

I HAVE SINNED AGAINST THE LORD

2 Samuel 12:1-31 (Key Verse 13a)

Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord."

Many believers don't carefully consider how living in sin, whether openly or secretly, affects their relationship with God. What about you? Do you agree with this? And when I say living in sin, I mean it within the context of last week's passage when David committed one sin after the other.....David coveted and lusted after Uriah's wife. He then committed adultery by sleeping with her. When David was told Bathsheba was pregnant, he schemed this way and that way to cover his sin. Then ultimately, he killed Uriah and took Bathsheba as his own wife.But surely, of all people, David knew what he was doing was evil in the eyes of the Lord, right!? The question is, why then did he do it!? Think about that for a moment..... At first, we may be quick to answer.....that David stood helpless against the power of sin.....and that he was a mere victim of his own humanity.....right!?

However, according to today's passage, we will see thatactually.....David's fundamental problem was his bad attitude towards the Lord – in that he despised the Lord. (9-10; 14) We can hardly believe our ears, right!? David of all people.....despising the Lord!!! No ways!!! But this explains why, in last week's passage, David committed one sin after the other. This also, explains why David did not once acknowledge his sin before the Lord nor ask for forgiveness or restoration. Instead, David simply covered up and ignored his sin, as if it did not exist. Because, deep down in his heart.....He despised the Lord.

If this is what happened to David's heart, then it surely explains why we too commit one sin after the other against the Lord.....It also explains why it is so difficult for us to humbly acknowledge our sin and have a right relationship with the Lord. It might very well be that like David, deep down in our hearts, we too despise the Lord!! (This is quite alarming, right!?) But if this indeed true..... how can we change the attitude of our heart? And how can we once again have a right and intimate relationship with Him? Through sincere repentance! I pray, through today's passage, the Lord may help you and me, just as He helped David, to sincerely repent of our sin by crying out just like David: I have sinned against the Lord. May the Lord plant this word in our hearts, this morning! Amen

Look at verse 1. About 12 months had already passed since David first slept with Bathsheba and then killed Uriah. Humanly speaking, David's sin seemed to have no effect on his life. Everything looked fine.....I mean he was still king living in a palace.....and enjoyed having a new and beautiful wife by his side.....especially since she gave birth to a healthy baby boy. The truth however, was far from it. David's relationship with God hit an

all-time low.....as his heart grew further and further away from the Lord. With David's heart being spiritually dry and cold, it was difficult to read God's word..... it was even more difficult to pray.

But, when David's heart grew distant from the Lord, what did the Lord do? Look again at verse 1a. Yes, the Lordwith love.....came to David.....by sending word through the prophet Nathan. Look at verses 1b-4. (Read.....From When he came to him) What a disturbing story, right!? When David heard it he immediately burned with anger against the rich man and said to Nathan, (Look at verses 5-6) "As surely as the Lord lives, the man who did this must die! He must pay for that lamb four times over, because he did such a thing and had no pity." On the merits of the case David was absolutely right! The rich man definitely deserved harsh punishment for treating the poor man so shamefully and heartlessly! However, there was only one problem.....David was the rich man in the story. (7a) David did exactly to Uriah what the rich man did to the poor man. Though David was the richest man in Israel with many beautiful wives and concubines, David forcefully and heartlessly took Uriah's wife from him; and killed him in the process.

It's interesting how quickly David saw and condemned the sin the rich man committed, but was seemingly oblivious to the very same sin he himself committed. Why is that? As we all know, it is always much easier to judge the sinful behaviour of someone else than our own sin. In fact, David refuse to even consider his own sinful behaviour. He simply ignored what he had done.....and covered up his sin. But with sin hidden deep in his heart.....it began to fester.....and slowly but surely contaminate his whole inner being. Until he became a grumpy, proud and judgmental person, who was quick to judge others yet slow to bring his own sin to the Lord. **Here we can see that avoiding to deal with the sins we commit before the Lord, might be the easiest and most comfortable thing to do.....but it is most certainly the worst thing we can do to ourselves and to the Lord.** Take David for example. He once enjoyed a close and intimate fellowship with the Lord, but because he did not deal with his sin problem, David not only displeased the Lord (11:27) but he effectively pushed the Lord out of his heart and out of his life. As the saying goes, it takes two to tango! Well, David pulled away from the Lord and left God waiting on the dancefloor for almost 12 months to return. Leaving their relationship in the balance.....Moreover, without the Lord's presence in his heart.....David was left defenceless against the destructive nature of sin..... that painfully crushed his spirit.....like a rock crushing his bones. (Ps 51:8)

But despite David's many sins.....and regardless of David having pushed the Lord away.....the Lord never pushed David away. Instead, He waited patiently for 12 months for David to return to Him. And when David did not return, the Lord sent Nathan to fetch him. But why do you think, after 12 months, the first thing the Lord shared with David was this story about the rich man and poor man? All this time David had covered his sin and did not think much about it. Yet, through this story, God helped David to carefully **consider exactly**

what he had done and so open up his heart before the Lord.....to take the first step towards repentance and complete restoration.

After telling David the story.....the Lord became very personal and direct with David. Look at verses 7b-8. (Someone read.....with God's heart😊) This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: 'I anointed you king over Israel..... and I delivered you from the hand of Saul.I gave your master's house to you.....[I gave] your master's wives into your arms..... I gave you all Israel and Judah..... And if all this had been too little, I would have given you even more. Wow! The Lord had blessed David so much! He gave him everything he could desire: power, fame, wealth, wives and children. The best part was, that the Lord was willing to give David even more. Why did the Lord do all this for David? It was because, the Lord held David in high regard! With sincere love and respect!

But in return, how did David regard the Lord? He despised the Lord. Look at verse 9 and 10. In verse 9 the Lord asked David why did you despise the word of the Lord (9).....In verse 10 the Lord said to David "you despised me" (10) Indeed, despising the word of the Lord is the same as despising the Lord. But what exactly does it mean that David despised the Lord? It meant David did not respect the Lord It also meant David regarded the Lord as someone unimportant.....or beneath him. Unlike the Lord, David did not hold God in high regards in his life.

Can this be true?! Why did the Lord say this about David? Look again at verse 9. The Lord asked David, why did you despise the word of the Lord.....(here comes the answer) **by doing what is evil in his eyes? You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your own. You killed him with the sword of the Ammonites.** If this is not clear enough the Lord repeats the same point in verse 10 saying to David: you have despised me..... by taking Uriah's wife to be your own. (NLT) So easily we stare ourselves blind at what David did.....what sin he committed.....We even cringed last week when we saw how he lusted, schemed, murdered and covered up his sin. But these are merely proof of a deeper more fundamental problem in David's heart.....that he despised the Lord.....He thought so little about the Lord that he easily pushed Him aside to do exactly what he wanted.....where he wanted.....and when he wanted....whether the Lord likes it or not.....David simply could not care less. So he murdered Uriah and took Bathsheba as his wife.

This begs the question, is this true also for you and me? I am absolutely certain that if someone says to you and me that we despise the Lord, we would vehemently deny it. But what do our actions say about our attitude towards the Lord? The truth is, from birth sin has so corrupted our hearts (Ps 51:5)....and stained our inmost being with the dirtiest iniquities. And unless we bring our hearts to the Lord in repentance for him to wash us clean (Ps 51:2) sin naturally causes us to endlessly despise the Lord. It prevents us from holding Him in high

regard as we simply do whatever we want, where we want and how we want. The truth is, when we fail to hold the Lord in high regard.....to instead despise him.....we cannot but remain trapped helplessly in our sin.

Then what should we do to get out of our sin? To have a heart that willingly loves God..... with the respect and adoration.... he so deserves?

Let's look at today's key verse, verse 13a. Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord." After listening to God's word, David acknowledged his sin of killing Uriah and taking his wife..... for the very first time..... before the Lord. At first, David's confession does not seem like much. But if we carefully looked at what the Lord said prior to this confession, it is clear that he acknowledged his sin in detail. Look again at verse 9. (Read) Here the Lord is very specific on what David did. Who did David strike down? Uriah. Which Uriah? The Hittite. How did he struck him down? With the sword. With whose sword? The sword of the Ammonites. What else did David do? He took Uriah's wife. And did what with her? He took her to be his own. When David said: "I have sinned against the Lord" he sincerely acknowledged.....without making any excuses.... Without hiding, or further covering up his sin that he did each and every one of these evil things in the Lord's eyesHe accepted that in doing these things he sinned against the Lord.....and therefore, acknowledged his guilt openly before the Lord. Without God's forgiveness, David knew, he must surely be condemned to eternal death. (Look at Psalm 51)

Then how did the Lord respond to David's repentance? Look again at verse 13b. Nathan replied, "The Lord has taken away your sin. You are not going to die. Amen. According to God's unfailing love and according to His great compassion, the Lord blotted out all David's transgressions with the blood of the Lamb. He washed away all David's guilt and cleansed his heart from sin. (Ps 51:1-2) And created a pure heart within David, and renewed a steadfast spirit in him to once again respect the Lord and willing obey Him. (Ps 51:12) What a wonderful work of God in David's heart; right!? To transform his inner being from hostile rebellion to humble submission and reverence.

We vividly see this transformation in David's behaviour in the rest of the passage. After the Lord forgave his sin, He still pronounced that the son born to David would die. Now the old David who heartlessly killed Uriah might not have cared less.....yet, because of the purifying work of God in his heart,(look at verses 16-17) David pleaded with God for the child. He fasted and spent the nights lying in sackcloth on the ground. The elders of his household stood beside him to get him up from the ground, but he refused, and he would not eat any food with them....As he fully submitted and surrendered to God's mercy to be gracious to him and let the child live. (22) However, when the child died.....David immediately accepted and respected the Lord's sovereign decision to let child dies. He got up from the ground. After he had washed, put on lotions and

changed his clothes, he went into the house of the Lord and worshiped. What a remarkable change in David's attitude towards the Lord, right?! That even after the Lord took his son, David still worshipped the Lord with spiritual confidence and peace.....After this, the Lord blessed David and Bathsheba with another son and they named him Solomon. The Lord loved him.(24-25) Then as the final stage of David's restoration, David mustered the entire army and went to Rabbah, and attacked and captured it. God graciously gave David victory. David took the crown from their king's d head, and it was placed on his own head. Then he and his entire army returned to Jerusalem, victoriously happy in God.

In conclusion: Deep down in our hearts, we endlessly despise the Lord. By placing our desires above Him and His word and committing one sin after another, our hearts drift further and further away from the Lord. However, out of mercy and great compassion, the Lord is always willing to wash away all our dirty sins, to express His unfailing love, and to give us great victory. Our relationship with the Lord can be restored exactly as David restored his relationship with the Lord. What we have to do is to sincerely repent of our sins and cry out before Him: **I have sinned against the Lord!** Amen