

Royal Lessons from the Kings

By Doug Hamilton

David: The Repentant Sinner

2 Samuel 11:1-5 Then it happened in the spring, at the time when kings go out *to battle*, that David sent Joab and his servants with him and all Israel, and they destroyed the sons of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But David stayed at Jerusalem. ² Now when evening came David arose from his bed and walked around on the roof of the king's house, and from the roof he saw a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful in appearance. ³ So David sent and inquired about the woman. And one said, "Is this not Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?" ⁴ David sent messengers and took her, and when she came to him, he lay with her; and when she had purified herself from her uncleanness, she returned to her house. ⁵ The woman conceived; and she sent and told David, and said, "I am pregnant."

- 1Kings 2:11 exposes that David became king when he was thirty and reigned for forty years in total. The first seven years of the kingship was in Hebron and the remaining thirty-three years being carried out in Jerusalem, the sight of this event. If Solomon was around twenty when he became king, this would place the account to be around David's twentieth year of rule. It was the spring of the year and David stayed behind in Jerusalem perhaps because he was about fifty.
- One evening he walked out onto the palace roof and noticed a woman bathing. She was pleasant to the eyes, but married. That did not stop him, for he called for her to come up to the room. The result was an affair and ensuing pregnancy.
- 2Samuel 11:6-13 David had to move quickly to cover it up. His brilliant plan was to have General Joab send back Uriah the Hittite, the husband of Bathsheba, for a little rest and relaxation with his wife; The plan was to trick Uriah into thinking the child was his and arrived a couple of months early. The problem was that Uriah did not think it honorable to indulge in the matrimonial bond while the other troops were out in the field fighting for their lives.
- David invited him to a party and tried to inebriate him with wine, hoping that he would cave into lust and go to be with his wife, but Uriah did not. It looked like in a few months when the pregnancy would become obvious that Uriah would find out that his wife was an adulterer and possibly implicate King David. It was time for plan B.

2 Samuel 11:14-15 Now in the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent *it* by the hand of Uriah. ¹⁵ He had written in the letter, saying, "Place Uriah in the front line of the fiercest battle and withdraw from him, so that he may be struck down and die." ¹⁶ So it was as Joab kept watch on the city, that he put Uriah at the place where he knew there *were* valiant men. ¹⁷ The men of the city went out and fought against Joab, and some of the people among David's servants fell; and Uriah the Hittite also died.

- The plan was for Joab to place Uriah at the frontline in the heat of battle and then pull back quickly, leaving Uriah exposed to attack. The saddest part of all was that Uriah actually unknowingly delivered his execution orders to Joab. With Uriah out of the way, David was hopeful that he was in the clear.

2 Samuel 11:26 Now when the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she mourned for her husband. ²⁷ When the *time of* mourning was over, David sent and brought her to

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his house and she became his wife; then she bore him a son. But the thing that David had done was evil in the sight of the LORD.

- Bathsheba mourned the loss of her husband for a set period of time. No sooner was it over that David decided that he wanted to have her for his own wife. After the marriage, she gave birth to their son and they lived happily ever after. WRONG, for the Lord found the whole scenario to be evil in His sight. There would be something done to rectify the situation.
- Note: It is important to bring into remembrance that David had been trying to hide his sins for more than a year. While doing so, he even suffered with deep depression of a guilty conscience.

Psalm 32:3-4

³ When I kept silent *about my sin*, my body wasted away
Through my groaning all day long.

⁴ For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me;
My vitality was drained away *as* with the fever heat of summer. Selah.

- We can even see one of his coping mechanisms more clearly being revealed in the 1Chronicles account. The NIV does a good job “sanitizing” the text and making it “politically correct” for children under ten, but the NASB holds nothing back.
- 1 Chronicles 20:1-3 Then it happened in the spring, at the time when kings go out *to battle*, that Joab led out the army and ravaged the land of the sons of Ammon, and came and besieged Rabbah. But David stayed at Jerusalem. And Joab struck Rabbah and overthrew it. ² David took the crown of their king from his head, and he found it to weigh a talent of gold, and there was a precious stone in it; and it was placed on David’s head. And he brought out the spoil of the city, a very great amount. ³ He brought out the people who *were* in it, and cut *them* with saws and with sharp instruments and with axes. And thus David did to all the cities of the sons of Ammon. Then David and all the people returned *to* Jerusalem. (NASB 95)
- 2 Samuel 12:31 goes as far as to say “*He also brought out the people who were in it, and set them under saws, sharp iron instruments, and iron axes, and made them pass through the brickkiln. And thus he did to all the cities of the sons of Ammon. Then David and all the people returned to Jerusalem.*” (NASB 95)
- The people of Ammon were about as pagan as a nation could be, even readily adopting the practice of offering their children to pass through the fire of Molech. 1 Kings 11:7 identifies Molech as “...*the detestable idol of the sons of Ammon.*” The Israelites were warned often about this practice (Lev 18:21; 20:2-5; 2King 23:10 and Jer 32:35) and it was running rampant in the days of David.
- The parallel of 2Samuel 11:1, 2Samuel 12:26 and the account of 1Chr. 20 clearly places this event as occurring during the time of David’s practiced sin. If that is so and the NASB and other reliable versions hold true to the text, and I believe they do, then David was more than likely taking out his spiritual sickness on the evil Ammonites to whom was the lowest of the low. It would have been a sort of “wag the dog” effect. “You rotten Ammonites that cause your children to pass through the fire of Molech; I’ll cut you up and make you pass through the fire and see how you like that.”

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- God had to confront David about this matter of sin and sent Nathan the prophet to do so.

2 Sam 12:1-6 Then the LORD sent Nathan to David. And he came to him and said, “There were two men in one city, the one rich and the other poor.”² “The rich man had a great many flocks and herds.”³ “But the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb which he bought and nourished; and it grew up together with him and his children. It would eat of his bread and drink of his cup and lie in his bosom, and was like a daughter to him.”⁴ “Now a traveler came to the rich man, and he was unwilling to take from his own flock or his own herd, to prepare for the wayfarer who had come to him; rather he took the poor man’s ewe lamb and prepared it for the man who had come to him.”⁵ Then David’s anger burned greatly against the man, and he said to Nathan, “As the LORD lives, surely the man who has done this deserves to die.”⁶ He must make restitution for the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing and had no compassion.”

- The purpose of Nathan using a story was because it would allow David the opportunity to analyze the situation from a 3rd party perspective and make an accurate assessment of his standing with God.
- Nathan told of an account of a poor man that had a lamb that he loved very much. David, a poor shepherd boy growing up on the pastureland of Judah, would have been listening intently. Nathan told David that a rich man came along one day and stole this poor man’s lamb in order to serve it as a meal to his traveling friend. It didn’t matter to the rich man that he already had a large number of sheep of his own.
- Naturally David’s wrath was kindled against the “hypothetical rich man”. Little did he know that the pronouncement judgment he made was upon himself. “*As the LORD lives, surely the man who has done this deserves to die. He must make restitution for the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing and had no compassion.*” David was well aware of the “law of the stolen sheep” of Exodus 22:1 “*If a man steals...a sheep*” he shall “*...pay...four sheep for the sheep.*” (Remember this for later.) With that fact established, Nathan exposed that it was David that was really the bad guy of the story.

2 Sam 12:7-12 Nathan then said to David, “You are the man! Thus says the LORD God of Israel, ‘It is I who anointed you king over Israel and it is I who delivered you from the hand of Saul.’⁸ ‘I also gave you your master’s house and your master’s wives into your care, and I gave you the house of Israel and Judah; and if *that had been* too little, I would have added to you many more things like these!’⁹ ‘Why have you despised the word of the LORD by doing evil in His sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword, have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the sons 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 evil against you from your own household; I will even take your wives before your eyes and give *them* to your companion, and he will lie with your wives in broad daylight.’¹² ‘Indeed you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel, and under the sun.’ ”

- “You are the man!” These are the four most convicting words of the Old Testament, for they cut to the heart of David’s problem. God wanted David to come clean concerning his state of sin. David had been hiding in his sin for at least a year and now was the time to

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face up to it. He had ignored his conscience for far too long and now was the time to face reality with God.

- David, YOU ARE THE MAN that took away Bathsheba from Uriah the Hittite! YOU ARE THE MAN that caused the death of Uriah by the hands of the Ammonites! YOU ARE THE MAN that has been hiding in your sin from the LORD!
- David, YOU ARE THE MAN that did it in secret, but YOU will be punished openly! YOU ARE THE MAN that will not have peace in your house! YOU ARE THE MAN that will lose your wives to another! David, YOU ARE THE MAN that must come clean in the eyes of the LORD! Don't you hide from the LORD anymore, come clean, for YOU ARE THE MAN!
- Note: The sword did not depart from the House of David and his own son Absalom would engage in a coup d'état, resulting in publically defiling David's own wives (2Sam 16:21). This happened because HE WAS THE MAN. What would he do in light of this confrontation?

2 Samuel 12:13-14 Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." And Nathan said to David, "The LORD also has taken away your sin; you shall not die. ¹⁴ "However, because by this deed you have given occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also that is born to you shall surely die."

- How penitent was David toward God? *Psalm 51:1-13 Be gracious to me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; According to the greatness of Your compassion blot out my transgressions. ² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity And cleanse me from my sin. ³ For I know my transgressions, And my sin is ever before me. ⁴ Against You, You only, I have sinned And done what is evil in Your sight, So that You are justified when You speak And blameless when You judge. ⁵ Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me. ⁶ Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being, And in the hidden part You will make me know wisdom. ⁷ Purify me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. ⁸ Make me to hear joy and gladness, Let the bones which You have broken rejoice. ⁹ Hide Your face from my sins And blot out all my iniquities. ¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. ¹¹ Do not cast me away from Your presence And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. ¹² Restore to me the joy of Your salvation And sustain me with a willing spirit. ¹³ Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, And sinners will be converted to You.*
- Did he receive forgiveness from God?
 - Psalm 32:1-2 How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered! ² How blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity, And in whose spirit there is no deceit!
 - Psalm 32:5 I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I did not hide; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD"; And You forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah.

Application: When it comes to Sin, take it personally.

1) Personal Accountability to God.

It is easy to project our judgment on David because we are able to see the whole picture, for the entire account unfolded before us. He was so wrong and there should be complete

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agreement concerning this. On the other hand do we see our own downfalls and shortcomings? Are we accepting personal accountability to God for the secret lives that we are living? Are we looking at the mirror with four words in mind? YOU ARE THE MAN or YOU ARE THE WOMAN that needs to work on this or that problem. We must take personal accountability toward God.

2) Personal Sincerity to God.

Many have said, "I have sinned", but are we willing to actually mean it?

- Pharaoh said it in Exodus 10:16, but lacked true sincerity. He ended his miserable life at the bottom of the Red Sea.
- Balaam said it in Numbers 22:34, but lacked true sincerity. His life ended while fighting on the wrong side of the people of God.
- King Saul said it in 1 Samuel 15:24, but he lacked true sincerity. He died being personally rejected by God.
- Judas said it in Matthew 27:4, but without a true sincerity, resulting in condemnation and a hopeless death.

Just because you say it does not mean that you MEANT it. You must have sincerity followed up by true change in order to know that it was for REAL.

- The Prodigal Son said "I have sinned..." and had sincerity according to Luke 15:18; it led to a changed life in reconciliation with the father.
- We must have personal sincerity to God. Don't say it and not back it up with action.

3) Personal consequences from God.

- Just because we accept personal accountability to God for our sins and expressed personal sincerity toward God, it does not mean that there will not be personal consequences from God. David said that the man who hath done that should repay fourfold. Did you know that David lost four sons, the unnamed, Amnon, Absalom and Adonijah? All of them were a result of the sin in David's life. David did pay for the life of Uriah the Hittite four-fold in the end.
- Just because we take personal accountability and sincerity toward God, does not mean that we do not have consequences associated with the sin. **THERE ARE ALWAYS CONSEQUENCES THAT FOLLOW THE SIN!**

Most of the time these come in the form of natural consequences.

- If a person lived as a drunk for decades, then repents and changes the behavior, it does not necessarily mean that he won't have damaged his body and his family in the process.
- Just because a fornicator turns from their sin in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ does not make the AIDS virus go away.
- Just because a violent man repents from beating his wife does not guarantee that his children won't have some insecurity issues.
- Most of the time there are natural consequences to our bad behavior. To assume that there is not flies in the face of God.

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Sometimes these come in the form of imposed consequences.

- Just because a murderer converts to Christianity does not mean that he will avoid the imposed consequence of a prison sentence.
- Just because a thief repents of the stealing does not mean that they do not have to repay what they have stolen.
- Just because someone converts to Christianity does not mean that they are free to remarry whom they want, when they want. God imposes many consequences for the sake of the kingdom of God (Matthew 19:12).

Take it from David the repentant sinner; we must have personal accountability toward God, personal sincerity to God and expect personal consequences from God.