

# Repentance and the Unfolding of the Aftermath

## The Life of David—part 8

March 24, 2019

### **DAY 1: Getting off scot-free? The parable.**

1. David committed adultery with Bathsheba, who becomes pregnant. To “hide” his adultery, he hatches a plan where nobody would know that he was the father of the child. The plan fails. Then David arranges to have her husband, Uriah, killed in battle. David marries Bathsheba.

2. Months pass, and the baby is born. Everyone assumes it was David’s son. During all these months, David has hidden his sin. It appears that David might “get off scot-free.”

3. Nathan the prophet confronts David, but in an indirect way, through a make believe story.

*2 Samuel 12:1 The LORD sent Nathan to David. When he came to him, he said, "There were two men in a certain town, one rich and the other poor...."*

*2 Samuel 12:2 The rich man had a very large number of sheep and cattle, <sup>3</sup> but the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb he had bought. He raised it, and it grew up with him and his children. It shared his food, drank from his cup and even slept in his arms. It was like a daughter to him.*

*2 Sam. 12:4 "Now a traveler came to the rich man, but the rich man refrained from taking one of his own sheep or cattle to prepare a meal for the traveler who had come to him. Instead, he took the ewe lamb that belonged to the poor man and prepared it for the one who had come to him."*

4. The story is filled with moral choices and implications. Jot down your thoughts as to any of the following moral issues in this story:

a. Lawless behavior by the rich man—

b. Injustice against the poor man—

c. The evil of the crime—

d. No ground for excuses—

5. If you had heard this story, particularly as king, how would you have responded?

*2 Samuel 12:5 David burned with anger against the man and said to Nathan, "As surely as the LORD lives, the man who did this deserves to die! <sup>6</sup> He must pay for that lamb four times over, because he did such a thing and had no pity."*

6. What similarities are there between the rich man in the parable and how David treated Uriah?

## DAY 2: The awful consequences begin

1. Nathan now reveals the true meaning of the invented story.

*2 Samuel 12:7 Then Nathan said to David, "You are the man! This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul.*

*<sup>8</sup> I gave your master's house to you, and your master's wives into your arms. I gave you the house of Israel and Judah. And if all this had been too little, I would have given you even more.*

*<sup>9</sup> Why did you despise the word of the LORD by doing what is evil in his eyes? You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your own. You killed him with the sword of the Ammonites.*

2. For almost a year, David lived without any outward sense of remorse or any repentance. (Nothing of this nature happens until this moment!)

3. Sin is an abominable monster. As you can witness in David, his adultery and murder plot lay dormant inside him. We see the effects of sin on our hearts:

a. Hardening of the heart

b. Deadening of the conscience

c. Blindness to see oneself

d. The rationalizing, justifications, and excuses we formulate.

e. Insensibility to the enormity of what we've done.

4. That it takes an "outside" story that parallels David's story is quite telling!

5. The stunning aftermath of his horrific deeds now begins to unfold.

*2 Samuel 12:10 Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.' <sup>11</sup> "This is what the LORD says: 'Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity upon you. Before your very eyes I will take your wives and give them to one who is close to you, and he will lie with your wives in broad daylight. <sup>12</sup> You did it in secret, but I will do this thing in broad daylight before all Israel.'"*

6. David's sins are met with consequences that mirror "you reap what you sow." Notice:

a. What he attempted to do in secret will become public knowledge for all eternity. David is exposed. His sin, done in darkness, becomes public knowledge.

b. The death of Uriah by the sword in battle, removing Uriah's life and the loss of enjoyment of his family will be visited upon David's family.

c. The adultery that was "hidden," that David perpetrated, will be flaunted by one of his own sons in broad daylight before the nation!

7. When the consequences of our sin are not immediate we believe an awful lie: we can get away with sin.

*Numbers 32:23 ...be sure your sin will find you out.*

### DAY 3: David's repentance, Psalm 51

1. Finally, David is broken by his sin.

*2 Samuel 12:13 Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." Nathan replied, "The LORD has taken away your sin. You are not going to die. <sup>14</sup> But because by doing this you have made the enemies of the LORD show utter contempt, the son born to you will die."*

2. David would pen this confession in Psalm 51.

*Psalms 51:1 (RSV) Have mercy on me, O God, according to thy steadfast love; according to thy abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. <sup>2</sup> Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! <sup>3</sup> For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. <sup>4</sup> Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done that which is evil in thy sight, so that thou art justified in thy sentence and blameless in thy judgment.*

*<sup>5</sup> Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. <sup>6</sup> Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart. <sup>7</sup> Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.*

*<sup>8</sup> Fill me with joy and gladness; let the bones which thou hast broken rejoice. <sup>9</sup> Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.*

*<sup>10</sup> Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. <sup>11</sup> Cast me not away from thy presence, and take not thy Holy Spirit from me. <sup>12</sup> Restore to me the joy of thy salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.*

*<sup>13</sup> Then I will teach transgressors thy ways, and sinners will return to thee. <sup>14</sup> Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of thy deliverance. <sup>15</sup> O Lord, open thou my lips, and my mouth shall show forth thy praise.*

*<sup>16</sup> For thou hast no delight in sacrifice; were I to give a burnt offering, thou wouldst not be pleased. <sup>17</sup> The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.*

3. What is striking is how David now sees his sin. What we would have thought he would confess were "adultery," "murder," "lust," and "fraud."

4. But what he now sees are deeper failings which lead to those things aforementioned. It is these deeper sins that stun him the most.

5. The deeper sins he committed are now clearly before him, in excruciating horror and clarity.

a. "Transgression"- meaning not just a breaking of God's law, but a rebellion against God.

b. "Iniquity" – meaning perversion or distortion, dealing crookedly.

c. "Sin" – meaning missing the mark, falling short

d. That which is filthy, which is putrid, which must be cleansed (vv. 2, 7 especially)

e. "Evil" – something vile which deserves condemnation.

6. What strikes you most from Psalm 51?

## DAY 4: Forgiveness, and other needed and granted mercies!

1. Yesterday we looked at the deeper sins in David that manifested themselves in lust, adultery, murder, and fraud. Today we'll look at the compelling goodness of God's character that will not give up on us!

2. Thankfully, God forgave David his many sins. We are very grateful for God's long-suffering with us, his daily offer of mercy, and the grace that He lavishes on us, every day!

3. As you read through Psalm 51:1-17 again, take note of the many spiritual blessings that are available to us, even thru confession of the vilest of multiple sins!

*Psalms 51:1 (RSV) Have **mercy** on me, O God, according to thy **steadfast love**; according to thy **abundant mercy blot out** my transgressions. <sup>2</sup> **Wash me thoroughly** from my iniquity, and **cleanse me** from my sin! <sup>3</sup> For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. <sup>4</sup> Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done that which is evil in thy sight, so that thou art justified in thy sentence and blameless in thy judgment.*

<sup>5</sup> Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. <sup>6</sup> Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward being; therefore **teach me wisdom in my secret heart**. <sup>7</sup> **Purge me** with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be **whiter than snow**.

<sup>8</sup> **Fill me with joy and gladness**; let the bones which thou hast broken **rejoice**. <sup>9</sup> **Hide thy face** from my sins, and **blot out** all my iniquities.

<sup>10</sup> **Create in me a clean heart**, O God, and **put a new and right spirit within me**. <sup>11</sup> **Cast me not** away from thy presence, and **take not thy Holy Spirit** from me. <sup>12</sup> **Restore to me the joy of thy salvation**, and **uphold me with a willing spirit**.

<sup>13</sup> Then I will teach transgressors thy ways, and sinners will return to thee. <sup>14</sup> **Deliver me from bloodguiltiness**, O God, thou God of my salvation, and **my tongue will sing aloud of thy deliverance**. <sup>15</sup> O Lord, **open thou my lips**, and my mouth shall show forth thy praise.

<sup>16</sup> For thou hast no delight in sacrifice; were I to give a burnt offering, thou wouldst not be pleased. <sup>17</sup> The sacrifice acceptable to God is **a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart**, O God, thou wilt not despise.

4. After we sin, we usually beat ourselves up for a time, and then limp back into our relationship with God as if there is some kind of penance that is necessary.

5. Overall, what strikes you about David's prayer?

6. Which of God's excellences and spiritual blessings strikes you the most? Why?

7. Describe how you think God would have wanted David to act after praying this prayer? Discouraged? Ashamed? Forgiven? Mopey? Grateful? Adoring? Praising?

## **DAY 5: Consequences for sin; learning to hate sin, itself.**

1. Though God's gracious forgiveness of sin is true, it is also true that there are times when we must bear the awful consequences of our sins. This causes some confusion for us.

2. There are two important considerations to remember about God.

a. He is committed to our eternal joy and eternal destiny, and thus lavishes forgiveness on us upon our confession and repentance for sin.

b. He is also committed to bringing us to a place where we don't "just" sin, but also hate sin, itself.

*Proverbs 8:13 The fear of the LORD is hatred of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted speech I hate.*

*Galatians 6:7 (RSV) Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. <sup>8</sup> For he who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption; but he who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.*

3. In the years to come, the following tragedies will mark the life of David and his family. This is a partial list.

a. The baby born to David and Bathsheba would die seven days after its birth.

b. His daughter Tamar will be raped by her half-brother, a son of David by another mother.

(2 Sam. 13:14).

c. Amnon, his son would be murdered as a result of another half-brother's hatred for what Amnon did to Tamar.

d. Another son, Absalom would stage a coup in order to overthrow David from the kingship.

e. Absalom would be murdered a short time later.

f. Just before David's death, another son, Adonijah, would attempt to steal the throne from Solomon. He would also be murdered.

4. Yet, while all of these horrors are playing out, driving a hatred for sin deeper and deeper into David's heart, God is also showing favor to David and Bathsheba.

5. Listen to God's promise to David.

*1 Chronicles 22:9 But you will have a son who will be a man of peace and rest, and I will give him rest from all his enemies on every side. His name will be Solomon, and I will grant Israel peace and quiet during his reign.*

*<sup>10</sup> He is the one who will build a house for my Name. He will be my son, and I will be his father. And I will establish the throne of his kingdom over Israel forever.'*

a. Their second son, Solomon, would become king after David's death.

b. Solomon, also named "Jedidiah" means "beloved of the Lord."

6. What strikes you from today's devotional?