



Series: 2 Samuel

Date: June 25, 2023

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Text: 2 Samuel 14-16

Ok guys, welcome to what really is part 1 of a 2 part sermon this week and next week as we begin to land the plane on our journey through 1 and 2 Samuel. This week we are looking at 2 Samuel 14-16. **Now today there's no other way to say it than to say we are going to see the consequences of sin.** And if you've been following along with us you might say MAN, seems like David's story went from epic saga with a brave hero to now a season on the Jerry Springer show. And if you are new with us and new to the bible...Short summary is David was a hero, but then let his power go to his head and just acted on his impulses. Then his kids followed suit, and now there is some infighting in his home.

And I say that because if you are new to the bible I want you to know the bible is incredible in how relatable it is. Written

thousands of years ago and still - family drama, abuse of power, selfish cravings that ultimately hurt yourself and others. This could be a reality TV show TODAY. My point is just because the bible is ancient...and it is...doesn't mean it is outdated. It is in fact incredibly relevant and speaks a great word of hope, especially to dysfunctional people.

Now here's my trap as your pastor when preaching these kind of chapters that I think serve as a warning to us about the consequences of sin. My old pastor said this a lot about his preaching and it definitely applies here. See on the one hand I want to show you the devastating consequences of sin so that those of you on the brink of it will turn and walk away and you will avoid great damage and destruction in your life. On the other hand, I want to give those of you in the middle of suffering and pain hope that God's redemptive power really is strong enough to bring healing and restoration into your life. Because I recognize some of you come in here hanging on by a thread. You've got the consequences of your sin you are already dealing with. Some of you are hurting and it's not your





fault at all, and you are trying to make sense of where God is in all of it. And I want you to see God loves you, He's good, and He can bring healing to broken things.

So that's my goal. I want to warn you against sin AND encourage you with the hope of God's mercy. That's my goal EVERY week, and I feel like it is the theme of today as we look at the conflict between David and His son Absalom.

The consequences of sin are real and devastating, and yet there's hope in Jesus.

This is one of those one point sermons. And that's the point. And I will go ahead and tell you dads...listen...the storyline is pretty much a father's sin revisited in his son. I want you to receive this as a cautionary tale. To walk closely with the Lord AND closely with your family.

Now I do need you to know that we are covering about 2.5 chapters of scripture today. They are telling the story so I'm going to summarize and tell some parts of it. And then pause and show you parts of it. Here's the very important context:

Basically if you were just reading the whole book of 2 Samuel and arrived at these chapters you would not be surprised at all at the events that unfold and here's why. In 2 Samuel 12 we saw David take advantage of Bathsheba right? Well, the

prophet Nathan confronts him about it and David repents. Nathan says, "ok you will not die BUT, the consequences of sin are real and devastating."

V. 10: the sword will never leave your house

v. 11: I will take your wives and give them to another before your very eyes, and he will sleep with them in broad daylight.

V.14: the son born to you will die

In the subsequent chapters, everything Nathan said to him comes to pass. We saw already that David's son born to Bathsheba died. The other two consequences we are looking at today.

As we open chapter 14, Absalom, David's son, has been living in exile for three years! He fled for his life after killing his older brother who was in line for the throne ahead of him. Well, fearing for his life, he fled and lived in exile.

So chapter 14 opens with Joab, who is the commander of David's army, recognizing David has been thinking about his estranged son. So, he devises a little plan to get David to bring Absalom home. Israel needs its prince back.

Now his plan is to hire an actress to fake a crisis that mimics David's situation. Not just any actress, a wise older A list



actress. Think Viola Davis. So Viola Davis walks in and does her thing.

4 When the woman from Tekoa came to the king, she fell facedown to the ground, paid homage, and said, "Help me, Your Majesty!"

5 "What's the matter?" the king asked her.

"Sadly, I am a widow; my husband died," she said. 6 "Your servant had two sons. They were fighting in the field with no one to separate them, and one struck the other and killed him. 7 Now the whole clan has risen up against your servant and said, 'Hand over the one who killed his brother so we may put him to death for the life of the brother he murdered. We will eliminate the heir!' They would extinguish my one remaining ember by not preserving my husband's name or posterity on earth."

8 The king told the woman, "Go home. I will issue a command on your behalf."

So David thinks...Hey I've done something good here. Helped a widow in her distress. CHECK. But then she flips it on him.

13 The woman asked, "Why have you devised something similar against the people of God? When the king spoke as he

did about this matter, he has pronounced his own guilt. The king has not brought back his own banished one. 14 We will certainly die and be like water poured out on the ground, which can't be recovered. But God would not take away a life; he would devise plans so that the one banished from him does not remain banished.

She GOT HIM. Well now David is on to her. And there's what reads like a pretty comical exchange between them.

18 Then the king answered the woman, "I'm going to ask you something; don't conceal it from me!" "Let my lord the king speak," the woman replied. 19 The king asked, "Did Joab put you up to all this?"

In fact he had. But even still, it works! This little parable convinces David. So he brings Absalom back from exile BUT...and this is big...He doesn't go see him. And he doesn't let Absalom back into the palace. He lets him come back but not fully back. David misses his son but is still mad at his son. And right here is where David misses it as a dad.

Absalom needed confrontation by his dad that leads to conflict resolution. And David chose to avoid him for 2 YEARS! Dads listen: Your children need you to LOCK IN and initiate the hard conversations. Don't wait on them to just happen. One of David's big sins is his passivity.



This has always been a sin men have struggled with. Ever since Adam avoided conflict with the snake in the garden, then blame shifted and threw Eve under the bus... men have been avoiding responsibility. Avoiding the hard things God calls them into. Listen, Absalom was a bad dude, no doubt. I'm not absolving him at all. But JUST LIKE David needed to step up when he learned his DAUGHTER was assaulted, he needed to step up here and deal with the situation.

So Men, let me ask you what are the hard things you are avoiding right now? AS YOU WILL SEE - THEY AREN'T GOING TO GET BETTER BY AVOIDING THEM! Listen, I don't like conflict. For some guys their personality style is - LET'S HAVE A FIGHT. That's not me. Now I don't avoid it, I just don't go looking. I just want everybody to get along by seeing how my way is best. So I GET IT. And I don't want to belabor this point because it isn't the main point of these two chapters but it IS an example: THE CONSEQUENCES OF SIN ARE REAL AND DEVASTATING.... DAVID'S PASSIVITY HAS REAL AND DEVASTATING CONSEQUENCES AND SO WILL YOURS.

- Married Men - what Conversations has your wife been trying to have with you?
- DADS - what Conversations do you need to have with your kids and you've been putting it off?

- Every man - What conversation do you need to have with a friend? With a co-worker? Family members? What are the responsibilities you are putting off that God has already given you?
- What God is calling you to that you are avoiding? Maybe it's the call to share the gospel. But you are worried about your reputation. MEN - Maybe it's going to the mission field? PRAISE GOD FOR OUR SISTERS. Do you know women outnumber men 3-1 on the mission field? And among single missionaries women make up 80%?

Men: Is it possible your sin problem isn't doing something God forbids you to do but instead is avoiding something God calls you to do?

For two Years David avoids Absalom. But while he does, Absalom becomes the man in Israel.

25 No man in all Israel was as handsome and highly praised as Absalom. From the sole of his foot to the top of his head, he did not have a single flaw. 26 When he shaved his head — he shaved it at the end of every year because his hair got so heavy for him that he had to shave it off — he would weigh the hair from his head and it would be five pounds according to the royal standard.



Archeologists have uncovered a picture of him.

A PICTURE OF THOR

He was an angry boy trapped in a beautiful man's body. In fact Abs had serious anger problems. Because what happens if a son doesn't experience love from his dad - is that this desire for love MUTATES and he begins to hate his dad. Well, Absalom is trying to get an audience with his dad but even JOAB, who has taken on some admin duties, won't return his calls. And after Absalom gets ghosted a couple of times he decides to SET JOAB'S YARD ON FIRE!!! And what any psychologist will tell you, is this is called lashing out. He's trying to get attention. Kids do this any number of ways. Disobey, all the sudden start dressing scandalously, spend insane amount of time trying to achieve at a sport or something... They are trying to get Dad's attention and approval. Men, some of you better wake up because your fields are on fire right now. And the good news is - ONE MAIN POINT - even if the field is on fire - there's hope in Jesus.

So Joab says WHY DID YOU DO THAT? Absalom said 'I want to see my dad.' The plan works, and by the end of chapter 14 it looks like they make up.

So David summoned Absalom, who came to the king and paid homage with his face to the ground before him. Then the king kissed Absalom.

BUT, what we quickly see is that by this time for David it was too late. Absalom's heart was turned against his dad and he was now angling to overthrow his dad.

In fact he'd stand outside the city gate each morning and intercept people as they were going to see King David so King David could settle their problems. Like he was doing with the actress. But Absalom would stop them and say listen the king is too busy. I hear your problem. I'M ON YOUR SIDE. If only I was king...then I could help. Oh well.

6 Absalom did this to all the Israelites who came to the king for a settlement. So Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel.

Listen THIS intense betrayal is absalom's sin. Remember what I told you the main idea is today?

The consequences of sin are real and devastating, and yet there's hope.

Well, after 4 years, when the time is right, Absalom strikes and forces David out. David flees. And after he does, as a show of power...chapter 16 records Absalom going up on the roof and sleeping with his father's wives up on the roof.



Absalom steals everything a man has and sleeps with his wives on a roof. Sound familiar? It's the same thing David did. David's sin pattern becomes his son's sin pattern.

Sin has generational consequences and yet there is hope in Jesus.

I keep telling you Old Testament stories have 2 meanings. One is to see yourself in the story and either be motivated to be like the main character or to see the main character as a tragic warning. In this case there are multiple warnings.

And what you hear today about David & Absalom should shape how you LIVE. For all of us, and especially if you are a dad. Consider this my belated father's day word to you.

BUT, there is a deeper, more primary meaning to these OT stories than just motivation or warning. There is a meaning that gives us IMMENSE hope. So much so that it leads us to something inspiration never will. To a place of PEACE, JOY, and HOPE. This deeper meaning when we grasp it, actually warms our hearts towards God and leads us to WORSHIP.

Let me show you the deeper hope. Because I know by now you gotta be like DUDE...this awesome 2 book series has taken a rather DEPRESSING TURN. You are right. There's a point to that. Our author is showing us that David is surely not the king

God's people needed. He seemed like he was! But the very clear reality is now we know he can't even take care of his own home let alone his kingdom.

Well as he leaves Jerusalem FLEEING his son who has betrayed him, defeated & on the run the author shows us a very important pause David makes.

30 David was climbing the slope of the Mount of Olives, weeping as he ascended. His head was covered, and he was walking barefoot. All of the people with him covered their heads and went up, weeping as they ascended.

David climbs the mount of Olives and weeps. This is the first time we hear about the Mount of Olives but certainly not the last. This mountain overlooking Jerusalem that is going to become VERY important in the bible.

See on His way INTO Jerusalem Jesus stopped at the Mount of Olives. Just like David did.

41 As he approached and saw the city, he wept for it
Luke 19.41

David left Jerusalem weeping. Powerless to save the people God had put in his care from the son who had betrayed him.



Powerless to save his son from the tragic demise that will come to him as a result of giving in to his unquenching thirst for power. And what we need to see as David walks away is that David is not the king or Father God's people need. He's the greatest king the OT has to offer. So much good he did, and yet he falls short. His sin has consequences. He's not the king they needed nor the king we need.

Because like it or not we are all like Absalom. Our lives are claimed by God as his kingdom, and yet we rebel against Him and stand on the rooftop publicly humiliating him declaring WE, not He, are in charge. And we are even worse. For Absalom rebelled against a flawed father. We rebelled against our perfect heavenly father.

And Jesus looks at us as he comes INTO Jerusalem to claim it for himself and he weeps in love for his rebellious children. I need you to hear this. God loves you. Even as you have rebelled against him, God loves you. Even as you think you have no need for him because you have the power & ability to do this life all on your own...he loves you.

When Absalom comes home - David refuses to see him. But listen to me, do you remember the story Jesus tells about the prodigal son? He says the father RUNS out to meet the son who had betrayed him and he embraces him and welcomes him home.

Jesus pauses and weeps over Jerusalem as HE COMES INTO DANGER TO SAVE THEM! As he comes to do what David could not.

Jesus is the true King David foreshadowed. Jesus is the father David couldn't be. Because He is not JUST the victorious king, He's our redeemer and savior.

See when He came into Jerusalem He didn't conquer His enemies and ascend to a rooftop to humiliate them. He suffered humiliation and ascended to a cross. But He did so in STRENGTH, not in weakness. He went up there to serve them instead of being served by them. And this is true strength.

He sees rebels like you and I...whose punishment for sin is exile from God's kingdom and ultimately eternal death apart from God. And instead of issuing out this punishment, **He takes our place of abandonment on the cross.** Saying, father, why have you forsaken me? And then He dies the death we deserve. And THAT, friends, is so important to sit in for a second. It was out of His LOVE for you that He died for your sins.

Do you know this love? Have you been set free by it? Because listen...it is SO powerful that this love...can actually break the patterns of not just the sin in your life but it can break the



patterns of generational sin. And it can give you hope as you face sins consequences in this life.

Sin has consequences. I think that's important to hear and for you to understand. God offers you forgiveness from your sin in Christ. But that does not mean you will not suffer the consequences of sin in this world. Some of you are suffering the consequences of your own sin, some the sin of others, some both. It's real. And yet the beautiful thing in David's story is that ... listen to me friend...God was not done with David. And He's not done with you.

IT HAD TO FEEL LIKE the end. Walking away from the kingdom he'd built. BETRAYED, POWERLESS, EMPTY, and DEFEATED. And yet, God is not done with him. In fact He's even going to bring David back home. We'll see that next week. But even as he's leaving in defeat he has a hope...a hope I want to supercharge your heart...David writes Psalm 3 as he is standing there on the Mount of Olives weeping.

Lord, how my foes increase!
There are many who attack me.
2 Many say about me,
"There is no help for him in God."
3 But you, Lord, are a shield around me,
my glory, and the one who lifts up my head.
4 I cry aloud to the Lord,

and he answers me from his holy mountain.
5 I lie down and sleep;
I wake again because the Lord sustains me.
6 I will not be afraid of thousands of people
who have taken their stand against me on every side.
7 Rise up, Lord!
Save me, my God!
You strike all my enemies on the cheek;
you break the teeth of the wicked.
8 Salvation belongs to the Lord;
may your blessing be on your people. -- Psalms 3:1-8 (CSB)

See what I want to stir up in you is hope. YES, you are under the consequences of sin in this world. The world experiences a general curse because of our sin and so we all get hurt and suffer. People betray one another, they suffer when they shouldn't. They die when they shouldn't.

BUT Jesus died to free us from the curse of sin. So that sin DOES NOT HAVE the final word over us. SALVATION, not defeat...SALVATION belongs to our God. So I won't fear death I won't fear humiliation I won't fear betrayal because my name is written on his nail pierced hand, and I know that while in heaven He stands, NO TONGUE can bid me thence depart.

And if everybody mocks me and says GOD CAN'T HELP YOU -
When I want to drop my head in shame or embarrassment...



Teenager listen to me I KNOW you've entered the Post-Christian world. MOST people will not serve the God you serve. BUT WHO WILL YOU LISTEN TO? Don't let the words of a confused world rest on your heart. When the many say about you there is no help for you in God...

NO GOD IS THE GLORY AND LIFTER OF YOUR HEAD.

AND IN CHRIST - Your sin is NOT the final word over you. Oh I need us all to land in this beautiful truth. Hear me if nothing else hear this: Because of Christ - You are not your sin!

What sin is speaking a label over you right now? You've lost your virginity. Or stole from people or bullied somebody or are addicted to something. Adults - You've gotten divorced. You lost your temper and hurt somebody. You stole from people, or from your job. You are addicted to porn. Addicted to alcohol or some other substance. You are a perpetual liar and manipulator.

HEAR ME. YOU MIGHT WANT TO WALK AWAY WEEPING IN DEFEAT AND I WANT YOU TO SEE JESUS. COMING TOWARDS YOU. COMING FOR YOU.

Saying THAT IS NOT WHO YOU ARE. I know too many guys and girls who in high school let one sin become their identity and they play it up on the outside but it CRUSHES them inside. YOU

ARE NOT YOUR SIN! GOD LOVES YOU AND HAS A BETTER NAME FOR YOU. YOU are a DAUGHTER OR SON BELOVED BY THE KING OF THE UNIVERSE!

The adulterer, the thief, the liar, the addict - THOSE labels were nailed to the cross with Jesus. He held them in his hands as the nails drove through them. And then those labels went into the grave with him.

AND LISTEN TO ME....Those labels STAYED in the grave when he came out. You...right now...can be free of that baggage. Give it to Christ and walk out of here under the freedom and love of Jesus Christ for you.

Listen, this is how generational sin is broken. It's in the power of the gospel. Some of you, your parents were abusers and you are headed there. Your parents were divorced and you are headed there. You were treated bad so you treat others bad. You are Absalom. Trying to deal with your own pain by passing it along to others.

But you don't have to be Absalom. The Gospel says that isn't you. Your true father is the heavenly father. You don't have to repeat your earthly father's sin, you can instead be the conduit for your heavenly father's blessing. I'm telling you, He can make you new. Parents, the most powerful thing you can do when you sin is own it with your kids. Ask for forgiveness and



show them the goodness of God's grace to you. I promise the legacy of grace and forgiveness they see in you will go with them all the days of their lives.

Sin has real and devastating consequences. Yet there is hope in Jesus.

So what do we do with this?

Some of you need to simply lay your sin down at the feet of Jesus and receive his forgiveness. Stop waiting. Just repent and believe.

Maybe you take a label your sin or the sin of others has placed on you. And in your heart put it at the cross and walk away with the label son or daughter of God.

Some of you have a relationship with a parent that is broken and you need to go seek forgiveness. Because you've found forgiveness. Maybe your parent isn't here anymore. You can take that to God, your heavenly father too.

There are still consequences of your sin. And it's almost hard to believe but God in his kindness...will even weave redemption into those consequences if you will yield to him in them.