

TITLE: "SIN ALWAYS..."

TEXT: 2 SAMUEL 11 & 12

THESIS: To show how sin affects us...usually in more extreme ways than we would've expected.

INTRO: God doesn't hide or sugarcoat sin. He calls it what it is, and treats those guilty of it how they deserve. He doesn't expose it *only* in those "lesser" biblical characters while covering it up in the ones "after His own heart!" Two examples: **1)** Hymenaeus & Alexander (1 Tim 1:20), two men about whom we know very little, & **2)** David. The sad story of David & Bathsheba is one of those stories that seems inappropriate for children, yet one that most of us have probably known since childhood. Why would we teach this to our children? Why would God even include it in the Bible? Because it happened, and there are several lessons about sin that we need to learn from it. **SIN ALWAYS:**

I. TAKES YOU FURTHER THAN YOU INTENDED TO GO (v. 1-4):

- A. (v. 1) "when kings go forth" - David's 1st problem was that he stayed home instead of going to war with the Lord's army. He was idle. "Idle hands..." **1 Tim 5:13** – widows learn to be idle; **2 Pet 1:8** – barren (idle) nor unfruitful in knowledge... **Mt 12:43f** teaches us that Satan always wants into your life, and idleness leaves the door wide open for sin!
- B. (v. 2) However, no sin in getting up and standing on the roof. No sin in *seeing* the woman (unless this was premeditated...on his or her part). He could've immediately left the rooftop and returned to bed. But sin begins in the heart:
 - 1. **Jam 1:14**—every man is tempted when he is drawn away of his own lust (desire) & enticed...then when lust has conceived...
 - 2. **Mt 5:28** – whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart
- C. Regardless of the sin, it will take you further than you intended to go. As David stood on his roof, he probably never dreamed that his lusting for Bathsheba would result in the murder of Uriah & the death of a child. Maybe his sole intention initially was just to look. Then, he was just intending to find out a little about her (all the while continuing to look). Then it would just be a one-night-stand, and nobody would have to know (he may have even lied to his servants - v. 4).

II. KEEPS YOU LONGER THAN YOU INTENDED TO STAY (v. 5-13):

- A. David's sin has now gone beyond a one-night-stand. The woman is pregnant! A cover-up is now needed.
- B. Plan A: He sends for Uriah, Bathsheba's husband (who is at war...where David *should be*), hoping he'll spend the night with Bathsheba, & believe the child to be his own. Even if this had worked, **God would still have known!** But Uriah shows himself to be more righteous than the man after God's own heart, and refuses to enjoy what his fellow soldiers are unable to (v. 11).
- C. Plan B: Kill Uriah and steal his wife! Put him at the front and withdraw, so he'll be killed (v. 15)! Does this sound like the kind of thing David was accustomed to doing? No! But his sin took him further and kept him longer than he *ever* intended! So Plan B works. He steals Bathsheba from Uriah *and* Uriah from Bathsheba! The great King David is now *living* in this sin, finding it necessary to commit further sins to cover up for the first one!

III. COSTS YOU MORE THAN YOU INTENDED TO PAY:

- A. What did David think it would cost him (assuming he even thought at all)? Nothing? One easy murder? Another wife & child?
 - 1. **2 Sam 12:14** – by these sins, David gave "great occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme."
 - 2. Nathan condemns David in a parable. David's judgment of the hypothetical man shows his true nature.
 - 3. The innocent child dies; David mourns. This was to the child's benefit (cf. **1 Kings 14:12-13** – re: Jeroboam's son Abijah).
 - 4. David repents of his sins, but the rest of the consequences still came:
 - His daughter Tamar was raped by her half brother Amnon, who then hated her afterward (**2 Sam 13**)
 - Absalom then killed Amnon because of this (**2 Sam 13**)
 - Absalom flees & is exiled for 3 years. When he is finally allowed to return, he is not allowed to see David for 2 years.
 - Absalom leads a rebellion against David, and David is driven from Jerusalem.
 - Absalom defiles David's wives publicly.
 - Absalom is killed by Joab in battle.
 - David's wives are left alone for the rest of their lives, since they had been defiled by Absalom.
- B. Cf. Ananias & Sapphira – **Acts 5**. Sin always costs more than you intended to pay!

IV. LOOKS WORSE TO GOD THAN IT DOES TO MAN:

- A. Man rationalizes sin.
 - 1. "White lies" – Since white stands for purity, these are lies that we tell that don't matter...we're still clean!
 - 2. Weightier sins – other sins are worse! So as long as there's something worse than this, I can go ahead and do it!
 - 3. The ends justify the means – it's fine to do something that's normally wrong, as long as it's for a good cause!
Situational ethics: "Is a particular sin always wrong? It depends on the situation!" But not according to God!
- B. ALL sin is transgression of God's law (**1 Jn 3:4**). ALL sin is the same to God. ALL sin hurts God the same. ALL sin cost God His son's life. Christ's death brought us freedom *from* sin; not freedom *to* sin (**Rom 6:1-2** "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?").
- C. Was this just one little sin? No! He hurt himself, Uriah, Bathsheba, the child, Tamar, Amnon, Absalom, his wives, & his nation.

CONCLUSION: Nobody's perfect! Even the greatest figure in Israelite history faltered in a big way. God desires perfection, but also recognizes our weaknesses. His expectation then is for us to **turn from our wickedness and repent**, and He will forgive. He then expects us to strive for perfection (**Mt 5:48**). One of the ways we do this is by recognizing sin for what it is and what it does. We will do better at avoiding it altogether if we know beforehand what it can and will do if we ignore it. Never underestimate sin!