**Pastor Tim’s Message Notes from 9-12-2021
David as a Repentant Sinner**

One big thing that we learn from the Bible is that our Triune God is the only perfect One. The only sinless one. All people have sinned, even the heroes of our faith. And all of us are in need of a savior.

Abraham lies that his wife was his sister to try to protect himself.

His son Isaac did the same.

Sarah mistreated Hagar.

Jacob deceived his father.

Moses murdered someone.

And we know from the New Testament that Jesus disciples were certainly in need of a savior as well.

So in some ways our story on David should not completely surprise us. We are all sinners in need of a savior, including David.

Truly, today’s message is a difficult one for me to share, for David was indeed a man after God’s own heart.

David had been so faithful to God in so many ways. He loved God and worshiped God with passion. He was merciful to others, including King Saul, who was trying to kill him. He was a faithful shepherd and a warrior who shew Goliath, and he found his strength in God in very difficult times.

But despite all of this, David was not perfect. And one of the ways that we see this is how David kept taking more wives. Now this is not a normal practice in our world today, unless we live in a polygamous community perhaps.

But in David’s day, it was sadly normal for kings and powerful people to take multiple wives and concubines. This was never God’s will. God’s will has always been faithfulness in singleness and faithfulness in marriage between one man and one woman. His mind hasn’t changed on this.

Clearly though, from the beginning of the Bible, God gave Eve as a suitable helper for Adam. He didn’t give Adam multiple wives, but one. And Jesus in His words and actions – affirmed monogamy rather than polygamy.

But men in positions of power long before David have unfortunately acted in this way. Even in some places in the world today, powerful men marry several women.

We read that first David had one wife and then there were two. And then after that there were others. We know from 2 Samuel chapter 3 that some of his wives included: Ahinoam of Jezreel, Abigail the widow of Nabal of Carmel, Maakah, Haggith, Abital, Eglah.

So it appears that David had at least 6 wives when we was king of Judah. But then, when he became King of all Israel, we are told that he took more concubines and wives in Jerusalem, with whom he had other sons and daughters.

David, through it all, was still a man after God’s own heart. He still loved God and wanted to please God.

As much as God does not like polygamy, it was more important to God that David would be faithful to the One God and lead Israel to faithfulness to the Lord alone.

Back in the Book of Deuteronomy, the Lord warms future kings of Israel by saying **“he must not take many wives, or his heart will be led astray**.”

We see in the example of Solomon, David’s son, how this proved to be true. His pagan wives led his heart away from faithfulness to the Lord.

So with David already having far too many wives, the stage was set for David to make some very poor and selfish decisions.

Let us turn to God’s Word together, found in 2 Samuel 11:1-17

**1 In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king’s men and the whole Israelite army. They destroyed the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained in Jerusalem.**

**2One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful, 3and David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, “She is Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite.” 4Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her. (Now she was purifying herself from her monthly uncleanness.) Then she went back home. 5The woman conceived and sent word to David, saying, “I am pregnant.”**

**6So David sent this word to Joab: “Send me Uriah the Hittite.” And Joab sent him to David. 7When Uriah came to him, David asked him how Joab was, how the soldiers were and how the war was going. 8Then David said to Uriah, “Go down to your house and wash your feet.” So Uriah left the palace, and a gift from the king was sent after him. 9But Uriah slept at the entrance to the palace with all his master’s servants and did not go down to his house.**

**10David was told, “Uriah did not go home.” So he asked Uriah, “Haven’t you just come from a military campaign? Why didn’t you go home?”**

**11Uriah said to David, “The ark and Israel and Judah are staying in tents,[**[**a**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Samuel+11%3A1-17&version=NIV#fen-NIV-8271a)**] and my commander Joab and my lord’s men are camped in the open country. How could I go to my house to eat and drink and make love to my wife? As surely as you live, I will not do such a thing!”**

**12Then David said to him, “Stay here one more day, and tomorrow I will send you back.” So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day and the next. 13At David’s invitation, he ate and drank with him, and David made him drunk. But in the evening Uriah went out to sleep on his mat among his master’s servants; he did not go home.**

**14In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it with Uriah. 15In it he wrote, “Put Uriah out in front where the fighting is fiercest. Then withdraw from him so he will be struck down and die.”**

**16So while Joab had the city under siege, he put Uriah at a place where he knew the strongest defenders were. 17When the men of the city came out and fought against Joab, some of the men in David’s army fell; moreover, Uriah the Hittite died.**

We find in this text a series of bad decisions. David had already accumulated many wives and concubines, then he chooses to not go with the army to fight, as was the normal practice for kings, but instead to remain home.

To me, this seems like an accident or a problem just waiting to happen.

Then, we read David notices Bethsheba bathing and that David wants her as well. He is being enticed and led astray by lust.

David finds out that this is a married woman. But his kingly power and his lustful desires combine to willfully choose to commit adultery with Bethsheba. And with the power that he had as King of Israel, it is likely that this could be categorized as rape as well. This is a serious thing.

And not only does he commit adultery, but then he tries to cover it up and he finds out that she is pregnant. And when this fails, he sees to it that Uriah is effectively murdered.

What a sad, tragic, downward spiral.

But friends, this is the nature of sin. Sin of any kind. When we willfully choose to disobey God in some way. It may seem like a little thing at first.

But little things lead to big things.

Thankfully, David does sincerely repent of his sins and God forgives him. Our God is very merciful. Yes, there were consequences for his actions. But God can cleanse us of every sin. He has sent Jesus to be the atoning sacrifice for all of our sins and for the sins of the whole world. If we come to Him, He will cleanse us completely.

Friends, as we reflect on this sad and tragic story from David’s life, what are we to make of it? How is it relevant for us today?

And I believe it is in two important ways.

**First, we are to remember that God is merciful and compassionate and forgiving**. If we are doing something that we know we shouldn’t be doing, whatever it might be, we can trust that **“if we confess our sins God is faithful and just to forgive our sins and to cleanse us of all unrighteousness.”**

In fact, Jesus knew that we all needed to do this. We all need a savior from our sins.

Our sins do not need to be as dramatic as David’s. All sin is destructive and Jesus came to cleanse us completely. In Him, there is forgiveness and mercy. So, when we mess up in some way, let us go to him in repentance and then rest in His mercy.

**Second, this story is meant to be a warning that even women and men and children after God’s own heart can still majorly mess up, so we need to be on our guard against sin**. Let us choose to be intentional in not giving the enemy any place in our lives to mess around.

Jesus calls us to live holy lives unto the Lord. Job writes in his book that he made a covenant with his eyes never to look with lust upon a woman.”

As Christians, we need to be vigilant against sin. Because again, sin is typically subtle.

A compromise here. A white lie there. No one will see this or know about this particular thing. This type of thinking never ends well.

The Bible says that we are to give no place for the devil. Truly, if the devil gets an inch, he will try to take a mile.

We are to not give him anything to work with. And if and when we do, let us run quickly to Christ and get back on the saddle, seeking to follow faithfully after our perfect Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ.

Truly, we have the Holy Spirit in us as followers of Jesus. Let us ask Him to help us to honor His Name by living a holy life for Christ.

Let’s pray…

BibleGateway.com

<https://www.neverthirsty.org/bible-qa/qa-archives/question/does-2-samuel-128-mean-God-approved-of-davids-polygamy/>