

The Bible From 20,000 Feet Part 38 2 Samuel ch. 12 – 20

Tuesday Night Bible Study, November 10, 2009

OUTLINE:

- I. THE PRONOUNCEMENT OF GOD'S JUDGEMENT ON DAVID FOR HIS SINS OF ADULTERY AND MURDER
- II. DAVID'S SONS REPEAT DAVID'S SINS OF ADULTERY AND MURDER
- III. DAVID MISMISHANDLES HIS SON'S SIN WHICH LEADS TO DAVID LOSING THE THRONE AND BEING DRIVEN INTO EXILE
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I. THE PRONOUNCEMENT OF GOD'S JUDGEMENT ON DAVID FOR HIS SINS OF ADULTERY AND MURDER

--the prophet Nathan pronounced God's judgement on King David for his sin with Bathsheeba: "Thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. 8 I gave you your master's house and your master's wives into your keeping, and gave you the house of Israel and Judah. And if that had been too little, I also would have given you much more! 9 Why have you despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in His sight? You have killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword; you have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the people of Ammon. 10 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 adversity against you from 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, before the sun.'"

13 **So David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD."** And Nathan said to David, "The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die. 14 However, because by this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also who is born to you shall surely die." 15 Then Nathan departed to his house. And the LORD struck the child that Uriah's wife bore to David, and it became ill."

--after the death of the illegitimate child, Bathsheeba conceives through David again and gives birth to Solomon. (2 Samuel 12:24)

II. DAVID'S SONS REPEAT DAVID'S SINS OF ADULTERY AND MURDER

--fulfillment of Nathan's prophecy of judgement begins...

--on one level the problems that constitute the judgement are simply the natural byproduct of David's sin... David's son Amnon following David's example of adultery and Absalom following David's example of murder.

--Amnon: David's oldest son by Ahinoam

--Absalom: David's son by Maacah

--Tamar: David's daughter by Maacah

--Amnon fell in love with (or had a major crush on) his half-sister Tamar and, like his father David, allowed his sinful emotion to turn into sinful action...

--and along the way his cousin Jonadab encouraged Amnon's sinful action...

--2 Samuel 13:2-5: "*Amnon was so distressed over his sister Tamar that he became sick; for she was a virgin. And it was improper for Amnon to do anything to her.*

--Amnon knew it wasn't right to have sexual relations outside of marriage, and therefore he didn't act on his desires for a time.

3 But *Amnon had a friend whose name was Jonadab the son of Shimeah, David's brother. Now Jonadab was a very crafty man.*

--Jonadab is a type of satan who is also very crafty and schemes to trip us up and turn our sinful impulses/desires into action.

4 And he said to him, "Why are you, the king's son, becoming thinner day after day? Will you not tell me?" Amnon said to him, "I love Tamar, my brother Absalom's sister." 5 So Jonadab said to him, "Lie down on your bed and pretend to be ill. And when your father comes to see you, say to him, 'Please let my sister Tamar come and give me food, and prepare the food in my sight, that I may see it and eat it from her hand.'"

--Jonadab proved to be very crafty indeed; for his advice wasn't sinful in and of itself, but if followed it would take Amnon one step away from fulfilling his sinful desires, and when he was only one step away the desire proved to be too strong to hold back!

--this is another example of how important it is to "flee sexual immorality" (1 Corinthians 6:18) rather than get as close as possible!

--David then had Tamar prepare food for Amnon, and when they were alone Amnon raped Tamar, and after raping her his lust turned to hate – "Then Amnon hated her exceedingly, so that the hatred with which he hated her was greater than the love with which he had loved her. And Amnon said to her, 'Arise, be gone!'" (2 Samuel 13:15)

--the way that Amnon's emotions turned into hatred illustrates how shallow flesh-based attraction is!

--how often are the attractions that we feel actually flesh-based and not spirit-based?

--these events paved the way for direct fulfillment of God's judgement on David's sins – "the sword shall never depart from your house... I will raise up adversity against you from your own house..." (2 Samuel 12:10-11)

--given the fact that Satanic forces were involved in the temptations that David faced (1 Chronicles 21:1), it is likely that Satanic forces were behind Jonadab and the circumstances of Amnon's sin; and it could be that God simply withdrew His hand of protection to allow these Satanic forces and sinful desires of people to erupt into the preordained judgement on David.

--after Amnon's rape of his half sister Tamar, Tamar's full-brother Absalom murders Amnon.

--Absalom then flees Israel because under the law premeditated murder was punishable by death (the city of refuge only applied for involuntary manslaughter)

III. DAVID'S MISHANDLING OF HIS SON'S SIN LEADS TO DAVID LOSING THE THRONE

--David was deeply distressed by Absalom's predicament, and then Joab devises a scheme in order to make it possible for Absalom to return without being executed...

--Joab instructs a woman to tell David a fabricated story... "And when the woman of Tekoa spoke to the king, she fell on her face to the ground and prostrated herself, and said, "Help, O king!" 5 Then the king said to her, "What troubles you?" And she answered, "Indeed I am a widow, my husband is dead. 6 Now your maidservant had two sons; and the two fought with each other in the field, and there was no one to part them, but the one struck the other and killed him. 7 And now the whole family has risen up against your maidservant, and they said, 'Deliver him who struck his brother, that we may execute him for the life of his brother whom he killed; and we will destroy the heir also.' So they would extinguish my ember that is left, and leave to my husband neither name nor remnant on the earth." ... And he [David] said, "As the LORD lives, not one hair of your son shall fall to the ground." 12 Therefore the woman said, "Please, let your maidservant speak another word to my lord the king." And he said, "Say on." 13 So the woman said: "Why then have you schemed such a thing against the people of God? For the king speaks this thing as one who is guilty, in that the king does not bring his banished one home again. 14 For we will surely die and become like water spilled on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again. Yet God does not take away a life; but He devises means, so that His banished ones are not expelled from Him..." (2 Samuel 14:4-14)

--you can see the fingerprints of satan in the fabricated story...

--Joab, like Jonadab, is a type of Satan working behind the scenes.

--the story was a lie and satan is the "father of lies" – John 8:44

--the story took Scriptural principles and distorted them (just as satan distorted scriptural principles when he tempted Jesus during the wilderness wandering - Matthew 4:1-11)

--the idea of Absalom being David's heir probably appealed to David's flesh because of Absalom's popularity and noble appearance...

--2 Samuel 14:25-26: "Now in all Israel there was no one who was praised as much as Absalom for his good looks. From the sole of his foot to the crown of his head there was no blemish in him."

--under the law Absalom should have been put to death for his crime, but the fabricated story twisted the law and tried to put the need for an heir above justice.

--even if Absalom was David's only heir, God could have provided another son; but Absalom wasn't the only heir. Solomon was already born (2 Samuel 12:24) and he would be God's choice to sit on the throne after David.

--unlike David, Abraham did not withhold from death his only son who was to be his heir and God did not withhold His only Son from death when the guilt of our sin was put on Him...

--Romans 8:31-32: "If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all..."

--Genesis 22:10-12: "And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. 11 But the Angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" So he said, "Here I am." 12 And He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me."

--David then allows Absalom to return with immunity from the penalty for his crime...

--2 Samuel 14:21: David said, "All right, I have granted this thing [*in his answer to the fabricated story*]. Go therefore, bring back the young man Absalom."

--so David was essentially manipulated into allowing Absalom to return.

--David's failure to execute justice in Absalom's life ultimately led to David losing the throne and being driven into exile...

--two years after Absalom returned to Jerusalem he began to plant seeds of discontent among the people of Israel and promote himself as one who would be a better king than David – "So Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel." (2 Samuel 15:6)

--Absalom is a type of sin... if we fail to deal with sin in our lives as David failed to properly deal with Absalom, then sin will threaten to take control of our lives, as Absalom took control of Israel, as we'll see.

--yet, because of our unconditional relationship with God, He will intervene and eventually break sin's control of our lives, as Absalom's control was eventually broken and David returned from exile; but in the process a lot of damage can occur.

--Absalom then goes to Hebron and declares himself to be king and quickly gains the loyalty of a large part of Israel.

--Hebron is where David began his rule, and the people there may have felt bitterness towards David for moving the political center of Israel from there to Jerusalem, and this bitterness would have helped pave the way for allegiance to Absalom.

--2 Samuel 15:13: "Now a messenger came to David, saying, 'The hearts of the men of Israel are with Absalom.'"

--David and the people loyal to him flee Jerusalem...

--when David saw the Levites following him and bringing the Ark of the Covenant with them, he told them, "Carry the Ark of God back into the city. If I find favor in the eyes of the Lord, He will

bring me back and show me both it and His dwelling place. But if He says thus: 'I have no delight in you,' here I am, let Him do to me as seems good to Him" (2 Samuel 15:25-26)

--David again proves that he is "a man after God's own heart..." in spite of his sin – his love for God was deeper than his sin, and this led him to recognize his sin, accept the consequence of his sin, and rest in the sovereignty of God.

IV. DEATH OF DAVID'S SON AND DAVID'S RETURN FROM EXILE

--two counselors, Ahithophel and Hushai, give Absalom conflicting advice on how to track David down and kill him; but God intervened and caused the advice that would lead to failure to be the popular choice among the elders of Israel and Absalom... "For the Lord had purposed to defeat the good advice of Ahithophel, to the intent that the Lord might bring disaster on Absalom." (2 Samuel 17:14)

--Hushai advised Absalom to delay his attack on David and gather a massive army from soldiers scattered all throughout 12 tribes and then personally go to the battlefield with the army, but this delay gave David time to regroup and prepare for battle.

--as the battle approaches David instructs his army to "deal gently for my sake with the young man Absalom" to prevent him from getting killed in the battle. (2 Samuel 18:5)

--David's army meets Absalom and his army on the battlefield...

--Absalom's army was quickly defeated and David's commanding officer Joab (the one who carried out the orders to kill Bathsheeba's husband) ends up ignoring David's advice and killing Absalom. (2 Samuel 18:14)

--the death of Absalom deeply grieved David and he wailed, "O my son Absalom – my son, my son Absalom – if only I had died in your place! O Absalom my son, my son!" (2 Samuel 18:33)

--David's mourning then breeds discouragement among David's army that threatened to turn into a mass defection.

--Joab warns David about this.

--David then stops wallowing in his sorry and encourages his army.

--David and his army then begin their return to Jerusalem, and the southern tribes of Judah and Benjamin greeted them at the Jordan river and helped them cross the river. (2 Samuel 19:15-18)

--Judah and Benjamin's aid of David and his army sparks jealousy in the northern tribes that leads to another short-lived insurrection...

--2 Samuel 19:41-20:2: "Soon all the men of Israel were coming to the king and saying to him, "Why did our brothers, the men of Judah, steal the king away and bring him and his household across the Jordan, together with all his men?" 42 All the men of Judah answered the men of Israel, "We did this because the king is closely related to us. Why are you angry about it? Have we eaten any of the king's provisions? Have we taken anything for ourselves?" 43 Then the men of Israel answered the men of Judah, "We have ten shares in the king; and besides, we have a greater claim on David than you have. So why do you treat us with contempt? Were we not the first to speak of bringing back our king?" But the men of Judah responded even more harshly than the men of Israel. 20:1 Now a troublemaker named Sheba son of Bicri, a Benjamite, happened to be there. He sounded the trumpet and shouted, "We have no share in David, no part in Jesse's son! Every man to his tent, O Israel!" 2 So all the men of Israel deserted David to follow Sheba son of Bicri. But the men of Judah stayed by their king all the way from the Jordan to Jerusalem."

--the drama surrounding David's return reveals how the chain reaction of turmoil after David's fall contributed to the weakening of the north-south unity.

--David acts quickly to nip Sheba's rebellion in the bud...

--"And David said to Abishai [*one of his most loyal military leaders*], 'Now Sheba the son of Bichri will do us more harm than Absalom. Take your lord's servants [David's army] and pursue him, lest he find for himself fortified cities and escape us.'

--David's quick action of nipping Sheba's rebellion in the bud illustrates how we need to act quick and nip sin in the bud before it takes root and grows out of control and causes major damage as in David's life!

--practical steps for keeping sin in check...

--take every thought captive... when sinful thoughts enter your mind don't dwell on them, recognize that your mind is a spiritual battlefield, and use the Sword of the Spirit – "bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ." (1 Corinthians 10:6)

--prayer... when you are losing ground in your thoughts then step away from everything and pray. Sometimes prayer and fasting is needed. Jesus said, "watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation." (Matthew 26:41)

--accountability / fellowship... when we spend time in fellowship and accountability with each other the Spirit of God can work powerfully through others to help you stay on track...

--Ephesians 2:19-22: "Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God..."

--Ephesians 4:25: "Therefore, putting away all lying, 'Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,' for we are members of one another." Christians have a profound connection with each other because we are all part of the same spiritual body of Christ!