

## **“SINS COVERED”**

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**TEXT:** 2 SAMUEL 11:26 – 12:139(a)

**GOD’S WORD:** PSALM 51:1-12

### **I – DAVID SINNED:**

So, when last we spoke I pointed out what a sinner David had become. He didn’t just sin, he spiraled out of control. He started out with lust, which led to adultery, which led to an illegitimate pregnancy, which led to lying, deceit, and manipulation trying to get Bathsheba’s husband to sleep with her so the pregnancy looked legit, and when that didn’t work he went straight to murder. He ordered the commander of the army to put Uriah on the frontlines.

And if you continue on from the story we looked at last week you’ll note that Joab did just what David ordered, left Uriah on the front line alone and withdrew the rest of the troops and Uriah did indeed die. And it appears that David makes light of it, has no remorse over it and sends the message to him in verse 25:

<sup>25</sup> “Well, tell Joab not to be discouraged,” David said. “The sword devours this one today and that one tomorrow! Fight harder next time, and conquer the city!”

I think the part that may upset me the most is what I take note of in this morning’s text as we continue the story.

### **II – TEXT:**

#### **2 Samuel 11:26 – 12:13(a) (NLT)**

<sup>26</sup> When Uriah’s wife heard that her husband was dead, she mourned for him. <sup>27</sup> When the period of mourning was over, David sent for her and brought her to the palace, and she became one of his wives. Then she gave birth to a son. But the LORD was displeased with what David had done.

Nathan Rebukes David

**12** So the LORD sent Nathan the prophet to tell David this story: “There were two men in a certain town. One was rich, and one was poor. <sup>2</sup> The rich man owned a great many sheep and cattle. <sup>3</sup> The poor man owned nothing but one little lamb he had bought. He raised that little lamb, and it grew up with his children. It ate from the man’s own plate and drank from his cup. He cuddled it in his arms like a baby daughter. <sup>4</sup> One day a guest arrived at the home of the rich man. But instead of killing an animal from his own flock or herd, he took the poor man’s lamb and killed it and prepared it for his guest.”

<sup>5</sup> David was furious. “As surely as the LORD lives,” he vowed, “any man who would do such a thing deserves to die! <sup>6</sup> He must repay four lambs to the poor man for the one he stole and for having no pity.”

<sup>7</sup> Then Nathan said to David, “You are that man! The LORD, the God of Israel, says: I anointed you king of Israel and saved you from the power of Saul. <sup>8</sup> I gave you your master’s house and his wives and the kingdoms of Israel and Judah. And if that had not been enough, I would have given you much, much more. <sup>9</sup> Why, then, have you despised the word of the LORD and done this horrible deed? For you have murdered Uriah the Hittite with the sword of the Ammonites and stolen his wife. <sup>10</sup> From this time on, your family will live by the sword because you have despised me by taking Uriah’s wife to be your own.

<sup>11</sup> “This is what the LORD says: Because of what you have done, I will cause your own household to rebel against you. I will give your wives to another man before your very eyes, and he will go to bed with them in public view. <sup>12</sup> You did it secretly, but I will make this happen to you openly in the sight of all Israel.”

#### David Confesses His Guilt

<sup>13</sup> Then David confessed to Nathan, “I have sinned against the LORD.”

The part that upsets me the most is that such a godly man, as David is portrayed to be seems to have no conscious about what he’s done, no remorse over his actions. As soon as the murder is over he lets Bathsheba mourn and then summons her to the palace and marries her while waiting around for the birth of their love child. In reality we don’t know what Bathsheba felt or wanted. She was probably at the mercy of the king’s power. It would appear in the reading of this narrative that David may have meant this to be a one night stand. The indulgences of a king.

But I think we can guess what David’s response was: “MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!” I got to know this beautiful woman intimately and I made sure the matter was all swept under the rug by killing her husband. He may well have died in battle anyhow so what difference does it make. And bonus – I’m going to have another child in the palace.

David has sent a couple of messages in the course of these events and now God is going to send him one through Nathan the prophet. In 2 Samuel 7:14-17 Nathan had delivered God’s promise that David’s kingdom would be an everlasting dynasty...now he delivers God’s judgment.

Nathan comes in and tells the king about this poor man who had only one prized possession...a lamb he treated like a baby and a more powerful man, a rich man, came and took it from the other man without permission. He took it and killed it and fed others with it. A meal they had no right to partake of because it wasn’t the host’s food they were eating.

David is livid! He swears to God that this man will be punished for his injustice. He deserves to die for what he’s done. He also mentions that the other man obviously had no pity as he pronounces a death sentence on the unknown man.

Then Nathan slams the trap door shut and says that you O, king, you David, are the man in the story. You are guilty of all these sins in the legal case I just laid out before you. You David have sinned.

At least in David’s defense, he didn’t try to lie out of it, didn’t make any kind of excuse, but confessed...I HAVE SINNED AGAINST THE LORD.”

#### III- RECOGNIZE:

You see the first part of seeking God's grace is to recognize that you need it. To know that you have sinned against God and admit it. I told you last week that as you went through the week you needed to have an honest conversation with your Creator and your Savior. You needed to recognize and confess your sins to God. You need to admit that you have been wrong. I know that's not easy for some but you have to do it.

It becomes easier to do when you stop and realize that God was there when it happened. He watched what you did, he heard what you said, and he knows what you thought. You can't hide from God. You can run, but you can't hide.

#### **IV – EXCUSES:**

I told you that you needed to be brutally honest with God. The Bible says that God looks at our heart. He knows the motivation behind what we do. Our society says you can do what you want if it makes your life easier or happy. God does not have this mentality. God has put the labels on sin in this book, you don't get to change them or re-write them:

- Before marriage it's fornication – not safe sex
- It's adultery – not an affair of the heart
- It's lying – not exaggeration
- It's stealing a person's reputation – not just gossip
- It's stealing – not borrowing or deserving
- Bullying is not just against a person – it's against God
- It's murder – not just making a point or vengeance

No matter what I list here, if God has already spoken on it, it's a sin not to follow it. God gave us directions and none of them were multiple choice.

So suck it up buttercup – you're not the all-knowing, all powerful one...God is! Failing to honor that is a sin.

#### **V – YOU WON'T DIE:**

The last part of verse 13 in this morning's text says this:

Nathan replied, "Yes, but the LORD has forgiven you, and you won't die for this sin.

Nathan brought this Good News to King David, Jesus brought it to us. He taught it and proclaimed it for three years of earthy ministry. At the end of that ministry he publicly proved it as he was betrayed...arrested...tried...beaten...humiliated...and tortured. Then he walked up a hill called Golgotha where he needed help carrying the crossbeams of his cross and at the top of the hill was laid down on that cross, had his arms stretched out and his forearm kneeled on as an iron spike was driven through his wrist. The same was done to his feet and then the cross lifted and let fall into a hole in the ground to hold it up. He hung there hardly able to breathe, in the hot sun which led to his dehydration, suffered the taunts of those he had come to serve and then he died with all the sins of the world on him and in him, and was placed in a tomb.

When he died he took your sins with him. He died as an atonement for all of our sins. He was the "Lamb of God", the sacrifice to make us justified in the sight of God. He died so we don't have to.

And then he rose from the dead to defeat the enemy and show everyone that they can live forever too. All you have to do is accept him as Your Lord and Savior, recognize and repent of your sins, and ask God's forgiveness. It's just that easy.

AMEN

## COMMUNION

God's word this morning was penned by David as he sought forgiveness for his sins we've been looking at. It's an eloquent petition for God's mercy and grace. I think it's a fitting prayer of confession for all of us as we go to the table of remembrance called communion. Let's read it as a liturgy: Psalm 51

- <sup>1</sup> Have mercy on me, O God,  
because of your unfailing love.  
Because of your great compassion,  
blot out the stain of my sins.
- <sup>2</sup> **Wash me clean from my guilt.  
Purify me from my sin.**
- <sup>3</sup> For I recognize my rebellion;  
it haunts me day and night.
- <sup>4</sup> **Against you, and you alone, have I sinned;  
I have done what is evil in your sight.  
You will be proved right in what you say,  
and your judgment against me is just.**
- <sup>5</sup> For I was born a sinner—  
yes, from the moment my mother conceived me.
- <sup>6</sup> **But you desire honesty from the womb,  
teaching me wisdom even there.**
- <sup>7</sup> Purify me from my sins, and I will be clean;  
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.
- <sup>8</sup> **Oh, give me back my joy again;  
you have broken me—  
now let me rejoice.**
- <sup>9</sup> Don't keep looking at my sins.  
Remove the stain of my guilt.
- <sup>10</sup> **Create in me a clean heart, O God.  
Renew a loyal spirit within me.**
- <sup>11</sup> Do not banish me from your presence,  
and don't take your Holy Spirit from me.
- <sup>12</sup> **Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and make me willing to obey you.**

With your heads bowed, eyes closed, in reverent fear before our God, I want you to call those sins you have been thinking about this week. Those things that still haunt you and affect your relationship with God...

NOW RECEIVE THIS:

This is the message we have heard from God and proclaim to you,  
that God is light and in God there is no darkness at all.  
If we walk in the light, as God is in the light,  
we have fellowship with one another,  
and the blood of Jesus the Son cleanses us from all sin.  
May almighty God, who caused light to shine out of darkness,  
shine in our hearts, cleansing us from all our sins,  
and restoring us to the light of the knowledge of God's glory,  
in the face of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.