

2 Samuel 12 - Thursday, April 2nd, 2015

- Because it's been several weeks since we were in our study of 2nd Samuel, I'll take a little bit of time to set the stage, as it were.
- It all started when David made the catastrophic decision to remain in Jerusalem instead of going to battle as kings did in spring.
- This led to one particular evening when he couldn't fall asleep then gets up and notices Bathsheba bathing on the roof close by.

- In spite of the warnings David sends for her lies with her and she returns to her home, and it would appear he gets away with it.
- That is until Bathsheba sends a message to David that she is pregnant with his child. Then David's response is just disastrous.
- Instead of confessing his sin David seeks to cover up his sin and in so doing ties the hands of God's forgiveness and cleansing.

- It's hard to imagine but David not confessing and choosing to cover it up instead would bring about such horrific consequences.
- Namely, this unwanted pregnancy, then subsequently the death of this precious baby, not to mention the murder of one Uriah.
- If this weren't bad enough his son rapes his daughter, one son murders another son and there's a rebellion by his son Absalom.

- Be that as it may, David's cover up Plan A is met with utter and total failure when Uriah doesn't do what he had hoped he'd do.
- More specifically, the plan to get Uriah to have relations with his wife in order to cover up Bathsheba's pregnancy as being his.
- Interestingly, we're told not just that he didn't sleep with her we're told why. He couldn't enjoy his wife while Israel was in battle?

- Instead of repenting, which he could have done at this point, David resorts to getting Uriah drunk so his resolve is weakened.
- However, David has underestimated the commitment and character of his faithful servant and loyal soldier who will not give in.
- As one said, David was drunk with lust and slept with Bathsheba, and hoped making Uriah drunk with wine would do the same.

- Sadly, when this plan fails, David writes a letter and has Uriah himself carry it to Joab, not knowing that it's his death sentence.
- Joab then places Uriah on the front line per David's instructions, which ultimately leads to his murder in David's cover up effort.
- One might think that alas, David's plan has finally succeeded in muting the voice of Uriah who alone could testify against him.

- Unfortunately, nothing could be further from the truth; now, the enemy is rejoicing at David's fall, little by little, over the 20-years.
- In other words, David didn't go from lust to adultery to deception to murder overnight rather, it took place over a period of years.
- Then there's Bathsheba, who goes along with David's scheme even though her husband has now been murdered by her lover.

- This makes me wonder about Bathsheba. The question to me is; I wonder if she's relieved at the news of her husband's death?
- If you really think about it, she is complicit in this act of adultery and as such, would have been punished for this capital crime.
- Instead, she seems to go from adulterous to victim and widow overnight, and with her, David is a hero instead of a murderer.

- Another question I have is; does Bathsheba know that David arranged for her husband to be murdered so he could cover it up?
- Some suggest that she did not know and just assumed he had become a casualty of war, and that she herself is not culpable.
- Well, regardless of what she knew or didn't know David marries her and she gives birth to a son, which brings us to chapter 12.

- However, I would like to read the last verse of chapter 11 first, as it explains why the Lord is about to send Nathan the prophet.

2 Samuel 11:27 (NKJV) — 27 And when her mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD.

- The reason I want to point this out is that David knew what he did had displeased the Lord; yet, he does not repent as a result.
- This because, David has shut his ears to the still small voice of the Holy Spirit's conviction, which is why God sends Nathan.
- The lesson here becomes quite clear, such that, we do err greatly when we refuse to listen to, and heed the Spirit's conviction.

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." 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."

- Kindly allow me to share a couple of thoughts here on Nathan's Parable, which David thinks is true and he's to judge the case.
- First, we, like David, are quick to condemn our sin when someone else is guilty of it. Our sin always looks worse on another.
- Second, God is being most loving and merciful in sending Nathan to David. David loved Nathan, and Nathan was his friend.

Charles Spurgeon of this said, "Such a sin could not remain unpunished. The Lord sent the same messenger to rebuke who had formerly come to bless. It was a great mercy on God's part to send a faithful preacher to David; if He had not loved him, He might have left him to his own hardness of heart. We ought to bless God much for those who will honestly deliver the divine message to us, whether it be sweet or bitter."

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! 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.

- I can't help but wonder how David must have felt after God lists very specifically all that He had given to, and done for David.
- And if that had been too little God through Nathan tells him He would have also given David much more. How could you David?
- If this weren't bad enough, we're about to see the consequences of his sin, which speaks to the fact there are consequences.

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.' "

- It's important to understand David hasn't said a word since passing judgment on the man in Nathan's parable. He just listens.
- I can't even begin to imagine what is going through his mind after hearing all of this. As we'll see next, he will finally confess.
- To his credit, this is godly sorrow that leads to a genuine repentance, such that, he never does anything like this ever again.

- By the way, this repentance wasn't spontaneous. It's been at least 9-months; some think a year since David had done this.
- We get a glimpse into the heart of David during this time by way of Psalm 51 in which David very candidly begs, God for mercy.

Psalm 51:1-4 – 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, And blameless when You judge.

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. 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."

- I find it rather interesting that God would first mention the occasion David's sin has given God's enemies to blaspheme Him.
- He mentions this consequence even before He does the second one, which is the death of David's son born to Bathsheba.
- The question becomes, why? I believe for David, this would have been worse than anything else, even his own son's death.

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

- This one passage gives hope to everyone who has experienced the death of an infant child, knowing they're with the Lord.

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

- This speaks to how God does not allow failure to have the final word in our lives. But God, can work even this out for the good.