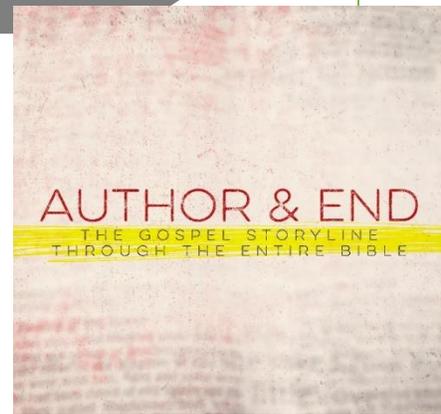


GOD'S GRACE IS GREATER THAN OUR SIN

Lesson 16 – 2 Samuel 11-12, Psalm 51

David became the greatest king of Israel. He ruled God's people with integrity as a shepherd would look after his flock, and during his reign Israel enjoyed prosperity and favor. David lived in light of God's kindness to him and his people, bolstered by God's promise to establish an everlasting kingdom through him that would ultimately be fulfilled by Jesus. However, like every other human being, David fell short of God's standard. No matter how high we might rise in human terms, not one of us is ever beyond sin. **In fact, the question is not whether we will sin but rather how we will respond in light of the gospel when we do.**

*Make it personal. What are some reasons that you might consider yourself beyond the reach of temptation or sin?



DAVID'S SIN

1. The background/context of David's sin – 2 Sam. 10:17-11:2
 - a. David had been abundantly blessed and protected by the Lord.
 - b. David had become disengaged from his position and people. (11:1)
2. David's encounter with temptation. – (11:2)
 - a. He "walked" on the roof. The Hebrew word used for *walked* refers to doing something continually. It seems to suggest David was "steadily walking" or literally pacing the rooftop. It is as though David is contemplating his idleness or is uneasy in general.
 - b. He "saw" a woman bathing. David's sin was not in seeing Bathsheba; it was his response to what he saw. However, there is a sense that David is looking or gazing for his own pleasure. Our eyes should not rest on anything that causes our heart to lust or long for something it should not have.
 - c. She was "beautiful to look upon." The strength or "quality" of a temptation is no excuse for stumbling. David was prepared to stumble. Temptation is not irresistible. (Example: Joseph)
3. David's pursuit toward temptation. – (11:3)
 - a. David sent an inquiry about her. At this point, he is already giving into sinful intrigue. He had already shown disregard for God's plan for marriage. This further proved he was solely focused on personal indulgence. He had learned that wives did not satisfy his lust. (1 Sam. 25:42-43, 2 Sam. 3:2-5)
 - b. David ignores who Bathsheba was.
 - Daughter of Eliam – one of David's mighty men.
 - Granddaughter of Ahithophel – one of David's chief counselors.
 - Wife of Uriah – another of David's mighty men.

Our sin has no regard for persons. In sin, we use people for our own gratification without concern for who they are to us or who they are to God.

- c. He blew through every logical barrier.
4. David's embrace of temptation – (11:4)
 - a. He sent messengers. This involved others in his sin.
 - b. He took her. David used his position to make himself the tempter. He needed to bring her into sin to fulfil his own desires.
 - c. He committed adultery. He abandoned the "law of God" that he loved and sided with the world's opinion and purpose for intimacy.
5. David's reaction to his sin. (11:5-27)
 - a. He tried to avoid consequences and responsibility for sin. (11:6-9)
 - b. He ignored the loyalty of faithful people. (11:10-13)
 - c. He resorted to more sin to cover his initial sin. (11:13-17)

- d. He used his position to force others to sin. (11:16-17)
- e. He seared his own conscience to the place of devaluing life. (11:18-25)
- f. He tried to desensitize others to the effects of his sin. (11:25)
- g. He displeased the Lord. (11:27)

DAVID'S RESTORATION

1. God did not let sin go even in the life of his beloved anointed servant. (12:1-12)
2. God exposed David's sin. (12:7-12)
3. David would still bear the effects of his sin. (12:9-12; 13-23)
4. David repented. (12:13-17)
5. God forgave David. (12:13)
6. David personally followed the Lord past his sin. (12:20-23, Psalm 51)
 - a. He **begun centered on God's grace not on his own response.**
 - b. His gospel-centered repentance admitted that sin is deeply inherent to who we are.
 - c. He did not appeal to God on his own past merit. His only appeal was grace.
 - d. He acknowledged the grievous nature of his sin was not in its results, but in its direction. It was against God.

David's failure and restoration point us to the Gospel that was fulfilled in Jesus.

*Make it personal: How are we guilty of sometimes "watering down" repentance?

How is true repentance different than sorrow for sin's consequences?

What happens when we minimize the severity of our sin against God?

WE DON'T NEED TO BE LIKE DAVID. WE NEED THE SAME THING THAT DAVID NEEDED: A SAVIOR.

As we read of David's ascent and military victories through the first ten chapters, we can't help admiring this obedient servant of God. When he descends into sin, selfishness, and a horrifying cover-up, admiration turns into revulsion. The remainder of 2 Samuel documents sordid stories of incest, revenge, rebellion, and pride. We find ourselves saying, "If only..."

David's story is our own story. We all desire to love God and obey his commandments, but we fall into sin, over and over. In despair, we realize we cannot save ourselves through our futile attempts at perfect obedience.

David's sin brought deep grief, shame, and regret. In fact, David's life ushered in what we feel in our hearts was a deep injustice to his baby son. David's son died because of David's sin. In fact, the rest of David's sons suffered because of his sin.

Another "Son of David", was on the way. This Son would suffer and die not only because of David's sin but for David's sin. 2 Samuel points the way to hope: Jesus Christ. David lived halfway between the time of Abraham, with whom God made his original covenant, and Jesus, who fulfilled that covenant on the cross. In chapter 7, God reveals his plan for salvation through David's house.

We find that like all those before him; David's sin was no match for God's grace. God's promise of a perfect Messiah was not dependent on sinful man. The coming King would be so much better than the current one. We learn from David that God does not let sin go, but we also learn that he does not let sin win. He literally can't. He is too glorious and holy.

The story of David should captivate our minds and make us put sin into perspective. Our sin never pleases God, and he never excuses it. However, none of our sins or anyone else's sins are beyond the grace and mercy of our Savior. Jesus came to seek. Jesus came to save. Jesus came to set free. Jesus came to forgive then, now, and for all of time.

It is hard to comprehend and reconcile the promise of the Davidic covenant with the darkness of David's sin. **What must we learn from these two lessons? God keeps His promises. He does not depend on us, but we completely depend on Him. Our response must be complete love and surrender.**