Lesson 80 – David's Sin and Repentance

Based on 2 Samuel 11&12

The Bible has little to say in praise of men. Little space is given to recounting the virtues of even the best men who have ever lived. This silence is not without purpose; it is not without a lesson. All the good qualities that men possess are the gift of God; their good deeds are performed by the grace of God through Christ. Since they owe all to God the glory of whatever they are or do belongs to Him alone; they are but instruments in His hands.

1) What is always happening while we are alive?
   Ephesians 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the _____ of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

It is impossible for us in our own strength to maintain the conflict; and whatever diverts the mind from God, whatever leads to self-exaltation or to self-dependence, is surely preparing the way for our overthrow. The tenor of the Bible is to inculcate distrust of human power and to encourage trust in divine power.

2) What did David do?
   2 Samuel 11:2 And it came to pass in an eveningtide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king's house: and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman was very _____ to look upon.
   2 Samuel 11:3-4 And David sent and enquired after the woman. And one said, Is not this _____, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite? And David sent messengers, and _____ her; and she came in unto him, and he lay with her; for she was purified from her uncleanness: and she returned unto her house.

Bathsheba, whose fatal beauty had proved a snare to the king, was the wife of Uriah the Hittite, one of David's bravest and most faithful officers. None could foresee what would be the result should the crime become known. The law of God pronounced the adulterer guilty of death, and the proud-spirited soldier, so shamefully wronged, might avenge himself by taking the life of the king or by exciting the nation to revolt.

3) How did things start to snowball for David?
   2 Samuel 11:5 And the woman conceived, and sent and told David, and said, I am with _____.
4) How did David try to hide his high crime?
   2 Samuel 11:6-8 And David sent to Joab, saying, Send me _____ the Hittite. And Joab sent Uriah to David. And when Uriah was come unto him, David demanded of him how Joab did, and how the people did, and how the war prospered. And David said to Uriah, Go down to thy _____, and wash thy feet. And Uriah departed out of the king's house, and there followed him a mess of meat from the king.
5) Did Uriah go home that night?
   2 Samuel 11:9 But Uriah slept at the _____ of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and went not down to his house.
6) Was David happy about that?
   2 Samuel 11:10 And when they had told David, saying, Uriah went not down unto his house, David said unto Uriah, Camest thou not from thy journey? _____ then didst thou not go down unto thine house?

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7) What did Uriah reply?
2 Samuel 11:11 And Uriah said unto David, The ark, and Israel, and Judah, abide in tents; and my lord Joab, and the servants of my lord, are encamped in the open _____; shall I then go into mine house, to eat and to drink, and to lie with my wife? as thou livest, and as thy soul liveth, I will _____ do this thing.

Every effort which David made to conceal his guilt proved unavailing. He had betrayed himself into the power of Satan; danger surrounded him, dishonor more bitter than death was before him. There appeared but one way of escape, and in his desperation, he was hurried on to add murder to adultery. He who had compassed the destruction of Saul was seeking to lead David also to ruin. Though the temptations were different, they were alike in leading to transgression of God's law.

8) What did David order?
2 Samuel 11:14-15 And it came to pass in the morning, that David wrote a letter to Joab, and sent it by the _____ of Uriah. And he wrote in the letter, saying, Set ye Uriah in the forefront of the hottest battle, and _____ ye from him, that he may be smitten, and die.

David reasoned that if Uriah were slain by the hand of enemies in battle, the guilt of his death could not be traced home to the king, Bathsheba would be free to become David's wife, suspicion could be averted, and the royal honor would be maintained.

Uriah was made the bearer of his own death warrant.

Joab, already stained with the guilt of one wanton murder, did not hesitate to obey the king's instructions, and Uriah fell by the sword of the children of Ammon.

9) How had David's reputation been seen heretofore?
2 Samuel 8:15 And David reigned over all Israel; and David executed judgment and _____ unto all his people.

His integrity had won the confidence and fealty of the nation. But as he departed from God and yielded himself to the wicked one, he became for the time the agent of Satan; yet he still held the position and authority that God had given him, and because of this, claimed obedience that would imperil the soul of him who should yield it. And Joab, whose allegiance had been given to the king rather than to God, transgressed God's law because the king commanded it.

10) Who REALLY holds the scepter of power?
Romans 13:1 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are _____ of God.

David's power had been given him by God, but to be exercised only in harmony with the divine law. When he commanded that which was contrary to God's law, it became sin to obey.

11) What happened to Uriah the Hittite?
2 Samuel 11:16-17 And it came to pass, when Joab observed the city, that he assigned Uriah unto a place where he knew that _____ men were. And the men of the city went out, and fought with Joab: and there fell some of the people of the servants of David; and Uriah the Hittite _____ also.

12) And then…
2 Samuel 11:26-27 And when the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she _____ for her husband. And when the mourning was past, David sent and _____ her to his house, and she became his wife, and bare him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD.

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He (David) whose tender conscience and high sense of honor would not permit him, even when in peril of his life, to put forth his hand against the Lord's anointed, had so fallen that he could wrong and murder one of his most faithful and most valiant soldiers, and hope to enjoy undisturbed the reward of his sin. Alas! how had the fine gold become dim! how had the most fine gold changed!

13) What wisdom did Solomon give us?
Proverbs 14:12 There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

From the beginning Satan has portrayed to men the gains to be won by transgression. Thus, he seduced angels. Thus, he tempted Adam and Eve to sin. And thus, he is still leading multitudes away from obedience to God. The path of transgression is made to appear desirable. Happy they who, having ventured in this way, learn how bitter are the fruits of sin, and turn from it betimes. God in His mercy did not leave David to be lured to utter ruin by the deceitful rewards of sin.

14) How did God interpose?
2 Samuel 12:1-2 And the LORD sent _____ unto David. And he came unto him, and said unto him, There were two men in one city; the one _____, and the other poor. The rich man had exceeding many flocks and herds:
2 Samuel 12:3-4 But the poor man had nothing, save one little _____ lamb, which he had bought and nourished up: and it grew up together with him, and with his children; it did eat of his own meat, and drank of his own cup, and lay in his bosom, and was unto him as a daughter. And there came a traveller unto the rich man, and he spared to take of his own flock and of his own herd, to dress for the wayfaring man that was come unto him; but took the poor man's _____, and dressed it for the man that was come to him.

To few sovereigns could such a reproof be given but at the price of certain death to the reprover. Nathan delivered the divine sentence unflinchingly, yet with such heaven-born wisdom as to engage the sympathies of the king, to arouse his conscience, and to call from his lips the sentence of death upon himself. Appealing to David as the divinely appointed guardian of his people's rights, the prophet repeated a story of wrong and oppression that demanded redress.

15) Overcome, what did David declare?
2 Samuel 12:5-6 And David's _____ was greatly kindled against the man; and he said to Nathan, As the LORD liveth, the man that hath done this thing shall surely die: And he shall restore the lamb _____, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity.

16) Nathan fixed his eyes on David and said…
2 Samuel 12:7 And Nathan said to David, _____ art the man…
2 Samuel 12:9 Wherefore hast thou _____ the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in his sight? thou hast killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and hast taken his wife to be thy wife, and hast _____ him with the sword of the children of Ammon.

17) What does God see?
Hebrews 4:13 Neither is there any creature that is not _____ in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.
Matthew 10:26 … for there is nothing covered, that shall not be _____; and hid, that shall not be known.

18) What was decreed to David because of his sin?
2 Samuel 12:10-12 Now therefore the _____ shall never depart from thine house; because thou hast despised me, and hast taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be thy wife. Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will raise up evil against thee out of _____ _____ house, and I will take thy wives before thine eyes, and give them unto thy neighbour, and he shall lie with thy wives in the sight of this sun. For thou didst it _____: but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun.

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The prophet's rebuke touched the heart of David; conscience was aroused; his guilt appeared in all its enormity. His soul was bowed in penitence before God.

19) With trembling lips, what did David say?
2 Samuel 12:13 And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD. And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath _____ _____ thy sin; thou shalt not die.

20) What else would come of David's sin?
2 Samuel 12:14 Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great _____ to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also that is born unto thee shall surely die.

When his child was stricken, David, with fasting and deep humiliation, pleaded for its life. He put off his royal robes, he laid aside his crown, and night after night he lay upon the earth, in heartbroken grief interceding for the innocent one suffering for his guilt.

21) Could David be consoled at this time?
2 Samuel 12:17 And the elders of his house arose, and went to him, to raise him up from the earth: but he would not, neither did he _____ bread with them.

David persevered in his supplication so long as the child was spared. Upon learning that it was dead, he quietly submitted to the decree of God. The first stroke had fallen of that retribution which he himself had declared just; but David, trusting in God's mercy, was not without comfort.

The history of David furnishes no countenance to sin. It was when he was walking in the counsel of God that he was called a man after God's own heart. When he sinned, this ceased to be true of him until by repentance he had returned to the Lord.

Though David repented of his sin and was forgiven and accepted by the Lord, he reaped the baleful harvest of the seed he himself had sown. The judgments upon him and upon his house testify to God's abhorrence of the sin.

There was a great change in David himself. He was broken in spirit by the consciousness of his sin and its far-reaching results. He felt humbled in the eyes of his subjects. His influence was weakened. Hitherto his prosperity had been attributed to his conscientious obedience to the commandments of the Lord. But now his subjects, having a knowledge of his sin, would be led to sin more freely. His authority in his own household, his claim to respect and obedience from his sons, was weakened. A sense of his guilt kept him silent when he should have condemned sin; it made his arm feeble to execute justice in his house. His evil example exerted its influence upon his sons, and God would not interpose to prevent the result. He would permit things to take their natural course, and thus David was severely chastised.

22) What did David write in his agony?
Psalms 32:1-4 Blessed is he whose transgression is _____, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not _____, and in whose spirit there is no guile. When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long. For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer. Selah.
Psalms 51:1-2 Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies _____ _____ my transgressions. Wash me throughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.
Psalms 51:7-10 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be _____: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice. Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and _____ a right spirit within me.

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Thus, in a sacred song to be sung in the public assemblies of his people, in the presence of the court, priests and judges, princes and men of war, and which would preserve to the latest generation the knowledge of his fall, the king of Israel recounted his sin, his repentance, and his hope of pardon through the mercy of God. Instead of endeavoring to conceal his guilt he desired that others might be instructed by the sad history of his fall.

23) What did David declare publicly?
Psalms 32:5-7 I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not _____. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah. For this shall every one that is godly pray unto thee in a time when thou mayest be found: surely in the floods of great waters they shall not come nigh unto him. Thou art my _____ place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance. Selah.

Thousands of the children of God, who have been betrayed into sin, when ready to give up to despair have remembered how David's sincere repentance and confession were accepted by God, notwithstanding he suffered for his transgression; and they also have taken courage to repent and try again to walk in the way of God's commandments.

24) What is the sinner's hope?
Isaiah 27:5 …let him take hold of my _____, that he may make peace with me; and he shall make peace with me.
Isaiah 55:7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him _____ unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

Can you see we are in just as much danger in good times as bad?

Would you like to be secure while at peace?

When is it time to humbly seek the LORD for guidance?

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