

10/18/09

The Adulterous Sin of David

2Sam. 11:1-27

The life of David was one big miracle by the hand of God, allowing him to have success and victory.

1. God took him from the sheepcotes and anointed him to be King by Samuel.
2. God was with him as he defeated Goliath.
3. David became Saul's armor-bearer and later his captain, until he sought his life.
4. As Saul pursued David, God delivered David.
5. God had given David all of Israel as well as dominion over his enemies.
6. David had God's promise of an heir to his throne and of Messiah through his seed.

Many must have been the thoughts of David, as he looked back on the struggles, difficult times when he thought he was going to be killed by Saul.

* Yet the greatest danger to David was to come to him in time of comfort, peace, success and wealth.

David, a man after God's own heart, was not destroyed by any great army but by the weakness of his flesh, in his sin of adultery with Bathsheba.

* For by means of a harlot a man is reduced to a crust of bread. Prov. 6:26a

From this point on we are going to see the decline of David and his kingdom, he was never the same. 2Sam. 11-20

Remember the Scriptures say that all the things that happened to those in the wilderness happened unto them for examples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world have come. 1Cor. 10:11-12

1. There is a general self-confidence that says, "I would never do that."
 2. I know what the word of God says about sexual sin.
 3. I used to have problems in the flesh, but now I am strong.
- * Therefore let him that thinks he stands take heed lest he fall! 1Cor. 10:12

The sin of adultery by David unfolds for us in four progressive movements. 2Sam. 11:1-27

- I. The sin of David. vs. 1-5
- II. The cover-up of David. vs. 6-13
- III. The desperation of David. vs. 14-21
- IV. The deception of David. vs. 22-27

I. The sin of David. vs. 1-5

- A. The sin of David was directly related to being where he wasn't supposed to be. vs. 1
 1. The time frame is when kings go out to war, the spring. vs. 1a-b

- a. The spring, between April and June, when the rains ceased and crops were available, the best time to fight wars. March is named after Mars, the god of war.
 - b. David should have been with his men, out in battle.
- 2 The King David sent Joab and his servants and all Israel, to destroy the people of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. vs. 1c-e
- a. Job is his general.
 - b. His servants, officers, probably mercenaries.
 - c. All of Israel, the Hebrew warriors.
 - b. The war against the Ammonites was due to David attempting to comfort, Hanun, son of the king of Ammon, who had died. 2Sam. 10:1-14
 - 1) The princes told Hunun that David was sending men to spy out the land. 2Sam. 10:3
 - 2) So they humiliated them by shaving half their beards and cutting their garments up to their buttocks. 2Sam. 10:4
3. The King David tarried at Jerusalem. vs. 1f
- a. David had always led his men into battle and known for fighting the battle of the Lord.

- b. David was probably in his 50's, but he could have helped to strategize.
 - c. Job will be calling David to come and take the Ammonite royal city of Rabbah, for himself. 2Sam. 12:27
 - d. David was where he shouldn't have been, being idle.
- B. The temptation of David began very innocently. vs. 2
- 1. David happened to rise from his bed and walked out on the roof of his house, in the evening. vs. 2a
 - a. The roof were flat and still are in the middle east.
 - 1) They are used for entertaining, drying clothes and other things.
 - 2) They are considered part of the house, enclosed at times, they even slept on the roofs. 1Sam. 9:25
 - b. The reason is not stated, probably to enjoy the view and fresh air, on a warm evening.
 - 1) David was now enjoying absolute wealth, fame and power, as king, but he was idle, perhaps even bored.
 - 2) David's relationship with God must of become formal and cold for some time, for this kind of sin those not happen in one day!

2. David saw a very beautiful woman bathing from his rooftop. vs. 2b-c
 - a. The word beautiful “towb” refers to physical appearance, not her face.
 - b. There was nothing wrong or evil, if it was by accident, this was David’s first check by the Spirit of God.
 - c. What is wrong is what he did with the impermissible or evil, after being confronted with it.
 - d. David already had many wives.
 - 1) “David had Ahinoam of Jezreel, and Abigail the Carmelite as wives” 1Sam. 25:43
 - 2) And David took more concubines and wives from Jerusalem, after Hebron. 2Sam. 5:13
 - 3) David had seven, with Michal at this point, plus concubines.
 - * The interesting thing about sexual desire is that, the more you are involved, the more it intensifies, rather diminishing.
 - e. David had a crisis, a crucial point where he was either going to resist the sin or run with it.
 - 1) We are to resist the devil.... Ja. 4:7
 - 2) We are to bring our thoughts into captivity. 2Cor. 10:5
 - 3) Jesus said “But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust

for her has already committed **adultery** with her in his heart.”
Matt. 5:28

- C. The commitment of David on his course of action was set. vs. 3
 1. David enquired about the woman, lets take this as the second check. vs. 3a
 - a. He did not resist his sin nature and yielded to ongoing lust.
 - b. He made a choice of the will to follow his enticement and abusing his power.
 - c. The word “sent” is key, appearing ten times. vs. 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 14, 18, 22, 27
 2. David was admonished by a nameless servant that could see his intentions, the third check, “And someone said, “Is this not Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?” vs. 3b-d
 - a. She was the daughter of Eliam, son of Ahithophel and one of David’s honorable thirty mighty men, which made her the granddaughter of Ahithophel, David’s friend and adviser. 2Sam. 23:34
 - * Which could be one big reason for Ahithophel siding with Absalom!
 - b. She was the wife of Uriah the Hittite, another one of David’s thirty, mighty men. 2Sam. 23:29
 - 1) Uriah could be a convert to Judaism.

- 2) The name Uriah “Uwriyah” means Yahweh is the light.
 - 3) Bathsheba means “daughter of an oath”.
3. David at this point would have been better have ridden out to war.
- a. David could of stopped at this point and asked God forgiveness for his lust and he would have been alright.
 - b. But David persisted to feed his lust.
 - * Sometimes the only thing may be able to do, is to run like Joseph!
- D. The determination of David to sin had been made up in his mind. vs. 4
- * He makes the worst decision of his entire life, he chooses and decides to ignore the warnings of God and his servants.
1. He sent messengers to take her and she came to him. vs. 4a-c
 - a. This is the fourth check, David is acting as if he is above the law.
 - b. The fifth check was when she came to David, before sinning!
 2. He laid with her, she had just purified herself from her monthly cycle, when David first saw her bathing, indicating she was not pregnant at the time. vs. 4d-e
 - a. David sinned against God.
 - b. David sinned against his own wives.
 - c. David sinned against Uriah.

- d. David sinned with Bathsheba.
 - e. David sinned against his own body.
3. He allowed her back to her house. vs. 4f
- a. David had no intentions to marry her.
 - 1) David only sought to gratify himself.
 - 2) David treated her, as an immoral woman.
 - * She purified herself according to the law, but it did not cover her adultery before God. Lev. 15:13
 - b. David knew that the law said, both should be stoned. Lev. 20:10
 - 1) David’s sin was greater because of who he was.
 - 2) To those that much is given, much more is required. Lk. 12:48e-g
 - c. David went through the very same steps as Eve. Gen. 3:6
 - 1) She saw that the tree was good for food, he saw her washing.
 - 2) She saw that it was pleasant to the eye, she was very beautiful.
 - 3) She desired to make one wise, thought to experience something different and new.
 - 4) She took and ate, the act of adultery
- E. The reaping of David to his sin did not take long. vs. 5

- * Adultery is the first on the list of the works of the flesh and fornication follows. Gal. 5:19
1. Bathsheba becomes pregnant, she conceived. vs. 5a
 - a. Bathsheba is not without fault, give her the benefit of the doubt, that she was ignorant about her exposure on the rooftop, though I doubt it!
 - b. Bathsheba did not resist or ask David to stop and not do such a thing, she was permissive and a party to the sin.
 - 1) The law stated a woman forced to have sex in the country, would be innocent, only the man would die, giving her the benefit of having yielded for help, but no one heard her, to help her. Deut. 22:25-26
 - 2) The law stated, if a woman was forced in the city, both were to be stoned, because her crying out would have summoned help and proved her innocence. Deut. 22:24
 - 3) Bathsheba did not cry out, no one heard her!
 2. Bathsheba sent and told David, "I am with child." vs. 5b-d
 - a. These are the only words on record of Bathsheba.
 - b. Both had ignored the check points.

- c. Both had not tried to hid their meeting, the servants knew all.
- d. Both committed adultery, which has to be the most selfish of all sins.
 - 1) It has only one thing in mind, to gratify one's flesh.
 - 2) It takes no account or thought about the damage to the other mates or the children.
 - 3) It is the defilement of the Holy of Holies God has given to a man and woman.
- d. Both ignored that sex is intended for the sanctity of marriage.
 - 1) Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled. Heb. 13:4
 - 2) The man and the woman were both naked and were not ashamed, they were to be fruitful and multiply. Gen. 2:25, 28
- e. David had broken several commandments.
 - 1) He stole a woman not his.
 - 2) He committed adultery.
 - 3) He coveted his neighbor's wife.
 - 4) "Do not lust after her beauty in your heart, Nor let her allure you with her eyelids. "For by means of a harlot A man is reduced to a crust of bread; And an adulteress will prey upon his precious life.

Can a man take fire to his bosom,
 And his clothes not be burned?
 Can one walk on hot coals, And
 his feet not be seared? So is he
 who goes in to his neighbor's wife;
 Whoever touches her shall not be
 innocent. People do not despise a
 thief If he steals to satisfy himself
 when he is starving. Yet when he
 is found, he must restore
 sevenfold; He may have to give up
 all the substance of his house.
 Whoever commits adultery with a
 woman lacks understanding; He
 who does so destroys his own
 soul." Prov. 6:26-32

Illustration

Sow a thought, reap an act,
 So an act, reap a deed.
 Sow a deed, reap a habit.
 Sow a habit, reap a character.
 Sow a character, reap a destiny.

Application

1. Beware of taking a step back from serving God to take your time of ease, to enjoy your abundance, as the fool in the parable Jesus gave, not knowing his soul was required that very night. Lk. 12:18-21
 * The majority of the kings, fell in their old age!

- 2.** Beware of the lust of the flesh, the pride of life, they are the feelers of the world to ensnare you. 1Jn. 2:16
- 3.** Beware of the innocent things that can turn into insatiable masters, driving you to sin by walking in the flesh and making ongoing provision. Rom. 13:13-14
- 4.** Beware that you do not blame God for your sin, "Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed." Ja. 1:13-14
- 5.** Beware that you do not blame God for the consequences of your own sin, the sowing and reaping, being self-deceived, for God is not mocked. Gal. 6:7-8
The sin of David was premeditated!

II. The cover-up of David. vs. 6-13

- A.** The first plot by David to cover his sin. vs. 6-8
- 1.** David sent a message to his general Joab to send Uriah back from battle. vs. 6
 * David corrupting his power!
- 2.** David asks Uriah about Joab, the people and the war. vs. 7
- a.** This was the first check to David to tell the truth.

- b. You think that Uriah would of gotten suspicious, for David could of asked these questions to Joab!
- c. But there is no implication of any suspicion, throughout the entire text.
- 3. David was hoping Uriah sleep with his wife to cover-up her pregnancy. vs. 8
 - a. David told Uriah to go down to his house to wash his feet. vs. 8a-b
 - 1) The expression implies rest and enjoying his wife sexually.
 - 2) Another indication that David did not have marriage in mind at first.
 - b. Uriah departed from the king, a gift of food was sent to Uriah. vs. 8c-d
 - * David's guilt offering!
- B. The first plot by David failed. vs. 9-11
 - 1. Uriah slept at the door of the King's house with the servants of his lord and did not go down to his house. vs. 9
 - * Uriah proved to be more righteous and faithful than David, which I believe convicted David more so.
 - 2. David questioned Uriah why he did not go to his house. vs. 10
 - a. David was told Uriah had not gone down to his house. vs. 10a-b
 - b. David said to Uriah, "Did you not come from a journey? vs. 10c-d

- c. Why did you not go down to your house? vs. 10e
 - 1) David was encouraging Uriah to break a discipline of soldiers in battle to refrain from women.
 - 2) Remember when David ran away from Saul and went to Nob asking for bread, the priest asked him if the men had kept themselves from women. 1Sam. 21:4-5
- 3. Uriah's answer had to convict David, regarding Uriah's integrity. vs. 11
 - * It was a mild rebuke to David, for suggesting that Uriah put his personal pleasure before his duty as a soldier!
 - a. He pledged his devotion to God first, "And Uriah said to David, "The ark and Israel and Judah are dwelling in tents." vs. 11a-b
 - * David was dwelling in the king's house!
 - b. He pledged his loyalty to his commanding general and fellow-soldier, second, "and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are encamped in the open fields." vs. 11c
 - * David had not gone out to war but remained in Jerusalem!
 - c. He pledged his faithfulness in character, "Shall I then go to my

house to eat and drink, and to lie with my wife?" vs. 11d-e

* David had laid with his wife!

- d.** He pledged a vow before David by David, "As you live, and as your soul lives, I will not do this thing." vs. 11f-h

* David deserved death!

- 1) Uriah again proved to be more righteous and faithful than David, which had to convicted David.
- 2) I believe this was the second check David had to tell the truth to Uriah, having ignored the first, when he brought him from the battle field.

C. The second plot of David to cover his sin, failed again. vs. 12-13

1. David gave Uriah two more days' leave. vs. 12

a. Then David said to Uriah, "Wait here today also, and tomorrow I will let you depart." vs. 12a-c

b. So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day and the next. vs. 12c

2. David attempted to get Uriah drunk, that he might lower his inhibitions and sleep with his wife. vs. 13

a. David invited Uriah to his house, "Now when David called him, he ate

and drank before him; and he made him drunk." vs. 13a-b

* David must have been so far removed from God, to be able to do all this to Uriah!

- b.** David was reproved by Uriah's character, "And at evening he went out to lie on his bed with the servants of his lord, but he did not go down to his house." vs. 13c-d

1) Uriah proved to be more honorable drunk, than David sober!

2) David broke two more Commandment, he lied and bore false witness.

- 4.** David's innocent look had led him down the road to greater sins.

a. It began with lust.

b. It went to covetousness.

c. It ended in adultery.

d. It progressed to lies and deception.

e. It turned to betrayal of Uriah's faithfulness.

f. It would end in treachery and murder.

Illustration

Achan thought he would not be found out yet God exposed his sin before all the people! Josh. 7

Application

1. Isaiah warns us, “Woe to the rebellious children,” says the LORD, “Who take counsel, but not of Me, And who devise plans, but not of My Spirit, That they may add sin to sin.” Is. 30:1
 2. Solomon tells us, “He who covers his sins will not prosper, But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.” Prov. 28:13
 3. Peter instructs us, “And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins.” 1Pet. 4:8
- * This is the only thing we are to cover, sin that is forgiven and abandoned!

The cover-up by David was persistent!

II. The desperation of David. vs. 14-21

- A. David ordered the murder of Uriah. vs. 14-17
 1. He involves Joab by writing a letter , sending it by the hand of Uriah. vs. 14
* Uriah was carrying his own death orders!
 2. The content of the letter was specific, “Set Uriah in the forefront of the hottest battle, and retreat from him, that he may be struck down and die.” vs. 15
* Joab gained power over David, knowing his little secret!

3. Joab besieged the city and assigned Uriah to a place where he knew there were valiant men. vs. 16
* Joab was an accomplice to murder and covering up adultery by ordering the suicide mission!
 4. The men of the city came out and fought with Joab and some of the servants of David fell, Uriah the Hittite died also. vs. 17
 - a. Joab knew that a brave and loyal soldier had died to hide David’s sin!
 - b. Joab knew other honorable men had died to cover David’s sin.
 - c. Uriah and the servants were mercenaries but loyal to David.
 - d. David had objected to Abner's murder by Joab, yet he did a worse thing and Joab is smart enough to figure it out!
- B. David was sent the news about Uriah’s death. vs. 18-21
 1. Joab sends a war update to David, expected David to question his wisdom for such an attack, “Then Joab sent and told David all the things concerning the war, and charged the messenger, saying, “When you have finished telling the matters of the war to the king, if it happens that the king’s wrath rises, and he says to you: ‘Why did you approach

so near to the city when you fought? Did you not know that they would shoot from the wall?" vs. 18-20

2. Joab reproved David by the historical example, 'Who struck Abimelech the son of Jerubbesheth? Was it not a woman who cast a piece of a millstone on him from the wall, so that he died in Thebez? Why did you go near the wall?' vs. 21a-d
* The reference. Judges 9:50-54
 - a. Interesting, it was David who was brought down by a woman, within the wall of the city. Bathsheba.
 - b. David was the casualty by his own doing!
3. Joab appeased David by providing the answer David was waiting to hear, "then you shall say, 'Your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also.'" vs. 21e

Illustration

How many a rapists or abductors in their desperation to cover up their crime, have killed their victims, in order that they not be found out, never having had murder in mind at the beginning.

* Sin is progressive and always more ruthless!

Application

1. We are warn, "Let him who thinks he stands, take heed, lest he fall. 1Cor. 10:13
2. We are to be very clear, the flesh and the Spirit, they are contrary to each other. Gal. 5:16-17

3. We are to be careful to not be partakers of other men's sins but keep ourselves pure. 1Tim. 5:22
4. The flesh will cause us to become desperate and do destructive things because our hearts are deceitful and desperately evil. Jer. 17:9, Matt. 15:19

The desperation of David made him heartless!

IV. The deception of David. vs. 22-27

- A. David thought he had covered his sin. vs. 22-24
 1. The messenger came to David and reported how the enemy had prevailed over them in the field but they drove them back to the gate. vs. 22-23
 2. The messenger then said, "The archers shot from the wall at your servants; and some of the king's servants are dead, and your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also." vs. 24
 - a. David must have been relieved, thinking, "It over, I am safe!"
 - b. David's plot to cover his sin had caused the death of many others courageous soldiers!
- B. David thought he could shrug off his evil deed. vs. 25

1. He sent word back to Joab to not consider it evil in his eyes, “Thus you shall say to Joab: ‘Do not let this thing displease you, for the sword devours one as well as another.’” vs. 25a-c
 2. He sent orders to Joab, to overthrow the city, “Strengthen your attack against the city, and overthrow it.” vs. 25d-e
 3. He told the messenger to encourage Joab in this way, “So encourage him.” vs. 25f
- C.** David thought convincingly, he had gotten away with his sin. vs. 26-27
1. The reality of her sin hit her, “When the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she mourned for her husband.” vs. 26
 - a. She must of died in herself when she heard of Uriah's death, knowing her guilt of unfaithfulness.
 - b. She must of asked David at some time if he had ordered his death and if he told her the truth, she must of blamed herself and done nothing for their relationship.
 - c. She mourned Uriah but the pain of deception and treachery can not be cried away.
 2. David thought he would appear compassionate and benevolent before all. vs. 27

- a. David waited till her mourning was over, usually 7 days and brought Bathsheba to his house. vs. 27a-b
- b. David married Bathsheba, she became his wife and bore a son. vs. 27c
* Bathsheba had power over David to the very end of his life. 1Kings 1:11-31
- c. David’s deed was evil in the sight of the Lord, “But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD..”
 - 1) “There is no creature hidden from His sight.” Heb. 4:13a
 - 2) Let me say that adultery does not have to be the end of the marriage, if there is true repentance and forgiveness.

Illustration

Gahazi was self deceived thinking that Elijah would not know that he had taken a reward of Naaman only to gain the leprosy of Naaman. 2Kings 5

Application

1. The Bible says that our sin will find us out. Num. 32:23
2. The danger in becoming a Pharisee and going through the motions of spirituality, while all along being carnal, is that it is hypocrisy. Matt. 6

3. The deeds we do may seem godly before man, but God sees them, “All things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account. Heb. 4:13b

4. The book of James warns us against the art of self deception, being a hearer only. Ja. 1:22

* “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”

David’s deception was self deception!

Conclusion

David’s sin of adultery was marked by these four progressive movements!

- I.** The sin of David was premeditated!
- II.** The cover-up by David was persistent!
- III.** The desperation of David made him heartless!
- IV.** The deception of David was self deception!