic, some unrealistic)

? drastic life-changes (age, upheaval, etc)

? Feeding minds with wrong material (porn for the husband, low self esteem for the wife).

3. This all led to a general feeling of "lack" within their marriage. Not that it was bad, just that something is missing. And this is important: there is a diminishing respect for the other person.

4. What generally happens at this point is that a friendship or acquaintance develops with a member of the opposite sex. At this stage, the relationship with this other person is innocent and innocuous. However, we start to see some qualities in this person that we do not see in our spouse. At this point, we move to stage two!

II. TEMPTATION

3. See 11:1-3 David couldn't sleep one night, so he took a walk on the roof of his mansion. While he was there, he glanced toward one of the neighboring houses. Imagine his surprise when he was able to see into the bathing room of the home of one of his soldiers. There he could see a beautiful 19-year-old woman taking a bath.

4. Instead of turning away, he just kept watching. And in his mind he began to play the, "what if" game. "What would it be like if she and I got together? Wait a minute! She is the wife of one of my most trusted and loyal soldiers! But, he wouldn't have to know. Nobody would have to know. What if..."

5. Mark this: sexual sin happens in the mind long before it ever happens in the flesh. See Matthew 5:28. There is a definite article before woman, and the word looks is a progressive present tense verb, meaning an ongoing situation. The literal sense of the verse is this: "if any man continues to

lust after a particular woman..." Let me tell you how this plays out in the real world. Remember that innocent relationship with a member of the opposite sex we talked about just a minute ago? We start focusing on this person in a less than innocent way. We start playing the "what if" game that David played. Next, we start giving little "innocent" signals to this person, to let them know we might think of them as more than just a friend. When we get to this point, we are teetering on the edge of adultery.

6. The problem is that we are masters at self-deception. We can be living in Matthew 5:28, and yet convince ourselves that nothing of the sort is true. Let me give you some warning signs that indicate otherwise:

- Do you find yourself thinking about this person when you are not around them?
- Do you find reasons to be around this person?
- Do you find yourself asking, "What will this person think about this outfit" when you are deciding what to wear?
- Do you find yourself talking about things with this person that you haven't talked about with your spouse?
- Do you withhold from your spouse conversations or events involving this person?
- Do you think of this person instead of your spouse when watching a romantic movie?
- Do you find yourself thinking of this person when doing something romantic with your spouse?

7. Summary statement here.

III. TRANSGRESSION

1. See Vs 4 Having failed to resist temptation on the battlefield of the mind, the inevitable happens. David steps over the line, and commits a sin that God warns about over 80 times.
2. If you flirt with temptation long enough, it will result in sin! See James 1:14-15 We want to imagine that we are strong enough to flirt with the idea of immorality without giving in to immorality. That is a lie! Flirt with any temptation long enough, and you will eventually give in!

IV. RATIONALIZATION

1. Sam. 12. When Nathan tells him story about man stealing sheep, David is indignant. David had so rationalized what he was doing with Bathsheba that he didn't recognize himself in Nathan's parable. He didn't equate what he was doing with sin.
2. You see, when a child of God is engaged in an illicit relationship with the opposite sex, they have to come up with a reason why in their particular case it is ok to do this.
3. Illus. of man (page 9, Myth of Greener Grass)
 - "We've discovered what real love is all about. We have a right to be happy, don't we?"
 - "I have sincerely prayed for God to take away the feelings I have for this woman, and since He hasn't He must intend for us to be together!"
 - This man was a classic case of rationalizing sin!
4. Will rationalize sin in relation to God by saying
 - So unusual the may we met, it has to be of God

God is author of love, what I feel is real love.

- God wants me to be happy, and this makes me so happy.

5. Will rationalize in relation to spouse

- Never really loved spouse, or have "fallen out of love" with spouse
- Made a mistake when married spouse, and I knew it

- My spouse does so and so, so its ok for me to have this other person.
6. Christians who enter this type of sin will try to rationalize it.

V. CONVICTION

1. In chapter 12, Gods sends Nathan to speak about David's sin. Result is found in vs 13. Not the whole picture. Psalms 51:

- Vs 3- "my sin is always before me"
- Vs 4a
- Vs 8- Bones that had been broken might rejoice again
- Vs 12- "Restore to me the joy of my salvation"

2. When you are a child of God, God will always send a Nathan into your life. May be friend, sermon, magazine article etc.

3. This Nathan will produce deep and intense conviction in your life. ALWAYS! The thing that you claim makes you so happy will actually produce the deepest anguish you've ever experienced.

4. A child of God cannot tolerate that kind of pressure for long. The whole sordid mess has to be resolved one way or the other. Really only three choices:

- Continue in the illicit relationship, trying to manage the conviction. As we have already seen, this will not work.
- Leave the marriage partner for the affair partner. Doesn't work either. New wears off, have to prowl again to find something new and different. Will constantly be aware that you failed God, spouse, children, self.
- Repent and break of illicit relationship. This is what David chose. Psalms 51:1-3

Conclusion

1. I didn't teach you these things this morning to be lurid or to sensationalize. If you are going to have a passion for purity, you have to know how sexual sin happens.

2. Did you see yourself somewhere in look at David's sin? Maybe you are at the temptation stage, or even further along? Run! Bring it to Jesus!

Sin is always discovered.

In the long run, there are no secret sins. As Jesus states,

There is nothing covered up that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known. 3 Accordingly, whatever you have said in the dark shall be heard in the light, and what you have whispered in the inner rooms shall be proclaimed upon the housetops. (Luke 12:2,3)
Which would you choose? To expose your sin to God or let Him expose it and you?

Before I go on, we need to understand something else about the nature of sin.

Sin always deceives.

Sin always promises something it cannot deliver.

Temptation to sin comes across as a shortcut to fulfillment -- when really it is a dead end to death and destruction.

(Notice that David had shown remarkable restraint when it came to waiting upon God to bring him into the position of being king of all Israel. However, it did not occur to him that all areas of

our lives are to come under the provision of “waiting upon the Lord.” Some of the signs that this area of his life was not under the control of the Lord is the fact that he had multiple wives. He also had the concubines from Saul’s reign.

Just as the Jebusites has not be eradicated from Jerusalem and had grown in their influence, when we let things that are outside of God’s will for our lives to remain, these will grow in their influence and take control of parts of our lives.)

Sin is an attempt to meet our own needs apart from God’s provision.

When we hear the lies that sin utters, we are tempted to give in, to accept the deception and justify our action.

David must have done that; he knew he was doing wrong, but he may have simply justified himself, perhaps by saying

"It’s only one night -- I can go back to delighting in God’s law tomorrow;" or,

"No one is hurt by this; Uriah will never know; or,

"Think of all I’ve done for this country; surely I deserve this one little fling!"

Have you ever heard such temptations?

David was faced with a choice when he found out Bathsheba was pregnant. He knew he couldn’t hide that. He couldn’t excuse his conduct.

Rather than call Uriah back from the front to cover up his indiscretion, his sin, he could have chosen to value what God thought about him more than what others thought about him, or worrying about Uriah ‘s reaction.

If he indeed had been concerned about God’s reaction to his sin, he would have instead confessed to Uriah and asked his forgiveness.

But at this point in time, he is involved in the apex of self-worship and self-preservation.

What God thinks about him is secondary to what he wants others to believe about him, what he wants to think about himself, and how he desires to preserve his own reputation.

Have you ever covered up sin to protect yourself?

Sure you have!

We all have. At the root of such hiding is SELF and not God.

When people feel the conviction of the Spirit here on Sunday morning, they have a choice of whether to obey God and respond to the move of the Spirit in their lives, or to worry about what others will think about them coming up for prayer.

Do you think we think you are perfect? That your life is in order? That you never sin?

You are as broken as every one of us. You are as broken as me. Why hide that. If God touches you and tells you that you need ministry or prayer, then come and get it. Worry less about your own image and more about what God thinks about you.

When God is your focus, then there is no barrier too great to cross,

No shame too great to bear,

No self-image too important to hold onto,

Because you act for the love of God and for GOD’S EYE ALONE!

There are several key points to this story that you and I need to pay special attention to.

The first is found in verse 5 of Chapter 12. "the man who has done this deserves to die."

The second is found in v. 13, "I have sinned."

The third is found in v. 13 also, "The Lord has taken away your sin; you shall not die."

Lets examine why these are so important to our subject today, and how they help us answer the question of "Why do I worship?"

I worship Because I deserved to die for my sin - is the righteous pronouncement by God upon every person who sins.

The bible says that the "wages of sin is death."

Now, doesn't that sound awfully severe for sin? But it was the penalty for our first parents, Adam and Eve. They were designed to not die, and they chose to meet their own needs, to act like they were God, and as a result they were separated from God.

The 'death' we speak of isn't physical, although the physical death is a very clear mirror of the spiritual death that we are speaking about.

The death we speak of is separation from God. It is eternal and it is spiritual.

We all deserve to die for our sin.

Our wages we earn is death for our sin. And all of us have sinned.

"I worship because you have led me to acknowledge my sin."

David had always known he'd sinned against God, but after this conversation with Nathan, the weight of his sin sunk in. He became very aware that God knows. What do you do when you know that God knows?

It is amazing what being "caught in your sin" does to your illusion of self-righteousness.

Some folks will continue to create bigger lies to cover up their lies.

Like, "it depends on what the meaning of "is" is."

But those who recognize their sin, allow the light to not only expose their sin, but to bring them to their knees.

I have heard of wives saying, "he is only repentant because he got caught."

That is very true. Most folks will not repent until they are caught! By then it can become tragic, as in David's case. He hadn't just committed adultery, he had murdered one of his nation's heroes.

And sin has its consequences, which cannot be avoided. Damaged relationships and destroyed reputations are the fallout from hidden sin.

This is because sin always destroys.

Here is the good news: "I worship because you have taken away my sin and died in my place"

When David confessed his sin, he met God's judgment, but it was tempered with mercy.

Yes it is true that the first part of Romans 6:23 says, "For the wages of sin is death;" as I quoted early in this message, but the last part says, "but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

David was suffered consequences of his sin - It cost him his son and his reputation.

But David didn't get what he really deserved. He got mercy. In fact, he got what he didn't deserve: He got forgiveness.

Mercy – not getting what we deserve.

Grace – getting what we don't deserve.

But in the midst of God's judgment, His grace flowed freely. His sin was forgiven. Grace was extended.

That is the power of confession.

In the midst of confession, God's grace freely flows and gives us what we don't deserve-forgiveness and his mercy falls down on us and doesn't give us what we do deserve-death.

Without confession, there is no forgiveness.

Without forgiveness, there is no worship.