



BAND of BROTHERS

FALL SERIES 2025 – WEEK 7

DAVID, THE X-RATED KING

When the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she lamented over her husband. And when the mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD.

– 2 Samuel 11:26-27 ESV

- **A famous and infamous story**

- Rivals the story of Goliath in notoriety
 - One of David's darkest moments
 - The ups and downs of his walk with God continue
 - God's anointed was not immune to sin

**A man after God's own heart can fall into sin,
but God's grace always restores the repentant**

- **The back story**

*In the spring of the year, the time **when kings go out to battle**, David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel. And they ravaged the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem. - 2 Samuel 11:1 ESV*

- David was in the wrong place at the wrong time
 - He should have been at war with his army
 - But there is more to the story than that
- A lingering "heart" problem
 - David had an unhealthy love for women
 - By this time, he had 7 wives

*Saul gave him his daughter **Michal** for a wife. – 1 Samuel 18:27 ESV*

*And sons were born to David at Hebron: his firstborn was Amnon, of **Ahinoam** of Jezreel; and his second, Chileab, of **Abigail** the widow of Nabal of Carmel; and the*

third, Absalom the son of **Maacah** the daughter of Talmai king of Geshur; and the fourth, Adonijah the son of **Haggith**; and the fifth, Shephatiah the son of **Abital**; and the sixth, Ithream, of **Eglah**, David's wife. – 2 Samuel 3:2 ESV

~ He married all these while living as a fugitive

- But there were likely more
And David took more concubines and wives from Jerusalem, after he came from Hebron, and more sons and daughters were born to David. – 2 Samuel 5:13 ESV

- What's wrong with this story?

- He was violating God's law

*"When you come to the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you possess it and dwell in it and then say, 'I will set a king over me, like all the nations that are around me,' you may indeed set a king over you whom the LORD your God will choose. One from among your brothers you shall set as king over you.... Only he must not acquire many horses for himself or cause the people to return to Egypt in order to acquire many horses, since the LORD has said to you, 'You shall never return that way again.' And **he shall not acquire many wives for himself**, lest his heart turn away, nor shall he acquire for himself excessive silver and gold."* – Deuteronomy 17:14-15, 17 ESV

- God's plan had always been one woman and one man

For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh. – Genesis 2:24 ESV

- Jesus confirmed it

Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE, and said, 'FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND HIS MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH'? So they are no longer two, but one flesh." – Matthew 19:4-6 ESV

- David had a lust problem

- And he showed a lack of restraint
- Unchecked, this bears bitter fruit
- Sin usually begins with spiritual complacency

- **When lust is conceived**

*But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. **Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it has run its course, brings forth death.***

– James 1:14-15 NASB

- A less-than-ideal scenario

It happened, late one afternoon, when David arose from his couch and was walking on the roof of the King's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful. – 2 Samuel 11:2 ESV

“he saw” – *rā'â* – to gaze intently, to stare

- Not where God wanted him to be
 - While his army lay siege to Rabbah, Satan laid siege to David
 - He sees [lusts after] a woman bathing
 - The trap has been set for David
 - But was this the first time?
- Not what God wanted him to do
 - An idle heart is the devil’s playground
 - His heart was unguarded
 - An open gate for temptation to take hold
- **A serious heart condition**

So David sent messengers and took her, and she came to him, and he lay with her. Then she returned to her house. And the woman conceived, and she sent and told David, “I am pregnant.” – 2 Samuel 11:4-5 ESV

 - David saw, lusted, longed for, and acted
 - His heart deceived him

The human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is? – Jeremiah 17:9 NLT
 - His lustful impulses took over
 - He chose sin over obedience
 - He believed the lie that sin can be controlled
 - Sin never stays small
 - Sin makes promises that it can’t keep
 - We tell ourselves we can contain it
 - But, sin never stays where you put it
 - We think we manage sin, but it manages us
 - The lie: hidden sin stays hidden
 - God will not let sin remain in the dark

“Nothing is covered up that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. Therefore whatever you have said in the dark shall be heard in the light, and what you have whispered in private rooms shall be proclaimed on the housetops.” – Luke 12:2-3 ESV
 - What we try to keep in the dark eventually comes to light
 - God is not fooled by our attempts to hide sin
 - He knows and sees everything
 - David thinks his sin is hidden
 - ~ But God knows
 - This isn’t just David’s story
 - It’s how sin works for all of us

- **The great cover-up**

So David sent word to Joab, "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent Uriah to David. When Uriah came to him, David asked how Joab was doing and how the people were doing and how the war was going. Then David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house and wash your feet." And Uriah went out of the king's house, and there followed him a present from the king. But Uriah slept at the door of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and did not go down to his house. – 2 Samuel 11:6-9 ESV

- David compounds his sin through deception
 - He sends for Uriah
 - He hides deceit under the appearance of leadership
 - The entire time, his heart is scheming
 - David tries to control the narrative
 - Uriah refuses to go home, showing more honor than David
 - David's plan begins to fall apart
 - God uses Uriah's loyalty to begin exposing David's lies

In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it by the hand of Uriah. In the letter he wrote, "Set Uriah in the forefront of the hardest fighting, and then draw back from him, that he may be struck down, and die." – 2 Samuel 11:14-15 ESV

- The man after God's own heart is now planning someone's death
 - Lust led to deception
 - Deception leads to destruction
- When sin isn't confessed, it always escalates
 - David is trying to control the situation
 - He believes his problem is solved
- When sin hardens the heart, repentance isn't on the radar

- **The rebuke**

Then David's anger was greatly kindled against the man, and he said to Nathan, "As the LORD lives, the man who has done this deserves to die, and he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity." Nathan said to David, "You are the man!" – 2 Samuel 12:5-7 ESV

- God's holiness refuses to let sin stay hidden
 - God is not passive to sin
 - God's grace sometimes appears as **confrontation**
 - Confrontation does not mean God is punishing, but pursuing
 - God used Nathan to show David his sin
 - He is blind to his own shortcomings
 - David can see the sin in others, but not himself
 - Hypocrisy: The fruit of unrepentant sin
The outward expression of a heart that is not genuinely changed by God is characterized by a false outward appearance of piety that hides an inner life of sin.

Since you judge others for doing these things, why do you think you can avoid God's judgment when you do the same things? Don't you see how wonderfully kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Does this mean nothing to you? Can't you see that his kindness is intended to turn you from your sin?

But because you are stubborn and refuse to turn from your sin, you are storing up terrible punishment for yourself. – Romans 2:3-5 NLT

- Hypocrisy exposed
Nathan said to David, "You are the man!" – 2 Samuel 12:7 ESV
 - Grace doesn't **condone** sin – it **confronts** it
 - ~ This is the collision of human deception and God's holiness
 - We've all had a "You are the man" moment
 - ~ Conviction is not God **condemning** you
 - ~ It's God **rescuing** you
 - ~ He exposes our sin to **save us**, not to **shame us**
 - ~ It's His love in action
 - ~ This is where repentance begins
- **David's Repentance**
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." - 2 Samuel 12:13-15 ESV
 - Rather than defending himself, David confesses
 - This is more than being sorry about sinning
 - He is broken over his offense against God
 - Sin isn't a **mistake** – it's **rebellion** against God
 - It breaks communion with God
 - Downplaying sin negates the necessity of the cross
 - We excuse what God had to sacrifice His Son to forgive
 - Until we see sin for what it is, we won't see God grace for what it's worth
 - Sin deserves death, but God gives grace and mercy
 - God's grace moves faster than our guilt and shame
 - God's mercy meets true repentance immediately
 - God's merc removes **condemnation**, not **consequences**
- **Sin's consequences**
 - David would pay for his sins
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.' Thus says the LORD, 'Behold, I will raise up evil against you out of 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. For you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel and before the sun.' – 2 Samuel 12:10-13 NLT

“Nevertheless, because by this deed you have utterly scorned the LORD, the child who is born to you shall die.” – 2 Samuel 12:14 ESV

- One of the most sobering verses in the entire story
- Forgiveness doesn't erase the consequences
- David's child by Bathsheba dies
 - This is not God lashing out in anger
 - God's mercy removes guilt, but not the ripple effects of sin
 - God is not punishing this child for David's sin
 - ~ The child's death is a consequence of David's sin
 - ~ Sin and its consequences always impact more than just the sinner
- **God's Grace After Consequences**

“Then David comforted his wife, Bathsheba, and went in to her and lay with her, and she bore a son, and he called his name Solomon.” – 2 Samuel 12:24 ESV

 - God's grace doesn't end where consequences begin
 - Out of the ashes of David's failure, God brings Solomon
 - God redeemed David's past sin
 - Grace isn't God ignoring sin, it's God restoring broken people
 - God's discipline for sin is real, but so is His delight in those who repent
 - The same God who confronted David now comforts him
- **All About God's Grace**
 - This story is not about how far a man can fall
 - It's about how far God's grace will go to confront and restore
 - Sin is serious and carries significant consequences
 - But God's grace is stronger
 - David's failure was great, but God's grace was greater
 - This lesson is not permission to sin, but a call to repent quickly
 - The same God who restored David, restores us now
 - The same mercy extended to David is extended to us
 - The same grace that covered David covers us
 - What God did for David, he delights to do for us
 - The story doesn't end with our sin
 - It ends with God's faithfulness

Discussion Questions

Where have you seen God's grace show up in your life, even when you've failed?

Why do we tend to minimize sin instead of calling it what it is? What lies do we tell ourselves to minimize sin?

Read Psalm 51:1-4, which David wrote after his sin with Bathsheba. How should it help us have a better understanding of sin's impact on our relationship with God?



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FALL SERIES 2025 – WEEK 8 HOMEWORK

WEEK 8 – SIN HAS CONSEQUENCES

Because of David's immoral relationship with Bathsheba and his attempt to cover his sin by having her husband murdered, he faced the wrath of God. While he would be forgiven for his sin, he would pay a hefty price in the form of the death of their illegitimate son. Not only that, but David also learn that the consequences for sin have a long shelf life. Forgiveness removes the condemnation but not the residual nature of sin's lingering effect.

PASSAGE: 2 Samuel 13-18

DEVOTIONARY™: Pages 257-310

Psalm 3, 4

- Take time to do the Devotional™ reading for this week or use the audio file to listen to the readings as you drive in your car.
- Read the following passages and make a list of all the children born to David:
2 Samuel 12:24-25

1 Chronicles 3:1-9

- David likely had far more children, including daughters, who are not mentioned in the passages above. Read 2 Samuel 13:1-22, then summarize the story here.

What do these verses reveal about David's parenting skills?

Now read 2 Samuel 13:23-33. What are the ramifications of David's lack of initiative and failure to enact justice?

Read 2 Samuel 13:34-389. What signs of David's dysfunctionality do you see in these verses?

- Now read 2 Samuel 13:39-14:20. Summarize any signs of poor parenting, procrastination, and avoidance in David's life that you see in these verses?

What steps does Abner take to get David to reconcile his relationship with Absalom?

- Chapter 15 records the train wreck that occurred because David failed to deal properly with his son's sins. Describe what happens.
- How does Chapter 16 reveal that things just kept getting worse for David?
- How does Chapter 17 illustrate that God is working behind the scenes, orchestrating everything for David's good and His own glory?
- Chapter 18 recalls the death of Absalom and David's response. What jumps out at you?

What do verses 28-23 reveal about David's mental and emotional state at hearing of Absalom's death? Why is this important?