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2 SAMUEL 11:1-12:31

Last week we said that David's dealing graciously and kindly with Mephibosheth was perhaps David's **finest hour**. Well, today we're going to see David's darkest hour...his **saddest hour**.

And in today's lesson we find one of the most well-known stories in Scripture. It's been immortalized and glamorized by Hollywood and it's sadly what many folks, especially unbelievers, remember most about David. I **think** believers and I really **hope** believers remember David with fond affection...as *the sweet singer of Israel* and as *the man after God's own heart* as well as one who prayed that *God would keep him as the apple of His eye*.

Let's look at the darkest hour in David's life...

2 Samuel 11:1-5...

In Chuck Swindoll's little workbook on the life of David, he calls this chapter "**The Case of the Open Window Shade**"...and that's not a bad title.

As I read this chapter this week, you know what was the most remarkable and disappointing was that David had no remorse, no inner struggle, no sorrowful conviction for what he had done. What David did was an awful thing, but the thing that's most shocking and most tragic is that he did it so easily and without any apparent remorse.

Why? What had reduced the man after God's own heart to adultery and lying and deception and murder?

I believe the answer is that David had taken his eyes off Jehovah and focused his attention upon himself.

In this chapter we see David's lust and we said several weeks ago that David's trouble with women didn't begin with Bathsheba. It began when he began to multiply wives and concubines to himself...something God had commanded the kings of Israel not to do.

And as David's harem grew, so did his **lust**. I've read and heard that pornography will drag a person down, down, down. What it took to "turn a person on" last year isn't enough this year. It takes more and more to satisfy the flesh.

And that's what we see happening to David.

Another thing we see here is David's his **irresponsibility**.

What does **verse 1** say? Well, what was David? He was the **king of Israel** and if kings were in battle, David had no business staying home. He had no business sending Joab and Joab's servants and the army of Israel to fight battles when **he** stayed home!

Maybe David was in the throes of a mid-life crisis. David was around fifty years old when this happened, but I want to tell you something...

God isn't any more blind to our sin at fifty or sixty than He was when we were twenty or thirty. He doesn't say,
"Well, David's always lived an upright life.
He's entitled to make some big mistakes

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before he goes.”

And God doesn't smile and think it's cute when a man or a woman says,
“You know, I've always put other folks first. I've worked hard and I've sacrificed for my wife and kids and my job and my church. Now's my chance to live for me! Now's my chance to do what I want to do with whomever I want to do it!”

I had a very close friend whose husband said that when he was around fifty. He said, *“Life's just too short for me not to be happy with someone else.”*

And he abandoned her and her children and went after another woman. He eventually came back and they're still together, but for every man who comes back home, there are dozens who don't.

Not only do we see David's **lust**, and his **irresponsibility**, but we also see his **indulgence**.

David didn't just have a lustful **thought** and a lustful **look** and a lustful **desire**. **David also did a lustful act.**

What began with a thought led to a look which developed into a desire which formed itself into an action.

We cannot always keep thoughts away. But, we don't have to, as Kay Arthur puts it, “invite them in for tea!” When a lustful thought or sinful thought of any kind comes knocking on the door of your mind...you must turn it away.

You must close the door and you must think on, as Paul says, **“things that are true and honorable, and right and pure, and lovely and things of good repute...and things that are excellent and things that are worthy of praise.”**

That was David's responsibility and that is ours as well.

But David didn't and he became **lustful, irresponsible and indulgent**. So, let's look at what else happened...

Verses 6-25...

Do you see any godly sorrow or repentance in David? (Thought I'd missed it if it was there!)

David thought he had devised the perfect plan. He'd just bring Uriah in from the battlefield and Uriah and Bathsheba would sleep together and they'd have sexual relations. Uriah would think the baby was his baby and David would be free from any more worry about all that!

But that's not what happened! Uriah was a more honorable man than David at this point in his life. He refused to go and sleep in his own bed with his wife while his commanders and companions were camping in on open field!

Think about it! David was more than content to allow his soldiers to sleep in an open field while he slept with another man's wife.

And, David's plan did work! **Plan A** fell apart...so David went to **Plan B**.

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He commanded Joab to place Uriah in the hottest part of the battle so that the enemy would kill him. And that's exactly what happened.

Verses 26-27 tells us that Bathsheba mourned for her husband. It doesn't say anything about David mourning for his loyal soldier...

And when the time of mourning was over, David sent for Bathsheba and brought her into his house and she bore him a son.

What a story! David has gotten away with coveting. David has gotten away with lust and irresponsibility and indulgence. David has gotten away with adultery! David has gotten away with deception. And David has gotten away with murder! Now, he has a new wife and a new baby. And everybody lived happily ever after!

I mean, no one knew about this except David, Bathsheba and Joab. And Bathsheba didn't even know the worst part. She thought Uriah was killed in battle as a normal course of events.

By the way...was Bathsheba guilty in all this? There are really two ways to look at it...

- 1) Yes, she was guilty. She shouldn't have been bathing where David could see her. She should have pulled her shades.

Also, when David sent for her the very first time, she should not have come to the palace.

- 2) No she was not guilty. David was the king. And women had no rights back then...especially against the king. Whatever the king ordered had to be done.

I don't know. The Holy Spirit doesn't tell us. Hollywood tells us she loved David more than Uriah. But this is not made plain to us in this chapter.

The bottom line is that David believed he had closed this chapter of his life...he had **arranged and engineered and manipulated** his way out of the sin he had committed...**or so he thought...**

The last part of **verse 27** of **chapter 11** tells us that what David had done was "evil in the sight of the Lord."

David's life was to be an example for others to follow. So when David sinned and didn't repent, God sent Nathan to David to confront and reprove David.

Verses 1-6 tell us that...

Nathan told David about a rich man and a poor man...and how the rich man had many flocks and herds. But the poor had only one little ewe lamb.

This little lamb grew up with the man's children and it would eat the poor man's food and drink of the poor man's cup and lie in the poor man's bosom and it was like a daughter to the poor man. This little ewe lamb was his pet.

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Well, one day the rich man, the man with all the flocks and herds, had a visitor and the rich man needed to prepare his visitor a meal. But, he didn't want to take anything from his own flocks and herds...

So he went and he took the little ewe lamb that belonged to the poor man...and he killed it and prepared it for his visitor!

When King David was furious when Nathan told him that story.

Verse 7...

Nathan said, **"You are the man, David. You have a palace full of wives and concubines. You have women all over the place! Yet, you went and took the only wife of one of your best soldiers and slept with her and then killed her husband to cover up your sin!"**

Verses 8-12...

The first thing God did was remind David how He had blessed him. God said, **"David, I anointed you. I delivered you. I've protected you. I've provided for you. Everything you have today and everything you are today, David, you owe to Me and My grace and goodness to you!"**

Then, God lowers the boom on David...

He reviews David's sin...

Verse 9...

God is saying, **"I commanded you not to covet what belongs to another. I commanded you not to lie with another man's wife. I commanded you not to commit adultery. I commanded you not to be deceitful. I commanded you not to take another person's life. But you have despised all My words to you."**

Then, God reveals the discipline that will surely come...

"The sword will never depart from your house, David. Your punishment will be painful, it will be personal, and it will be public. You sinned in secret...in the dark...but I will punish you in broad daylight!"

Then, we see David's **confession...**

Verse 13a...

But, we also see God's **response...**

Verses 13b-14...

Did God forgive David? YES! But, He didn't take away the consequences of David's sin!

The little baby boy got very sick and David prayed for him. In fact David fasted and went outside and lay all night on the ground. David's servants tried to get David to eat. But, he refused and he prayed and cried out to God to spare the life of his baby boy.

But God said "NO."

David had confessed his sin. David had fasted and prayed. David had done all this...but God said "NO."

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WHY? I believe it was because there are some times when God must say “no” in order to teach a hard lesson that cannot be taught any other way.

One thing we need to remember when we study this is that David was the king. He was God’s anointed leader of the Jewish people. God had anointed him and God had appointed him...and there is a price to pay for leadership!

Also, we need to think about this...

Some sin just affects you. Some sin just affects you and a very few others. But, there are some sin that affects a lot of people.

And the sin David had committed was that sort of sin.

Verse 14... “You see, David what you’ve done is you’ve called into question **My** character. You’ve allowed Me to become the object of ridicule. You’ve allowed the world to say, ‘Well, David’s God must not be much of a God.’ And for that reason I will take the life of your child.”

A couple of questions are usually asked when this Scripture is studied.

1) Does God do this today?

Well, we need to remember God can do anything God wants to do and it would be **righteous** and **just** and **holy** whether we agreed with it or not!

But, I really don’t believe God deals with His children this way today. and if you’ll turn to the **Book of Jeremiah**, I believe we’ll see why...

Jeremiah 31:29-31...

I don’t believe when we see a child or a baby or anyone else for that matter die that it is necessarily punishment for sin.

I don’t believe God takes the life of children because of sin in the life of the parent. We’re under a new covenant!

Some years ago...in 1986, my husband’s niece died of breast cancer. She was only 33 years old. Her mother called me one night weeping and really in deep pain and grief.

She wanted to know if God had allowed her daughter to die because of her sin. I told her I didn’t believe that God would do that. I don’t know if I knew about the passage we just looked at back then, but I **did** know about **Ezekiel 18**.

Let me just tell you what Ezekiel 18:20 says...

“...the son will not bear the punishment for the father’s iniquity, nor will the father bear the punishment for the son’s iniquity; the righteousness of the righteous will be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked will be upon himself.”

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God has the sovereign right to do whatever pleases Him. And He might take drastic measures to get our attention...to make us accountable to Him. But, I don't believe He deals with us in this age of grace the same way He dealt with believers in the **Old Testament**.

Another question...

2) Do little babies go to Heaven?

You know, there are folks who believe that little babies go to Limbo...wherever that is. I remember having a Catholic boss years ago after my first baby boy died. And he informed me that if that baby had not been baptized, then he didn't go to Heaven, he went to Limbo. I didn't know enough Bible back then to argue with him...nor to even ask him any intelligent questions, but I knew in my heart that my baby was in Heaven.

There are other folks who believe that certain folks are just destined for Heaven and certain folks are just destined for Hell.

After David's baby died, his servants were afraid to tell him. I mean, they said, "My goodness, he wouldn't eat...he laid outside on the ground, he was so distraught when he believed his baby might die...Now that the baby is dead, what might he do to himself?"

But, when David was told his baby had died, this passage tells us

He arose from the ground.
He bathed and anointed himself.
He put on clean clothes.
He came to the house of God and he worshiped God!

Look at **verses 21-23...**

I believe this teaches us several things...

The first thing we ought to do when great disappointment comes is we should worship God. The word "worship" means "*bow down, bow low, submit, surrender.*"
We submit to His worth...We submit to His authority. We acknowledge His sovereignty!

And we say, "**Lord, You are sovereign over my life.
I may not understand all that You're doing...
and I may not even like it, but I surrender
myself to Your sovereignty and I worship
You!**"

And to answer the question we considered a few moments ago about babies going to Heaven...

David said "I cannot go bring my baby boy back...He's gone,
but I **can** go to him."

I don't believe David ever heard of hyper-Calvinism. I don't believe this was "wishful thinking" on David's part.

I fully expect to see our baby in Heaven when I get there. I don't know how old he will be. Will he still be a baby? I don't know. I heard a preacher say one day that he believed we'd all be 33 years of age. He said he believed that because that was the age of the Lord Jesus Christ when He died. That's not scriptural...so don't go tell folks I said that's truth. **But it sounds good to me!** 😊

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One last thing...

Verse 24...

David reached beyond himself. He went in and comforted Bathsheba and lay with her.

What does this mean? **He got on with his life.** It wasn't easy. David knew he had brought **shame on God.** He had brought **sorrow on himself and Bathsheba** and he had brought a **sword to his household.**

But, David knew it would serve no productive purpose to sit around and grieve every day.

David would reap a bitter harvest for what he had sown. **He had sown the wind and he would reap the whirlwind** and we're going to see that in the weeks ahead.

But, in closing, let me just say this...

David was a forgiven man. David wrote some of the sweetest psalms on repentance and forgiveness from this tragic experience and God has chosen to preserve them in His holy Word for you and me to be comforted and assured by all these hundreds of years later.

So, I want to ask you...**are you dealing with some sin in your own life?**

Maybe your sin isn't the same as David's sin. But maybe there's just something you've been afraid to deal with or reluctant to deal with...**maybe you believe God just cannot forgive you...**

Let me just tell you this...

"where sin abounds, grace much more abounds..."

If we review this morning the awfulness of David's sin and leave it at that, we've really learned very little...**because we knew all about that before we got here this morning...**

but if we leave from here knowing anew and afresh about God's grace that is sufficient and His mercies that are new every morning...

If we leave here this morning with a fresh awareness that we are dependent upon the grace of God and the blood of the Lord Jesus for cleansing, then we will have heard from God this morning.

God longs to make His children holy and He does that when we come out of the sin that is besetting us and entangling us and ask Him as David asked Him...**to restore to us the joy of our salvation.**

Alan Redpath said it like this...

"The Lord sets all our sins in array before His face: even our secret sins are revealed in the light of His countenance.

"He breaks our hearts and humbles us and brings us to confession and repentance in order to make us holy, to restore to us the years that the locusts have eaten, and to present us even yet 'faultless before the throne.'"

He did that for David and He'll do that for you and me!