

The Precious Lamb

- *II Samuel 12:1-7*

- **Choir, I appreciate those songs this morning.**
- **Listen, I love you guys, it's good to see each of this morning, but the reason I came is to worship the Lamb of God b/c without Him, without His sacrifice, we might as well pack up & go home. But through His blood, His sacrifice, His death, & His resurrection we should be rejoicing this morning.**
- **So as we come this morning to this auditorium, may we do our part in giving praise to the Lamb of God for His great sacrifice for us.**
- **I want you to turn with me this morning to II Samuel 12 as we will read a familiar passage of scripture to many of you. It's the story of the prophet Nathan coming before King David to address a very important issue, David's own issue of sin.**
- **READ SCRIPTURE**
- **King David grew up in some of the most humble conditions as a child.**
 - He did not have any great wealth or notoriety.
 - He was seldom thought of as a leader among the rest of his older brothers.
 - He was given the least respected job among his peers, the responsibility of caring for his father's sheep.
- **Yet, as David grew older, things began to change in his life & certainly in his faith in God. It was b/c of his great faith, God was able to lead David to victory time and time again.**
 - We are very familiar with the story of how David was the only one willing to go against the Philistine giant.
 - But after this victory & countless others, David went on to be one of the greatest warriors in the O.T. era.
 - Even though Saul was King & was a great warrior in his own stand, he became enraged b/c David was a greater victor than even he. They began singing songs, "Saul has killed his thousands, but David his ten thousands."
- **And the Bible tells us in II Samuel 8 that David had made a name for himself. He was no longer the small shepherd boy; now he was a great warrior & here in chapter 12 he is King.**
- **But no matter how great or how small you may be in this world's eyes, one thing we all have in common ... a sin nature.**
- **Though David was a mighty man of valor, a great warrior, and a trusted servant of God, he sinned against God greatly, and this is what brings Nathan before the King.**
 - Background
- **Nathan begins by telling David a story about a very wealthy man & a poor man.**
 - The Bible says that the wealthy man had great riches along with "exceeding many flocks and herds:" yet the Bible tells us that the poor man only had 1 little lamb.
 - The rich man had a visitor, a traveler coming by & he wanted to prepare for him a meal.
 - Now, he could have taken one of his own lambs and never missed it, b/c he had thousands to choose from.
 - But instead he chose to take this poor man's one little lamb.
 - And so he killed the lamb, dressed it & prepared it for his guest.

- Now some might argue, “What’s the big deal? It’s just a lamb.” But this lamb was significant to this family.
- This poor man could not give to his family what the rich man could give.
 - He did not have the resources to build a large house & have large fields for his kids to play in.
 - He didn’t have the money to buy his wife expensive jewels & clothing.
 - But he did all that he could to make sure that they had a lamb. “I cant give them much in this life, but I can give them a lamb.”
 - He wanted his kids to build a relationship with this lamb.
 - He wanted his family to know this lamb.
 - He wanted this lamb to become a part of his family.
 - And as you read in II Samuel 12, this was not a pet ... this lamb had become part of the family.
 - v.3 – “But the poor man had nothing, save one little ewe lamb, which he had bought and nourished up: and it grew up together with him, and with his children; it did eat of his own meat, and drank of his own cup, and lay in his bosom, and was unto him as a daughter.”
 - This lamb was so important to the poor man’s family. Listen, they didn’t just have a lamb living in their home. No! The lamb had become part of their lives.
 - He lived with them.
 - Drank with them.
 - Ate with them.
 - Worked with them.
 - Played with them.
 - What I am saying to you is this, allowing this lamb in their home changed their lives, and now everything they did revolved around the lamb!!!
 - Are you getting the picture yet? The lamb was with them wherever they went!
 - What a picture of how a relationship with God SHOULD be.
 - A relationship with the Lamb of God is not just a weekly visit, but a constant abiding with the Lamb.
 - Some don’t treat the Lamb of God like they should.
 - They will show up on Sunday mornings only b/c that’s all the time they have.
 - If the preaching gets too long or too personal, they will just get up & leave.
 - When the altar call is given, they get up & leave b/c they don’t intend on meeting with the Lamb anyway.
 - You see, the Lamb hasn’t really changed their life yet. He hasn’t become part of their family yet.
 - Because I will tell you something, as a Christian we should long for the Lamb to be with us every step of the way in our life & in everything we do.
 - “In The Garden” lyrics:
 - And he walks with me and he talks with me
 - And he tells me I am his own

And the joy we share as we tarry there
None other has ever known.

- Let me tell you something Mom. Listen to me Dad this morning.
 - I know you are working hard to provide for your family & that is certainly respectable. This poor man was a hard worker & gave all he had.
 - I know you want the very best for your families.
 - I know you want your kids to do well in school & get a good education.
 - You want them to play sports & develop their skills.
 - I am with you & will support you in all those efforts.
 - But ABOVE ALL, may each of us make sure that we have provided a Lamb for our families to build a relationship with. They need to know about the Lamb. All those other things will not matter one bit when we stand before God, only that we applied the Lamb's blood to our lives and that we had a relationship with the Lamb of God.
- **The David that we read about in II Samuel 12 is far different than the man who watched his father's sheep in the field or went against the Philistine giant.**
 - This was once a man who sang about the praises of God. He was willing to lay his life on the line for the things of God. In the book of Acts we are reminded that God even called him, "a man after God's own heart."
 - Acts 13:22 – "I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will."
 - So how could David go from a close relationship with God, to now he has stolen a man's wife, has a child with her, & he murders her husband to cover it up?
 - At this particular time, his relationship with the Lamb wasn't what it should have been.
 - Earlier in David's life, he was very close to the Lamb.
 - We could even say that David had become dependent on the Lamb as he grew.
 - Where once he was close to the Lamb, he talked to the Lamb, he spent time with the Lamb, now he had little time for the Lamb.
- **David lost what the poor man still had ... a love for the lamb. David had lost his connection with the lamb. Now instead of him spending time with the lamb & talking with the lamb, now he pays others to do it for him. Have we done the same thing?**
- **Finally through this story, the shepherd's heart is broken & he becomes enraged & promises revenge. Then the prophet reveals to him, "thou art the man."**
 - What a staggering blow! This was a dose of reality that tore David apart & he finally was aware of his great sin against God.
 - Once he understood that this story was about him, it changed the way he thought about the sacrifice of the lamb.
- **Does the sacrifice of the Lamb mean anything to you today?**
 - In Exodus 12, it was commanded that every man have a lamb. Why? Because he would need to make a sacrifice for himself and his family at the Passover.
 - Wealth, riches, large houses, fancy jewelry ... all those things didn't matter when it came time for the sacrifice, only that he had the lamb.

- When a colt was born and it was the first born under the O.T. covenant, you either had to break its neck or offer a lamb as a sacrifice.
 - When the firstborn in the house was born, it was required that you sacrifice a lamb.
- So the lamb was extremely important in the O.T. time because every time we read of the lamb in the O.T., it points to the Lamb of the N.T., the Lamb who was slain for the sins of all mankind.
- Example of Passover
 - When the family brought a lamb to be sacrificed, it could not be some lamb they picked up along the way.
 - It had to be 1 yr. old male lamb.
 - It had to stay with the family for 4 days.
 - Why? Why were the details of the sacrifice so specific & so important?
 - Because God did not want this family to be disconnected from the sacrifice; He intended for this sacrifice to cause them to grieve.
 - This was their lamb.
 - This was the lamb that ate at their table & slept in their beds.
 - God wanted them to think about this lamb & the blood that was shed every time they committed a sin so that in turn the lamb would change their lives.
 - When the Passover sacrifice was made, it did something to the family.
- Church, can I ask you a very personal question this morning?
 - When is the last time we grieved over our Lamb?
 - Do we grieve over our sins?
 - Are we grieved when we sin against the Lamb of God?
- **The worst thing David could have ever done was to become disconnected from the Lamb. He should have never stopped allowing the Lamb to be involved in his life.**
- **As I close this morning, let me say this. Maybe you are here today & you say,**
 - **“Pastor, I once had a love for God & was abiding with God. But now I have drifted from Him. What can I do?” You need to cry out to the Lamb of God today.**
 - **“Pastor, I don’t grieve over my sins like I should. What do I need to do?” You need to cry out to the Lamb this morning & plead for His forgiveness.**
 - **“Pastor, my marriage is in trouble. What can I do?” Get the lamb involved in your marriage.**
 - **“My kids don’t know Christ, what do I do?” Introduce them to the Lamb; get them involved with the Lamb.**