

Sin, Repentance, & Forgiveness

- II Samuel 12:13

"And David said unto Nathan: I have sinned against the Lord. And Nathan said unto David: The Lord also hath put away thy sin."

- **In our scripture this morning, David, who is the beloved warrior of God in the OT, has made some very foolish & costly mistakes in his life, in particular lusting & committing adultery with another man's wife & the attempt to cover it up through essentially murder.**
 - Without a doubt, this is one of the saddest stories that we read in the entire OT. It's a story of misplaced priorities, failure in temptation, and the steps that mankind will go to cover their sins & attempt to soothe their conscience.
 - It is a sad thing to be disappointed in a man, who loved God so much & had so much potential, and on the other side capable of committing such a great sin.
 - But may this be a reminder to each of us of the power of sin.
 - Sin is dark, wicked & intentional.
 - It is costly, damaging, and leads to destruction beyond our own lives.
 - It never leads to the path we intended.
 - **David was a man who loved God & had served God since a young boy, but we are never too strong & never too old for the power of sin to affect our lives.**
 - Church, don't ever think that you are above temptation. Don't ever think that some sin can never reach you. What you can do is be busy & be consumed with following after God.
 - When are you tempted the most? When you are busy serving God or when you are doing nothing?
 - I dare say, that your strongest temptation never came to you when you were busy. It was when you were doing nothing, when your hands were not reaching out to help others, when you were sitting in idleness, while others were moving.
 - David was on the roof of his palace, and he was tempted to sin. But the temptation itself was not the cause of David's fall nor was it sin in the moment he was tempted.
 - Sometimes when we are on our knees in prayer, maybe even at church, and sinful thoughts have flashed through our minds. This is the way sin works.
 - David's trouble was this: He looked at sin a second time, and then a third and a fourth, and very soon the man who was strong enough to do **marvellousmarvelous** things for God trembled and fell. "Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." (I Cor. 10:12)
 - You say, "But Pastor, what can I do when I am tempted?" The Bible says this, "Resist the devil and he will flee from you." Your sin was not that you were tempted. Rather the sin comes into play when you are tempted & you don't immediately turn to God for deliverance.
 - After David's sin, God sent Nathan to him to speak to him. You remember what Nathan said: There was a certain man who had nothing save one little ewe lamb, and Nathan finished his story: "They took the ewe lamb and put it to death," David sprang to his feet and said: "The man who would do that must die." Then Nathan came out with his startling words: "Thou art the man," and David stood before Nathan a convicted man. With a cry of his soul, he said: "I have sinned against the Lord," and Nathan promptly replied: "The Lord also hath put away thy sin."
 - There are several things that are important to look at this morning:
1. **A Terrible Sin**
 - What made this sin so **greatterrible** was the fact that he knew better.

- HeI would say for each of us, the sin that often besets us is the very sin we knew better than to play with in the beginning. It's not the sin that surprises us or catches us off guard, it's the sin of not doing what we know to do.
- David willingly fell to the temptation. (Not so much that he saw Bathsheba, but that he lusted after her).
- He invited sin into his life. (He should have resisted & asked for forgiveness; instead he committed the sin of adultery).
- Instead of acknowledging his wrong before God, David attempted to cover his sin.
- It was a greatterrible sin because it was against his position as a king.
 - As a King, one of his first priorities was to be with his men. Yet in a moment of weakness, David allowed his men to go to battle while he remained behind.
 - This point reminds us to be doing what we know is right. Serve God, live for Him, keep Him first in your life, be where you are supposed to be, and the temptations will not overtake you so easily.
- And b/c David sinned, the whole house of Israel suffered.
 - When you sin your friends suffer, your children suffer, and your family suffers.
 - When we sin, we must remember it is not just a sin against ourselves, but it is a sin against God.
- This Book right here, this Book has something that each & every one of us need this morning. This Book describes for us the atonement & the sacrifice that was made for our sins.
 - The atonement that is provided in the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ. There are two verses of Scripture that speak to our atonement. One, "the wages of sin is death." The other, "the soul that sinneth it shall die." God has never taken those verses back. But there is a third verse that says: "Christ died for our sins." According to the Scripture, if you have sinned there is a way of escape; the Saviour of the worldour Savior, Jesus Christ has made atonement for our sins.

2. A True Repentance

- If you have read the Fifty-first Psalm, you will know that David wrote this psalm after he had repented to God.
 - "Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity and purge me from my sin."
 - This is a man who was genuinely repentant for his wrong.
- Remember that repentance is not merely sorrow. Sorrow is the beginning of repentance, but it does not go far enough. Remorse is a good thing; it is certainly a part of repentance, but it is not the whole thing.
 - Now I will say, there is a lot to be said about a person who is sorry for their sin.
 - One of the things that we are missing in our world today is genuine sorrow for our wrongs.
- There should never be a man in all the world, who realizes his sin and does not suffer.
 - There was consequences to David's sin, and he knew that he would have to face those.
 - But I believe one of the thing that crushed David the most was his broken relationship with God.
 - At one time, David had the favor of God upon him, but now he was broken in shame & misery for the sin that he had committed.
 - When we sin, the consequences made be horrific at times, But the thing that should bring us to our knees is the fact that we have sinned against a Holy God, we have taken part in nailing Christ to the cross through our sins.
- David surely had sorrow, his heart was full of remorse, but you never truly repent until with God's help you turn away from sin unto God. This is true repentance, and I want to say that if you feel that you cannot do it yourself, if you have no strength to do it, I want to say that just so soon as

you know that you are a sinner and lift your eyes to Christ the Saviour, that moment all the strength you need will be yours. You can turn away from sin, for God will help you. David did, and so may you.

3. A Total Forgiveness

- The 32nd Psalm was written after David had been forgiven & it explains the great joy & peace that can be found in forgiveness. (Psalm 32:1-5)
 - o David describes for us our covering for sin. What is this covering? You have tried to hide your sins, but you cannot do it. You think that you can hide sin, but it will come forth.
 - o But in this Thirty-second Psalm we read that our sins may be covered. How? If there is in your life something that is wrong, some sin that you have tried to hide, take Jesus Christ as your Savior today and His precious blood will cover your sin out of sight & you can experience Total Forgiveness!

~~My friend~~ Samuel H. Hadley, of the Water Street Mission, New York, was sitting outside his Mission door one day when a little boy came and said; "Mr. Hadley, will you ask Mrs. Hadley to give me a piece of cloth and a needle and thread?" "What do you want them for?" asked Mr. Hadley. The boy answered: "To mend my trousers." ~~My friend said that he~~ He looked at his ragged clothes and it seemed as if they were not worth mending. He hesitated a moment, and the child burst into tears and started down Water street, turning under Brooklyn bridge. But Mr. Hadley ran after him and said: "Come back. You go upstairs and Mrs. Hadley will take care of you." When he came down, his clothing was mended and he was leaving the Mission. ~~My friend~~ Mr. Hadley said to him: "What is your story?" He answered: "I stole \$20 from my father in Philadelphia, and then I came to this city. I have spent all the money and I am afraid to go home. I have been sleeping nights wherever I could." "Well," said Mr. Hadley, "go back home and your father will take you in." "Oh, no, he won't," said the boy. "Well, come into the Mission," said Mr. Hadley, "and I will send your father a letter." This is what he wrote: "Dear Sir: Your boy is very, very sorry for his sin. He is in my Mission here and he wants to come home. What shall I tell him?" The letter reached Philadelphia in the morning, and before eleven o'clock a telegram came back to Mr. Hadley, at 316 Water street: "Tell the ~~dear~~ boy he is forgiven and I want him to come home at once."

~~This is my~~ That same message is given to you this ~~evening~~ morning. When Jesus Christ died on Calvary, His heart broke for the sins of mankind. Forgiveness was born then,

- Church, I have a pardon, signed and sealed. It is full and free. You may have it if you will take it. It is sealed with the blood of Jesus Christ. I plead with you to take Him, and in taking Him to accept this pardon. ~~Weeks have passed by and some of~~ Perhaps this morning you are resisting ~~still the call~~ of the Holy Spirit this morning. Some of you have never yet said "yes" to the call of Christ. Why don't you say it today?