

Reflecting on 2 Samuel 13-14 May 17, 2020

Introduction: This week, we work through two chapters that record some of the consequences of David's sin as experienced in the lives of his children. We discover three life lessons in the wake of sinful choices:

1. The sin of one person clears a path for similar sins in the lives of those that follow.
2. When sexual desire is left unbridled, it leads a person to make rash decisions that will ultimately leave the person unsatisfied.
3. When anger is left unsettled it devolves into bitterness, and the slow burn of bitterness will erode a person's moral compass.

The Big Idea of the message was that *one devastating effect of tolerating of sin in your heart is that you are less able to see and to deal with sin in the lives of people within your care.*

Questions to Discuss:

1. What part of the message was most important for you to hear? Why so?

2. This message sought to strike a delicate balance: While our actions have significant influence on those in our care, they are still responsible for their choices. Why is this balance an important one to maintain? What is at stake if these concepts are not kept in balance in one direction or the other?

3. What makes our influence in the lives of those around us so powerful? How might this influence be used in a negative way (Proverbs 1:10-19)? How might it be used in a positive way (Titus 2:3-5, for instance)?

4. Sexual sin continues to be an issue for Christians living in today's world. What can we do as a church body to help men and women, young and not so young, please the Lord in this area of their lives?

5. Read the following verses about anger and summarize their teaching:

- Ephesians 4:26-31

- James 1:19-20

- Colossians 3:8

- Matthew 5:21-26

6. Bitterness is might be defined as, “anger and disappointment over being treated unfairly; resentment.” Bitterness is the older brother of Anger. It arises when anger lingers unresolved. Bitterness may not be as explosive as anger, but its slow burn eats away at the soul. Do you know a fellow Christian who is bitter? How can we help a Christian who is bitter at another person, circumstances, or God?