

THE LIFE OF DAVID

SHEPHERD. WARRIOR. POET. KING.

WEEK 7: CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART

Today's Text: 2 Samuel 11-12

The main focus of this part of the story is the fact that David's sin was primarily against God. We so often reduce sin to its impact on others and ourselves, but sin is first and foremost against our creator.

I. SIN SEDUCES US INTO FORGETTING WHO WE MOST OFFEND BY OUR ACTIONS

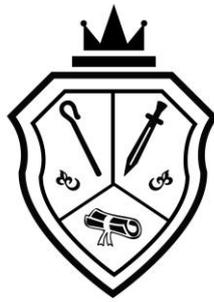
- **Read 2 Samuel 12:7-12**

Though we are horrified at the arrogance of David's sin, we don't ever think about the fact that his heart was the real problem. David knew God well, and yet he **CHOSE** the sin of the flesh over his relationship with God. This is the real nature of sin; that when push comes to shove, we choose what we really want, and it reveals the true nature of our heart's desires.

David's sin was personal to God. He had only done good to David, and yet he was still disregarded. Even though we know God personally, and have experienced so much of his grace and goodness in our lives, we do not think of him enough when we are tempted to sin. We continue to pursue sin because of our:

1. Unrestrained character flaws.
2. Fear of man.
3. Disregard for human life.

- ❖ Q: What is sin and why is it first and foremost a heart issue towards God?
- ❖ Q: Why do we struggle so much to believe that the heart is the *real* issue when it comes to sin?
- ❖ Q: When you last struggled with temptation and overcame, what was your motivation to do so? (Was it to please God, or was it to avoid the negative consequences of your sinful actions?)
- ❖ Q: Which of the above mentioned issues (unrestrained character flaws, fear of man, disregard for human life) stands out to you as the main reason you persist in sin? Give an example of how this works out in your current sin-struggle. (For example: I keep drinking - in excess - with work friends because I want to fit in and be one of the crowd. I crave their approval of me more than I care about Christ and being a witness to him).



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2. GOD ULTIMATELY CONFRONTS THE HEART AND CALLS IT TO ACCOUNT

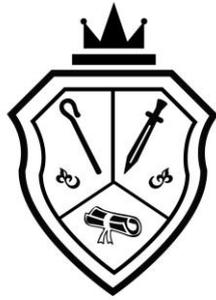
- **Read 2 Samuel 11:27 & 12:1**

David seemed to believe that he got away with his sin by marrying Bathsheba, but this was far from the truth. God saw it all and he was in no way neutral about David's rebellion and cover-ups. Though time had passed and things in David's life seemed to go back to some sort of normality, God had not swept his sin under the carpet. In due time, he sent the prophet Nathan to confront him. God did so because he is just and gracious. In remaining just and gracious with us, he also deals with our sin:

- He punishes and disciplines it – he disciplines us in order to bring about change in us, not to crush us.
 - He forgives it – when we humble our hearts and realise our need for forgiveness, God gives it to us.
 - He renews it – we are no longer slaves to sin, we have been made new creations, and therefore our hearts are cleansed and renewed by God when we turn in repentance and faith.
- ❖ Q: Why does God need to confront us on our sin?
- ❖ Q: In what way did God last confront you on a particular sin issue? (Did he use the scripture, your conscience, or did he go as far as to send someone to tell you about your sinful ways?) How did you respond to being confronted and what has been the ensuing result?

3. YOUR SIN HAS CONSEQUENCES ON OTHERS TOO

Like it or not, our sin affects others. Our first reason for denying sin is to please Christ, but pleasing Christ also means loving and putting others first. This means that we are to think of others before plunging into temptation. Our sin usually has far wider-reaching implications than we dare to imagine. Just think for a minute about seemingly “insignificant” sins. For example, my being lazy at work affronts God because it mocks his design for work and productivity, but it also has an impact on the business I work for. It causes a loss of productivity, which means a loss of income. It usually means that someone else has to pick up the slack, in some shape or form, and it also means that I am getting paid for something I am not actually doing, which is just unethical. Think about the implications for gluttony: your health, your budget, your energy levels, your disregard for the temple of God, your lack of contentment for basic and simple provision... And the list goes on, and it impacts family, work, relationships etc. What about overspending? What about drinking while over the limit? What about selfishness? Take some time to think about a sinful habit you have and the ramifications of this on those around you (family, friends, church and work).



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Having processed what our sin does to others, think about some of the ways that you can repent and turn from this sin, and make things right:

1. Seek their forgiveness and try make restitution.
2. Ask God to alleviate the consequences of your actions.
3. Trust in God's sovereign grace.
4. Acknowledge the glimpses of God's goodness through it all.

❖ Q: Why is it important to take stock of what our sin is doing to others?

To Do This Week:

- ❖ Q: If you are married, ask your spouse to be honest about one sin of yours that is impacting them personally and be open to hearing it and dealing with it.
- ❖ Q: Think of one person that you need to seek forgiveness from and make a plan to try and make restitution. Tell someone in your GC so that you are accountable to stick to the plan, and report back to them in the next week.

