

When a Good Man Forgets His Place

2Samuel 24:1-25

When a Good Man Forgets His Place

- What was David's greatest sin?
- David's sin of the census cost many lives.

The Tragedy Of David's Sin

- 2Sam. 24:1-4
- Sometimes, people are overcome by evil
 - Gal. 6:1 - “Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass...”
- But at other times, people walk into sin with their eyes wide open.

The Tragedy Of David's Sin

- It was a sin driven by anger; God was angry with Israel.
 - 1Chron. 21:1 - “Now Satan stood up against Israel, and moved David to number Israel.”
 - Satan was used by the Lord as the agent of His chastisement.
 - David was moved to do what was already in his heart.

The Tragedy Of David's Sin

- God is not the author of sin; He had sufficient reason to punish them
 - They followed Absalom when he rebelled against David.
 - The majority of Israel went after Sheba the rebel - 2Sam. 20:1-2.
 - Their hearts were lifted up in pride over their victories - 2Sam. 23

The Tragedy Of David's Sin

- It was a sin driven by arrogance - 2Sam. 24:2
 - Ex. 30:12 - Census must be accompanied by an atonement fee
 - Psalm 33:16-18 - “No king is saved by the multitude of an army; A mighty man is not delivered by great strength. 17 A horse is a vain hope for safety; Neither shall it deliver any by its great strength. 18 Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear Him, On those who hope in His mercy,”
 - They needed to remember that God gave them victory

The Tragedy Of David's Sin

- It was a sin driven by aggression
 - 2Sam. 24:3-4
- David rejected wise and loving counsel
 - Prov. 16:25 - “There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.”
 - Prov. 11:14 - “Where there is no counsel, the people fall; But in the multitude of counselors there is safety.”
 - Prov. 12:15 - “The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, But he who heeds counsel is wise.”

The Trauma Of David's Sin

- 2Sam. 24:5-16
- No one sins in a vacuum. David's sin affected him, but it devastated his people.

The Trauma Of David's Sin

- The trauma of conviction
 - 2Sam. 24:10 - “And David's heart condemned him after he had numbered the people. So David said to the LORD, I have sinned greatly in what I have done; but now, I pray, O LORD, take away the iniquity of Your servant, for I have done very foolishly.”
 - John 16:7-8 - “Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. 8 And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment”
 - Heb. 12:6, 11 - “For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives... 11 Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.”

The Trauma Of David's Sin

- The trauma of the choices - 2Sam. 24:11-14
 - The nation can experience seven years of famine.
 - Israel's enemies can have victory over them for three months.
 - Israel can face three days of plague.

The Trauma Of David's Sin

- Our sins have consequences. We do not control how many other people and to what extent they must suffer from our sins.
 - Gal. 6:7-8 - “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. 8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.”

The Trauma Of David's Sin

- Job 4:8 - “Even as I have seen, Those who plow iniquity And sow trouble reap the same.”
- Hosea 8:7 - “They sow the wind, And reap the whirlwind.”
- Haggai 1:6-7 - “You have sown much, and bring in little; You eat, but do not have enough; You drink, but you are not filled with drink; You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm; And he who earns wages, Earns wages to put into a bag with holes. 7 Thus says the LORD of hosts: Consider your ways!”

The Trauma Of David's Sin

- The trauma of the chastisement - 2Sam. 24:15-16
- 70,000 men and their families die in three days (5% of the population; 1 of every 20 people)
- You cannot control the outcome of your sin; you have no power to limit its effects. Affecting just one person is one too many.
- Good people, you need to remember: sin always has consequences.
 - Rev. 3:19 - “As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.”

The Teaching Of David's Sin

- It teaches confession
 - 2Sam. 24:17 - "Then David spoke to the LORD when he saw the angel who was striking the people, and said, Surely I have sinned, and I have done wickedly; but these sheep, what have they done? Let Your hand, I pray, be against me and against my father's house."
 - Acts 13:22 - "I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will."
 - Prov. 28:13 - "He who covers his sins will not prosper, But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy."
 - 1John 1:9 - "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

The Teaching Of David's Sin

- It teaches contrition - 2Sam. 24:17
- David takes full responsibility for his sins; he did not blame others or circumstances or pressure
- When we get honest about sin, we will stop making excuses; we will stop playing games; we will stop pointing fingers; we will stop hiding in the shadows. It's not someone else's fault. We are guilty and we need to deal with it.

The Teaching Of David's Sin

- When we are honest about our sin
 - Psalm 51:17 - “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart-These, O God, You will not despise.”
 - Psalm 34:18 - “The LORD is near to those who have a broken heart, And saves such as have a contrite spirit.”

The Teaching Of David's Sin

- Luke 18:11-14 - "The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men--extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. 12 'I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' 13 And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' 14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

The Teaching Of David's Sin

- It teaches cost - 2Sam. 24:18-25
- Serving God and enjoying His blessings comes at a price
- Our sins are going to cost us a great deal. But they have already cost God more than we can imagine.
- And our sins are extracting a price from everyone else around us.