

LESSONS FROM THE SIN OF DAVID

2 Sam. 11:1-12:23

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INTRODUCTION:

- A. 2 Sam. 11:1-5, darkest spot in David's life. Sin led to murder; formed turning point in his life.
- B. Accuracy of Bible attested by the fact it is faithful to relate faults as well as faithfulness of those it applauds. Ex.: Noah, Abraham, Jacob, Moses.
 - 1. Records David's sin.
 - 2. Great profit, Rom. 15:4; 2 Tim. 3:16. A storehouse of lessons.

I. SIN OFTEN RESULTS FROM BEING IN WRONG PLACE, 11:1, 2. cf. 11:11; 12:27, 28.

- C. A homely observation, yet men are often led into temptation as a result of this.
- D. No doubt some in audience can verify.
- E. Lord only knows how many have fallen into same snares as David as result of dances, movies, mixed swimming or other lasc. parties.
 - 1. Not saying all sin results from this, but that many deliberately allow selves in such situations to be led into temptation. See how close can get to sin.
 - 2. **QUESTION:** What leads people into places of temptation? Curiosity, companions, desire to be great in the world. But in David's case, idleness, 11:2. Old saying: "Standing water gathers filth."

II. SIN CANNOT FOREVER BE HID & IS BOUND TO BE DISCOVERED, 11:5. *Some may, however, be hid for a time*, Num. 32:23.

- A. Bound to come to light, Eccl. 12:13, 14.
- B. Fact can be hid from men no proof can be from God, 1 Cor. 4:5; Heb. 4:13. Some try to hide adultery, lies, drunkenness, stealing, etc.
- C. Point is men have not ceased clever attempts to hide iniquity. And the effort to make Uriah drunk ought to remind man that men will do things when drunk they will not do when sober. And the Bible elsewhere confirms this point: Prov. 20:1: "Wine is a mocker; strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise."

III. SIN ONCE BEGUN OFTEN LEADS TO FURTHER SIN, 11:13, 14-17.

- A. David is an example of what good men become when yield to devil. Observe progress: adultery to getting Uriah drunk, then Uriah's murder and death of other soldiers.
- B. Sin like quicksand, always drags sinner deeper, Psa. 1:1ff.
- C. QUESTION: How does sin lead to sin? Sin leads to further sin because men must sin to conceal sin. Ex., men rob a bank and then must break other laws to escape (sometimes murder, stolen car, etc.).
- D. Need this emphasis to encourage one to repent when he sins, else one will be found "adding sin to sin."

IV. SIN OFTEN RESULTS IN HARM TO THOSE WHO ARE INNOCENT, 11:15, 17; cf. 11:20, 21; 12:14, 15.

- A. Consider how this was true in Adam's sin.
- B. Innocent suffer because of our sins today. Ex.: drunkenness, lawbreaking (Like casting rock in water: effects are far reaching).

V. SIN OFTEN LEADS MEN INTO HYPOCRISY, 11:22, 25.

- A. Hypocrisy defined in Matt. 22:3-5.
- B. Hypocrites are pretenders or actors.
- C. Probably no one more despised than hypocrite, yet so easy to allow selves to be led into this sin. Ex. Lying, adultery, stealing — become hypocrites if pretend to be upright.

VI. SIN ALWAYS DISPLEASES THE LORD, 11:27.

- A. Some think God pays no attention to what men do, but not true. See Psa. 139:7-16.
- B. God's displeasure deserved (no excuse for David's sin). No excuse for our sins.
- C. God's displeasure impartial; displeased no matter who commits sin. God loved David — that was not the problem; not an issue in this case. But God hated David's sin even though God himself said David was a man after his own heart.
- D. David was good in many ways, yet God was displeased with his sin. This displeasure was there even if sin hidden from men, and even if others were not displeased.
- E. Our aim is to always please the Lord by not sinning against him (no matter

how popular, pleasant, or gainful) so as not to bring his displeasure upon us. See Col. 1:10 with 2 Cor. 5:9 and 2 Tim. 2:4.

F. So if a thing causes the words, "Thing displeases Lord," to be affixed to it, don't do it!

VII. GOD SEEKS TO CORRECT THOSE WHO SIN AGAINST HIM, 12:1.

A. Evidence of God's love, Jno. 3:16.

B. This verse (12:1) reminds us that this is the means God most often uses to correct those who sin: human messengers.

C. This is how God brings gospel to men (Rom. 10:13-17), and how he attempts to bring men back to faithfulness (Acts 8:20; Gal. 6:1, 2; Jas. 5:19, 20).

D. Note David's attitude toward Nathan:

1. Many would have (1) ignored, or else (2) fallen out with Nathan, or they would have (3) attempted to justify self, or (4) denied their guilt.

2. But David knew Nathan was simply God's messenger. That's all elders, preachers and other Christians are when they attempt to teach and correct: God's messengers. See 2 Tim. 4:2; Tit. 2:15 with Gal. 6:1, 2 and Jas. 5:19, 20.

3. *David named his son after Nathan, 2 Sam. 5:14. The lesson: the greatest friend a person can have is the one who attempts to lead him out of sin; the greatest kindness is rebuke.*

VIII. TIME NEVER ERASES SIN, 12:1.

A. Time passed between David's sin and coming of Nathan. Eg., child born, 11:27; 12:14, 15.

B. Some have strange idea that time erases sin, and that old sins should not be rebuked or corrected.

C. Truth just the opposite: text, and Psa. 50:21; Rev. 2:4.

D. Nothing worse than forgetting sin; causes it to go unrepented of. Does God forget?

IX. OFTENTIMES SIN APPEARS WORSE IN OTHERS THAN IN OWN LIVES, 12:2-6.

A. Most admit this is true in their lives as in David's.

B. How for David? Failed to apply same standard to self by which others are

- condemned. Is this a reason why we make excuses and justify self?
- C. Don't know what David told self, but could have been:
1. Had right to do what he wanted, and not Nathan's or anybody else's business.
 2. Bathsheba was willing, therefore was her fault.
 3. Only sinned once.
 4. God made me like I am, therefore God's fault.
- D. But whatever excuse one may give, it does not justify. Ought to be harder on self than anyone else.

X. IN GOD'S SIGHT NO EXCUSE FOR SIN, AND WHEN MEN SIN IT AMOUNTS TO DESPISING GOD AND HIS WORD, 12:7-10.

- A. Men are prone to look at things only from own eyes. But what about God's, 1 Sam. 2:20.
- B. God's law rests on his authority and sinners when rebel against the authority, rebel against God.

XI. SINNERS MAY SUFFER CONSEQUENCE OF THEIR SIN EVEN THOUGH FORGIVEN, 12:10-14.

- A. One baptized after he commits murder, but still must pay.
- B. This emphasizes danger of sin; that though one is forgiven, he may still suffer consequences. People ought to think about that before they get into some of their messes.

XII. SIN OF GOD'S PEOPLE DOES GREAT HARM TO CAUSE AND HONOR OF THE LORD, 12:14.

- A. Atheist blamed Chxy. for abuses of so-called God-fearing men.
- B. If live holy lives, God is glorified, 1 Pet. 2:11, 12.
- C. If unholy, reproach on the Lord; so with David, and see Rom. 2:17-24.
- D. Should ask self, Is what I am doing causing good or harm to the Lord's cause?

XIII. SIN OFTEN IN THE END BRINGS GREAT SORROW, 12:16-19.

- A. Consider sorrow sin will bring to those who refuse to obey gospel, 1 Pet. 4:14, and Paul's answer to Peter's question, 2 Thess. 1:7-9.
- B. Consider sorrow sin will bring to unfaithful child of God, Matt. 25:30; 2 Pet. 2:20-22.

C. Those who would be saved must suffer sorrow, 2 Cor. 7:10.

CONCLUSION:

1. None of us is beyond the reach of temptation. In day and age in which we live, let us fear if such strong and great hero as David could fall.
2. Let us resolve always to turn quickly from sin whenever it is found in our lives.