

The Consequences of Sin

A Lesson in the Life of King David

David's Spiritual Low



Background

In our last lesson, we watched King David commit adultery with Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah the Hittite. Uriah was one of David's loyal soldiers, but that didn't stop David from having sexual relations with Bathsheba. Sin took over and David betrayed Uriah and ultimately, he plotted Uriah's murder.

David is referred to as "a man after God's own heart," but we see him at a spiritual low point in his life. Through his encounter with Bathsheba, we see how one sin leads to another and how sin spins out of control.

This week, our lesson will focus on the consequences of sin and how David's immorality caused him to fall out of favor with God. Hopefully, examining David's sin and its consequences will cause us to ponder the potential backlash of our own sin and motivate us to reconsider our behavior.

After the Sin...

- Following the murder of Uriah, David marries Bathsheba
- Bathsheba gives birth to the child that was conceived during the affair with David
- The Lord is angry with David
- The Lord sends the prophet, Nathan, to confront and rebuke David

David's Punishment

- II Samuel 12: 7-14
 - The Lord promises vengeance against David for his transgressions
 - David had been given everything he needed by God, yet he still took another man's wife to be his own
 - The Lord specifically lays out David's punishment
 - David will face adversity from his own house
 - His wives will be taken from him and his humiliation will be public
 - The child Bathsheba is carrying will die

Question for Thought: Do you think the Lord specifically outlines our punishment when we have sinned against Him?

Life Lesson: David admits his sin once he is caught, but he still has to endure the consequences of his actions. Admitting sin doesn't mean there will be no consequences.

Trouble in David's Household

- In keeping with His promise, the Lord strikes David and Bathsheba's son and he becomes ill
- David pleads with the Lord to spare his son
- The child dies
- II Samuel 12: 24
 - Another son, Solomon, is born to David and Bathsheba. Solomon will eventually succeed David as King of Israel
- II Samuel 13: 1-2, 12-14
 - David's son, Amnon, rapes David's daughter, Tamar
- II Samuel 13: 28-29
 - David's son, Absalom, avenges the rape of his sister, Tamar and kills his brother, Amnon.

Sin and Consequences

Absalom plots to succeed David as King of Israel. He purposely positions himself to gain favor among the people so that he can seize power from his father, David. David is being betrayed by his own son.

II Samuel 15: 13-14

As the Lord promised in his outline of punishment for David, we find that his own son, Absalom, is publicly having sexual relations with David's wives (concubines).

II Samuel 16: 20-22

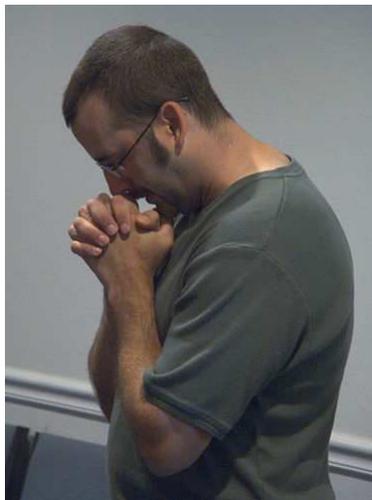
David

David's few moments of pleasure have changed the course of his life for the worst. Before the sin, we saw David as a brave warrior who defeated Goliath and successfully lead the military. After the sin, he is reduced to running from his son, Absalom, who intends to take the kingship from David. The sin caused David to lose confidence and faith. Furthermore, David endured great trouble in his life and in his household as a result of his encounter with Bathsheba.

Question for Thought: What shall we endure as a result of the sin in our lives?

*Life Lesson: **Sin is deceptive.**
Sin and its **pleasure** causes us
to take risks. However, the end
of a sinful lifestyle is often **bitter**
and causes us much **pain** and
difficulty in our lives.*

Confession is good for the soul...



The Power of Confession

- I John 1: 8-10
 - God is a loving, kind and forgiving God. Acknowledging our sin and repenting (turning away) from it gives us power. We are in control, rather than the sin controlling our lives and our actions.
 - While we may still endure consequences for our actions, God is there with us and wholeheartedly forgives us when we confess the sin in our lives.

Next week, we will take a look at
the legacy King David
has left us...