

Grace Overcomes the Destructiveness of Sin

Series: E-100—2 Samuel 11:1-12:25

October 11, 2015 Pastor Bill Bump

2 Samuel is the story of the reign of David. The book can be divided exactly in half. The first twelve chapters are a record of David's triumphs, and the last twelve, a record of his tragedies.

The deceitfulness of sin:

2 Samuel 11:1-5 (NLT) ¹The following spring, the time of year when kings go to war, David sent Joab and the Israelite army to destroy the Ammonites. In the process they laid siege to the city of Rabbah. But David stayed behind in Jerusalem.

²Late one afternoon David got out of bed after taking a nap and went for a stroll on the roof of the palace. As he looked out over the city, he noticed a woman of unusual beauty taking a bath. ³He sent someone to find out who she was, and he was told, "She is Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite." ⁴Then David sent for her; and when she came to the palace, he slept with her. (She had just completed the purification rites after having her menstrual period.) Then she returned home. ⁵Later, when Bathsheba discovered that she was pregnant, she sent a message to inform David.

David chose to put himself in this unaccountable circumstance and progressed from lust to adultery.

The hardening of the heart:

2 Samuel 11:6-17 (NLT) ⁶So David sent word to Joab: "Send me Uriah the Hittite." ⁷When Uriah arrived, David asked him how Joab and the army were getting along and how the war was progressing. ⁸Then he told Uriah, "Go on home and relax." David even sent a gift to Uriah after he had left the palace. ⁹But Uriah wouldn't go home. He stayed that night at the palace entrance with some of the king's other servants.

¹⁰When David heard what Uriah had done, he summoned him and asked, "What's the matter with you? Why didn't you go home last night after being away for so long?"

¹¹Uriah replied, "The Ark and the armies of Israel and Judah are living in tents, and Joab and his officers are camping in the open fields. How could I go home to wine and dine and sleep with my wife? I swear that I will never be guilty of acting like that."

¹²"Well, stay here tonight," David told him, "and tomorrow you may return to the army." So Uriah stayed in Jerusalem that day and the next. ¹³Then David invited him to dinner and got him drunk. But even then he couldn't get Uriah to go home to his wife. Again he slept at the palace entrance.

¹⁴So the next morning David wrote a letter to Joab and gave it to Uriah to deliver. ¹⁵The letter instructed Joab, "Station Uriah on the front lines where the battles is fiercest. Then pull back so that he will be killed." ¹⁶So Joab assigned Uriah to a spot close to the city wall where he knew the enemy's strongest men were fighting. ¹⁷And Uriah was killed along with several other Israelite soldiers.

David's attempt to cover up his sin made him a liar, his sinning made him a slave, and his heart became

hardened.

Now David was guilty not only of adultery, but he was also guilty of murder.

The Bible teaches that sin enslaves us. Paul makes it clear in Romans 6 that when we submit to sin, there is no end to what we will do.

David did his best to avoid any consequences.

2 Samuel 11:27 (NLT) When the period of mourning was over, David sent for her and brought her to the palace, and she became one of his wives. Then she gave birth to a son. But the Lord was very displeased with what David had done.

Sin always has consequences.

2 Samuel 12:9-12 (NLT) ⁹Why, then, have you despised the word of the Lord and done this horrible deed? For you have murdered Uriah and stolen his wife. ¹⁰From this time on, the sword will be a constant threat to your family, because you have despised me by taking Uriah's wife to be your own. ¹¹Because of what you have done, I, the Lord, will cause your own household to rebel against you. I will give your wives to another man, and he will go to bed with them in public view. ¹²You did it secretly, but I will do this to you openly in the sight of all Israel.

We cannot conclude with this oppressive judgment, because forgiveness is always possible.

Grace and forgiveness are made available by confession.

2 Samuel 12:13a (NLT) Then David confessed to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord."

1 John 1:9 (NLT) But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong.

When we are willing to confess our sin and return to obeying Jesus, He restores us.

Some of David's greatest psalms were written during this period.

Psalms 51:1-4 (NLT) ¹Have mercy on me, O God, because of your unfailing love. Because of your great compassion, blot out the stain of my sins. ²Wash me clean from my guilt. Purify me from my sin.

³For I recognize my shameful deeds—they haunt me day and night. ⁴Against you, and you alone, have I sinned; I have done what is evil in your sight. You will be proved right in what you say, and your judgment against me is just.

Sin is ultimately against God.

Psalm 51:7-17 (NLT) ⁷Purify me from my sins, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. ⁸Oh, give me back my joy again; you have broken me—now let me rejoice. ⁹Don't keep looking at my sins. Remove the stain of my guilt. ¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a right spirit within me. ¹¹Do not banish me from your presence, and don't take your Holy Spirit from me. ¹²Restore to me again the joy of your salvation, and make me willing to obey you. ¹³Then I will teach your ways to sinners, and they will return to you. ¹⁴Forgive me for shedding blood, O God who saves; then I will joyfully sing of your forgiveness. ¹⁵Unseal my lips, O Lord, that I may praise you. ¹⁶You would not be pleased with sacrifices, or I would bring them. If I brought you a burnt offering, you would not accept it. ¹⁷The sacrifice you want is a broken spirit. A broken and repentant heart, O God, you will not despise.

The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken and contrite heart.

Conclusion

It doesn't matter how devastated our lives may be. God will rebuild our lives. He forgives us and grants us grace.