

The Consequences Continue

The Life of David—part 9

March 31st, 2019

2 Samuel 15-19

This week we will look at 5 chapters in the life of David. Everything that will transpire is a direct result of his sin with Bathsheba. The consequences continue so to speak. At least a decade has passed since he was confronted by Nathan regarding his sin, and Nathan's prophecy will finally come to pass. Each day we will look at a theme from the chapters in the order that they occur as we dive into, perhaps, the worst period of David's life. As we do so I'd encourage you to read the corresponding chapter and reflect on God's Word.

DAY 1: Chapter 15 – Sin's Splash Zone

1. Today we see the beginning of the outcome of David's sin with Bathsheba. Look again at what Nathan prophesied to David in chapter 12.

“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 evil against you out of 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 and before the sun.’” – 2 Sam 12:10-12 (ESV)

2. But not only do we see the consequences of David's sins, we also see the sins of Absalom. In this chapter and chapter 16 Absalom violates two explicit commands in the Old Testament Law.

Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. – Exodus 20:12

If a man lies with his father's wife, he has uncovered his father's nakedness; both of them shall surely be put to death; their blood is upon them. – Leviticus 20:11

3. Both men's sins have tragic results, in their own lives, and the lives of others. They are reaping what they have sown (Galatians 6:7). We often tend to think of certain sins as only impacting us, but all sin has a splash effect. It hinders our relationship with God but it also hinders our relationships with others. Even though we can be forgiven of our sin it will invariably have consequences.

4. When in your life have you experienced the consequences of the sins of others?

5. When in your life have you experienced the consequences of your own sins?

6. Is there any sin in your life now that you haven't dealt with? If so who can you confess it to?

DAY 2: Chapter 16 – David’s Trust In God

1. As David flees with the royal household he encounters the relative of King Saul, the previous king of Israel. The man, Shimei, begins to curse the deposed King as he flees Jerusalem. If it wasn’t bad enough that David is fleeing for his life, he now has to do so for 20 miles with someone uttering vile words and throwing stones at him the whole way.

2. The scene is so troublesome to the whole group that David’s nephew, Abishai, offers to deal with Shimei in quick fashion. But David refuses this suggestion and puts his faith in action. Look at what he says in verses 10-12.

But the king said, “What have I to do with you, you sons of Zeruiiah? If he is cursing because the LORD has said to him, ‘Curse David,’ who then shall say, ‘Why have you done so?’ ” 11 And David said to Abishai and to all his servants, “Behold, my own son seeks my life; how much more now may this Benjaminite! Leave him alone, and let him curse, for the LORD has told him to. 12 It may be that the LORD will look on the wrong done to me, and that the LORD will repay me with good for his cursing today.” – 2 Samuel 16:10-12

3. David is referred to in the Bible as “a man after God’s own heart” (1 Samuel 13:14, Acts 13:22), not because he lived perfectly if that isn’t abundantly clear, but because he had unwavering trust in God.

4. Can you see David’s faith on display here? In what ways does David display trust in God in these 3 verses?

5. Have you ever experienced a time in your life where someone was doing wrong to you that required you to put your faith in God?

6. David displayed absolute trust in God during these difficult circumstances (see 2 Sam. 15:31 and Psalm 3). In what area of your life, right now, do you need to place your trust in God? How can you express your trust to God in prayer today?

DAY 3: Chapter 17 – God Saves David

1. In chapter 17 we see God answer the prayer David uttered in 15:31 when he asked God to thwart the counsel of Ahithophel. David knew that Ahithophel's counsel could lead to his ruin, he had been the beneficiary of his advice. So David utters a prayer asking God to frustrate that counsel.

2 Samuel 15:31 Now David had been told, "Ahithophel is among the conspirators with Absalom." So David prayed, "O Lord, turn Ahithophel's counsel into foolishness."

2. God has often promised to thwart the wisdom of man (Job 5:12; Prov. 21:30; Isa. 8:10; 29:14; 1 Cor 1:19). Human wisdom will ultimately result in nothing if it is not accompanied by true wisdom from God.

3. God answers the prayer of David's most desperate hour. God answering this prayer is David's only hope. These are the moments that God strengthens our faith in himself.

4. When in your life have you experienced God answering one of your prayers in a real way?

5. What does reflecting upon that experience do to your faith? Increase it or decrease it?

6. In Hebrews 11 we are told to look at and be encouraged by the faith of fellow believers from history. Who's faith has brought you comfort before?

7. Who in your life do you need to share your own faith building experience with?

DAY 4: Chapter 18 – Grieving The Sins of Others

1. The consequences of Absalom's sin finally reaches him. He is, finally, reaping what he has sown. His sin has resulted in the loss of his life with no opportunity to repent for his actions.
2. David had hoped to spare him this by commanding that he be dealt kindly with, but this did not happen. Absalom would have no opportunity to change the course of his life, he would forever be known as the king's son who rebelled.
3. This reality, that his son is lost to him forever without the possibility for restoration with God or himself, devastates David. He will never again be able to see his son. He will go to his own grave with the knowledge that his son Absalom was estranged from him at his own death. A radical reminder that sin can separate us from others, and other's sins can separate us from them.
4. When in your life have the sins of a family member or close friend separated you from them? How has their sin impacted you? Have you grieved over their sin?
5. If this person is still alive do you believe that God can restore them to you and himself? Why or why not?
6. In Luke 15 Jesus tells the parable of the Prodigal Son where sin separates a son from his father. Yet we see that God eventually brings the younger son to his senses. How can you pray for the people in your life that have sin separating them from God and you?

DAY 5: Chapter 19 – Forgiving As We’re Forgiven

1. In chapter 19 we see an amazing display of grace by David. After David is proved to be the victor, Shimei comes and begs for David’s forgiveness. No one would have begrudged David for putting those who betrayed him to death, and yet David extends grace to them. David gives Shimei his word that he will not die.

2. This is an amazing display of grace towards those that have wronged him. When we read this portion of the story our minds cannot help but be reminded of Jesus’ own teachings on forgiveness and grace. Read Matthew 5:38-48, (See also Matt. 6:9-15; 18:15-35).

3. In the following verses, underline what strikes you most.

Matthew 5:38 "You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.'

³⁹ But I tell you, Do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also.

⁴⁰ And if someone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well.

⁴¹ If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles.

⁴² Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

⁴³ "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'

⁴⁴ But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

⁴⁵ that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

⁴⁶ If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? ⁴⁷ And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? ⁴⁸ Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

4. In what ways does **David** display the future teachings of Jesus on forgiveness?

5. Could you imagine forgiving someone like Shimei? Do you struggle to forgive people that hurt you?

6. Is there anyone in your life that you are refusing to forgive? In light of David’s example and the teachings of Jesus, what do you sense God the Holy Spirit is saying to you about this and them?

7. How can you pray for them today?