

Life of David: Learning from a Shepherding King

Session 3: David's Sin. David's Repentance.

Context:

The Lord has established David's kingdom after the death of Saul. He has made numerous campaigns against the enemies of Israel. He has also taken Jerusalem and made it his capitol city, and has (not without incident) moved the Ark of the Covenant into the city.

2 Samuel 11:1-25

1. In verse 1, why does it mention the phrase "when kings go off to war"?
2. Why did David feel justified to have sex with Bathsheba even though he knew she was married?
3. Uriah behaved more honorably than David. How could David have avoided bloodguilt at this point?
4. How can idle time breed temptation in our lives? What can we do about it?
5. When we feel the pressure of our sin about to find us out, how do we behave like David did?
6. Joab knew that David was trying to kill Uriah, though he may not have known why. How is Joab's act of obedience not an act of true loyalty? (Later on in Joab's life, he seems to develop a backbone and feels comfortable enough to call David out on some stuff.)

2 Samuel 11:26-12:15a

1. After the death of Uriah, David most likely feels like he has gotten away with this. He brings Bathsheba home and she has a son. How does his first response to Nathan's allegory reveal David's heart?
2. When Nathan reveals that it is David he is speaking of, what is David's response?
3. David was committed to hiding his sin, and in his effort to do so, became more aggressive. How was it God's mercy and kindness to bring it out in the open?
4. David intended to cover his own sin, but God intended to take it away (vs 13). How is this a picture of the cross?
5. How is David's response different from that of Saul's when David called Saul out on his sin?
6. In our own lives, how do we get healing from sin?

2 Samuel 12:15b-23

1. God took away David's sin, but still afflicted David's newborn son with sickness. How could a loving God do this?
2. David fasts and cries out to the Lord in response to the child getting sick. What does this say about David's understanding of God? (hint, verse 22)
3. After the child dies, what is the first thing David does before he even eats?
4. David put his trust in God fully, even when it was God who allowed David's son to die. When hardships happen in our life, how can we protect our hearts from offense?
5. How does David demonstrate true repentance? How is this different from Saul's emotional response?
6. When the Lord convicts us of sin in our lives, how can we learn from David's response?