

## Grace That Is Greater Than Our Sin

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2 Samuel 12:1-13

2 Samuel has two parts:

- Chapters 1-10 deal with the **Triumphs** of David
- Chapters 11-24 deal with the **Troubles** of David.

David's troubles begin with an adulterous affair with Bathsheba. After this the glow in David's life dims considerably. **SIN CHANGES A MAN—From kindness to killing** (9:1-3; 10:2; cf. 11:15).

### ➡REVIEW 2 Samuel 11

With Uriah, Bathsheba's husband, out of the way, David takes her as his wife and she bares him a son. It appears "that is that"... end of story.

Well, not quite! 2 Samuel 11 closes with these words, "*But the thing that David had done DISPLEASED THE LORD.*" Adultery and murder displeases the Lord. It displeased God back then, and it still does today! Although David brushed aside his sin and is ready to move on, God will not be brushed off. "*Be sure your sin will find you out.*"

Approximately one year went by before God confronted David about his sin. Never presume the silence of God means the absence of God. God may appear silent, but He is not sightless.

It may have looked on the outside that David successfully covered up his sin, yet on the inside his guilt was like a festering boil on his soul.

The guilt of sin is like a warning light on the dashboard of a car. A man may be driving down the highway, and a warning light comes on. If he ignores it, it won't be long and his motor will break down. When we sin, if we don't properly deal with it, we will be headed for a spiritual break down.

### **I. The CONCERN of God** (v. 1a). This is grace!

A. The **PURSUIT** of the sinful saint. God took the first step to bring David to repentance and restoration.

1. God loved David too much to let him go and be eaten up by his sin. *O, the love that will not let me go!*

2. God loves you too much to allow you to remain in the guilt of your sin. He will pursue you to bring you back into His will.

➡ Thank God, He doesn't abandon us when we sin! Don't run from God. If you had cancer, would you run from the oncologist who could help you?

B. The **PRINCIPLE** of restoring the sinful saint. How God deals with sin in a saint. God uses another saint to correct a sinning saint.

1. Nathan follows the guidelines of Galatians 6:1. God didn't send Nathan to "blast" or trash David. Nathan didn't call David a dirty rotten womanizer.

2. Our goal is to lift up the fallen to usefulness again, not grind them into the ground.

➡ **Five principles of restoring an erring saint.**

1. **Absolute truth.** Never confront anyone based on hearsay.

2. **Appropriate timing.** Don't rush to judgment. Don't go in the heat of emotion. Wait for God's leadership. If you are spiritual (Gal. 6:1) you will know God's timing.

3. **Appropriate place.** Privacy.

4. **Appropriate words** (Prov. 25:11-12). Think and pray about exactly what you will say.

5. **Appropriate attitude.** Humble, meekness; courage.

## II. **The CONFRONTING of the prophet** (vs. 1-6).

- God will often use a preacher to point out our sin.

A. The **PARABLE** of Nathan (vs. 1b - 4). The rich man=David; the poor man = Uriah; the lamb=Bathsheba; the traveler is the one trying to be satisfied = lust

➡ **David passes judgment upon himself!**

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David did not see he was the object of the parable. It is human nature to be quick to see the sin in the lives of others, and slow to see the sin in our own heart. We can spot a speck in the eye of another while we walk around with a telephone pole in our own eye.

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B. The **PRONOUNCEMENT** against David (v. 7).

1. The **senselessness** of David's sin (vs. 7-9). Verse 9, "*Wherefore?*" or WHY DID YOU DO IT? David's sin was rooted in covetousness. In his discontentment, he despised the goodness and gracious provision of God. We despise the commandment of God by elevating our wants over His Word!

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It is not an awareness of the badness of our sin that leads us to repentance, but it is an awareness of how good God is in spite of our sin. If we want someone to turn from their sin, instead of hounding them about how bad they are, we should be talking to them about how good God is (Rom. 2:4).

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2. The **specifics** of David's sin (v. 9).

➡ Nathan's parable teaches the **essence of sin is stealing**.

- a) Breaking the 1st commandment (no other gods) **robs** God of His preeminence.
- b) Breaking the 2nd commandment (no images) **robs** God of His character.
- c) Breaking the 3rd commandment (taking God's name in vain) **robs** God of His honor.
- d) Breaking the 4th commandment (Sabbath Day) **robs** God of His worship and men of their health.
- e) Breaking the 5th commandment (honor parents) **robs** parents of their due respect.
- f) Breaking the 6th commandment (murder) **robs** people of their lives.
- g) Breaking the 7th commandment (adultery) **robs** marriage of its sanctity.
- h) Breaking the 8th commandment (stealing) **robs** men of their possessions.
- i) Breaking the 9th commandment (false witness) **robs** men of their good reputation.
- j) Breaking the 10th commandment (coveting) **robs** us of contentment.

3. The **sentence** upon David's sin (vs. 10-12, 14).

### III. The **CONFESSION** of David (12:13; Psalm 32; 51).

- Proverbs 28:13—*“He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.”*
- A. The **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** of sin. It is an acknowledgement that his actions had dishonored the Lord (Ps. 52:4 cf. Gen. 39:9).
- B. The **ABSENCE** of excuses. David did not alibi for his sin.
  1. He didn't say, “Well, Lord, you know I'm just a red-blooded man, and all the pressure I'm under.” He didn't say, “The devil made me do it.”
  2. He didn't blame anyone. He accepted full responsibility for his sin.
- C. The **ACCEPTANCE** of the consequences. David did not make a single complaint. He was ready to suffer his punishment.

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When someone is truly repentant, they know they deserve whatever a just God deems necessary. In truth, David deserved a more severe judgment than he got—He deserved death (as well as Bathsheba). THIS IS GRACE (Rom. 5:20)!

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- D. The **ATTITUDE** of humility. David didn't get angry with the preacher for pointing out his sin. His heart was truly broken about his sin (Ps. 51:17).

**SUMMATION:** God's amazing grace (v. 13). Where sin abounded, grace did much more abound. Thank God for grace that is greater than our sin!