

Chapter 12

Good evening and thank you for joining us. Would you please turn in your Bibles to 2 Samuel chapter 12?

We are at one of the most scandalous moments in all of the Bible, the sin of David and Bathsheba. And chapter 12 is a tough chapter, and causes every reader to ask some hard questions as they read this text.

So before we just jump into our study in chapter 12, we need to remind ourselves of the events of chapter 11.

Remember, David's fall didn't begin on that roof when he saw Bathsheba bathing. David's problem with lust began much earlier than that.

In our study of 1 Samuel, we saw how David remained humble after killing Goliath. He didn't try on crowns afterward, he remained faithful even as Saul hunted him like an animal. David was a inspirational man!

But as time went on, we see that David also loved many women. Against the teaching of the law of God, scriptures indicate David had at least 8 wives and many concubines.

Remember no tree suddenly rots and splits, no marriage suddenly fails, no pastor suddenly falls. It's a process.

The enemy is so patient and brilliant, he'll take years. He'll drop a little crumb here and there to keep us interested, and to keep us curious as he sets his plot to ensnare us.

Remember back to chapter 1 of 2 Samuel, upon learning of the death of his best friend Jonathan and the death of King Saul, David writes a psalm called the song of the bow. And in it, 3 times David cries out 'how the mighty have fallen!!'

From chapters 1-10 we see that David is undefeated in battle. Never once did Israel lose a battle under David's rule. Think about that. He expanded Israel's border from 6k to 60k square miles. The pride and patriotism of the nation was at heights never before, or since reached. Israel was blossoming

But during this successful period, David kept adding to his harem: **2 Samuel 5:13 And David took more concubines and wives from Jerusalem, after he had come from Hebron. Also more sons and daughters were born to David.** His insatiable desire for sex is weakening David, chiseling away at his character and integrity bit by bit. And he doesn't even know it.

His opinion poll is at an all-time high. Popularity rate off the charts. Maximum power and prosperity, luxurious lifestyle, respect of his army, he had it all. And he also had this area of unrepentant sin that was festering like cancer.

It makes us wonder, how could he be so blind? On top of that, where were the other godly men to call him out? But apparently nobody does, I mean who would confront the most successful king with the fact he broke God's law?

Before we get to chapter 12 I want us to look at few verses of chapter 11.

The title of tonight's message is XXXX

Let's pray

Chapter 11

1 It happened in the spring of the year, at the time when kings go out to battle, that David sent Joab and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the people of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem.

David didn't go out to battle? Prolly thinks his commander Joab can take care of it. BTW if you're battling lust, remember lust doesn't grow when you're fully engaged in the calling God has given you. Also, the bible tells us to flee youthful lusts. You cannot lust and run at the same time.

But David is lounging around. See the ingredients are all here for disaster. Secret sin, lack of accountability, and David has time on his hands.

2 Then it happened one evening that David arose from his bed and walked on the roof of the king's house. And from the roof he saw a woman bathing, and the woman was very beautiful to behold

SHOW PIC We were just here literally a week ago, the highest point in the city of David, the place David would've been. He's having a restless night, unable to sleep and decides to get some fresh air, looking out upon his kingdom. **CLOSE PIC**

And that's when he sees her.

When the scriptures say the woman was very beautiful, she is gorgeous, and he stares. And his heart begins to race. The imagination wanders, the possibilities now grip him, and David wants her.

Remember, David's got all these different wives, all these concubines, but he wants her. Because he's never had her.

3 So David sent and inquired about the woman. And someone said, "Is this not Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?" When genealogies are given, it's the father named, and grandfather. Rarely is a mate mentioned. See they know what's in David's mind. They say uh, David she's married. And she's married to one of your mighty men.

4 Then David sent messengers, and took her; That didn't stop David did it? He was blinded by his lust. and she came to him, and he lay with her, for she was cleansed from her impurity; and she returned to her house. David has his way with her, and he thinks 'done.' The Bible tells us

Proverbs 9:17 Stolen water is sweet,

And bread eaten in secret is pleasant.”

The Bible also tells us that sin is pleasurable for a season. And I'm sure on that bed it was ecstasy for a few moments. But David will spend the rest of his life dealing with this sin's consequences.

Galatians 6:7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.

5 And the woman conceived; so she sent and told David, and said, “I am with child.” Sin has consequences.

Later we learn that David brings Bathsheba's husband Uriah back home to try and sleep with his wife so the baby will not be thought of as David's.

And Uriah trusts his king, but this faithful soldier can't bear the thought of even touching his wife while his men are in battle. Uriah refuses to engage in pleasure, he refuses to cooperate with king David, even when the king gets him drunk.

David, in a shockingly sinister move, finally summons Uriah and hands the man the hidden death warrant to him. 2 Samuel 11:14 In the morning it happened that David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it by the hand of Uriah. 15 And he wrote in the letter, saying, “Set Uriah in the forefront of the hottest battle, and retreat from him, that he may be struck down and die.”

David is so desperate to cover up his sin, he commits murder

But Uriah doesn't know what's inside that letter. You can picture the scene, Uriah gets his own death warrant handed to him, without reading it folds it up, puts it in his pouch, and marches to Joab his commander and says 'I have a message from the king.' And we're shocked!

Remember that line that David cried out in chapter 1-David forgot all about it- 'how the mighty have fallen'. He's completely self-deceived, because lust is that powerful.

That's the longest intro I've ever done, but it's important we set the stage, because Chapter 12 takes place about a year later after those fateful events. Bathsheba was now queen, and a baby had been born.

David is on the throne, but the king is far from a happy camper. The previous year had been tormenting. The shame and guilt – the conviction of God – had driven him to misery. His secret sin formed a cloud that blocked out the light of God's love. David wrote of this experience in **Psalm 32:3 When I kept silent, my bones grew old**

Through my groaning all the day long.

4 For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me;

My vitality was turned into the drought of summer.

Up to this point, David has resisted the Lord's promptings to repent. But God has a way of getting our attention doesn't he?

Chapter 12 1-4

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. 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. 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." Nathan's parable which came from God, appealed to David's compassion as a shepherd. David is outraged and no way will the king allow this behavior in his kingdom...

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! David is incensed, and pronounces death upon the man who took the poor man's only sheep.

BTW, this death sentence is nowhere commanded in the law of Moses. David is speaking purely from emotion.

Have you ever noticed our sins always look worse on others than they do on ourselves? When we're in sin we say 'o man I'm struggling.' But someone else does the same sin and we're like- 'God strike 'em down.'

David continues

6 And he shall restore fourfold for the lamb, because he did this thing and because he had no pity." Why did David command a fourfold restoration? He was quoting God's law **Exodus 22:1, "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."**

Of course David is proof, just knowing the Bible doesn't mean a person is walking in accordance with the Bible.

So after pronouncing his judgment...

7 Then Nathan said to David, “You are the man! Pause here. This is certainly one of the most dramatic sentences in the Bible. Since several months had passed since David had committed his sins, they weren’t probably in the forefront of his mind. He probably thought he had got away with it. But we cannot fool the Lord.

7-9

7 Then Nathan said to David, “You are the man! 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! David had been blessed in many incredible ways by the Lord. Look at all God had given him. But that’s what Satan does when he tempts us isn’t it? When temptation is staring us in the face, we’re not thinking of all the blessings we have from God, we’re thinking about what we don’t have!

Remember when we’re tempted, there’s always a way out.

1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it. Of course we know David didn’t take the way out.

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. Remember back in Numbers 32:23 But if you do not do so, then take note, you have sinned against the LORD; and be sure your sin will find you out.

David's sin has been found out hasn't it? And his punishment is spelled out in verse 10

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.' By sinning, David was actually despising God.

Jesus tells us in **John 14:15 "If you love Me, keep My commandments.** When we intentionally go against God, we're declaring our lack of love for Him.

David's price for his sin is that the sword would never depart from his house. As we'll see in coming weeks, David's own sons will be at odds with each other and their father, committing unspeakable atrocities.

According to Exodus 22 and David's own words - the owner of the ewe lamb in Nathan's parable - should repay fourfold for his thievery. Four of David's sons die - the newborn of David and Bathsheba, his other sons Amnon, Absalom, and Adonijah each die violent deaths.

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.' " In other words, David's wives will be violated in broad daylight. Years later, when the king's son, Absalom, rebels against David, and launches a coup - he runs David out of town, takes his throne, and his harem, and defiles his father's wives. Absalom sets up a tent on the roof of the palace so all Israel sees his adultery.

Now that David is confronted with his sin, and his punishment, what is his reaction?

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. This is a reminder of **Romans 5:20**
Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more

David had sinned against Bathsheba – against Uriah – against their family – against his own wives and his family – against the nation... but what mattered most was his sin had broken the heart of his God. He says, “I have sinned against the LORD.”

Keep your hand here and turn to Psalm 51

To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David when Nathan the prophet went to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.

1 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,[fn]

And blameless when You judge.

5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,

And in sin my mother conceived me.

6 Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts,
And in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom.

7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

8 Make me hear joy and gladness,
That the bones You have broken may rejoice.

9 Hide Your face from my sins,
And blot out all my iniquities.

10 Create in me a clean heart, O God,
And renew a steadfast spirit within me.

11 Do not cast me away from Your presence,
And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.

12 Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,
And uphold me by Your generous Spirit.

13 Then I will teach transgressors Your ways,
And sinners shall be converted to You.

14 Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God,
The God of my salvation,
And my tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness.

15 O Lord, open my lips,
And my mouth shall show forth Your praise.

16 For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it;

You do not delight in burnt offering.

17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit,

A broken and a contrite heart—

These, O God, You will not despise.

18 Do good in Your good pleasure to Zion;

Build the walls of Jerusalem.

19 Then You shall be pleased with the sacrifices of
righteousness,

With burnt offering and whole burnt offering;

Then they shall offer bulls on Your altar.

In this world when something is broken, we throw it away. But in God's kingdom when something's broken, God desires to mend and heal that broken person. He's the potter, we are the clay.

If we come to Him with a repentant heart, God will always forgive our sin, but forgiveness of sin doesn't guarantee the removal of all sin's consequences. I've seen people come to God hoping to walk away scot-free. Their desire is to shirk responsibility for what they've done.

But proof of genuine repentance is a willingness to own my sin – take responsibility for its consequences.

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.” This is what happens when a televangelist, or big-name pastor, when they fall or do something hypocritical it's always the Lord that gets slandered isn't it? It's always the Lord that becomes the target-'how could the church let this happen.'

As a result of David's sin, his son born of Bathsheba is going to die.

15 Then Nathan departed to his house. And the LORD struck the child that Uriah's wife bore to David, and it became ill. Notice it doesn't say "Bathsheba" – but "Uriah's wife"

16-17

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. David refuses food until the fate of his child is decided. If there's an opportunity for prayer to affect the situation David wants to pray.

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!" David has refused food. He's done nothing but pray for this child six days. His servants are afraid if they tell the king his child is dead - he'll come unglued.

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." 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. Pause here. David doesn't get bitter. The ability to worship and honor God in a time of trial or crisis is a wonderful demonstration of spiritual confidence.

...20 Then he went to his own house; and when he requested, they set food before him, and he ate. 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^[fn] 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.” David declares there will be a reunion that takes place with his deceased child. David knew he would meet his son in heaven. This is one of the proof texts for knowing that when a baby or a little child dies they go to heaven.

24 Then David comforted Bathsheba his wife, and went in to her and lay with her. So she bore a son, and he^[fn] called his name Solomon. Now the LORD loved him, Here’s amazing grace in action. God chooses to bless a marriage born in sin. He gives David another son. Sin does have its consequences - but once dealt with, God can take even a person’s sin – even an act of adultery and murder - and turn it into good.

God is more gracious than we are!

25 and He sent word by the hand of Nathan the prophet: So he^[fn] called his name Jedidiah,^[fn] because of the LORD. It means “beloved of the Lord”. Solomon will grow up to be David’s successor, and the builder of the Temple.

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. Once you have the water supply, the city is toast.

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.” 29 So David gathered all the people together and went to Rabbah, fought against it, and took it. Joab goaded David into returning to battle by saying, “I’ll take all the credit to myself if you don’t come and finish this war.”

Joab struggled for more than a year to conquer Rabbah, and the victory only came when David got things right with God. It’s quite possible there was an unseen spiritual reason behind the lack of victory at Rabbah.

30-31

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. David was in victory once again. His sin didn’t condemn him to a life of failure and defeat. There was chastisement for David’s sin, but it did not mean that his life was ruined.

This brings about all sorts of questions. There doesn’t seem to be a lot of fairness in this chapter does there? We have questions-it doesn’t seem fair the child dies. It’s not fair that David lived! Aren’t you glad God’s not fair-Jesus died in our place-that’s not fair.