

NO SUCH THING OUGHT TO BE DONE

2 SAMUEL 13:1 – 14:33

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~ Our two preceding reports from our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God both dealt entirely with David's extraordinarily heinous sins concerning Uriah and Bathsheba. We didn't downplay them because the Word of God doesn't minimize or mitigate what was beyond a self-deprecating sin, it was Capital murder in its most egregious form – perpetrated by authority. The Bible presents these events as frightful and awful; so, that's the perspective from which we considered it. Our so-called safari presents the Bible as it is – for men and women as they are, and we're considering the doctrine of the total depravity of mankind. If you don't care for straight talk, you will definitely want to stop reading and excuse yourself from this Bible study. Let us who continue pray for wisdom, judgment and spiritual discernment as we attempt to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ. Selah ~

At this point in our expedition, we have found David guilty of adultery and murder. We're overlooking his misrepresentation of base deceit of those who trusted him most throughout the entire ordeal - lying. We're also going to dismiss the indictment of questionable motives for warring, mayhem and plundering as we saw recorded previously - love of money. That still leaves some serious problems God is going to deal with. When we get into sin, we find ourselves on a sort of spiritual flypaper; where we put down one leg and it gets stuck, so we put down another leg to try to free the first stuck leg, and suddenly we discover we are hopelessly enmeshed and unable to move. So, my only question is: did David lose his salvation? – And the answer is: *absolutely not*. Remember, we read the fifty-first Psalm in our last report where David said, "... restore unto me the joy of my salvation." David didn't say he needed his salvation restored because it was not in question. But he was sure having a difficult life as a result. See, our joy comes through fellowship with God, and David had lost that fellowship because of his sin. David had a passion and love for God that very few people have today.

Apparently, the Bible teaches David couldn't sin with impunity and without ramifications or consequences, friends; and neither can – nor will – you. You can just write that down. Most people today say something like, “... *all you have to do is confess your sin and you'll just spring right back into God's favor.*” That may be true regarding fellowship and relationship; but – if you think you can live in sin and walk with no affect on your life, I am here to tell you that you are woefully mistaken. Human nature and of the Word of God both contradict that conclusion. Sin will affect you psychologically, physically and spiritually. Don't fool yourself about this. If we confess our sins we're forgiven because God is faithful and just to continually cleanse us; however, that *IN NO WAY* means you will not reap what you sow regarding sins in your life. Don't do the crime if you can't do the time.

We all need a serious reality check in today's modern age, my beloved readers. Let's be perfectly clear: your sins will have consequences and they may carry lifelong repercussions. If you don't think so, then you just happen to be wrong. Be not deceived – God is not mocked. Whatsoever a man soweth – *THAT* shall he also reap. He that soweth to the flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption. I don't see those verses quoted ad nauseam like I do some other verses on this forum on which I teach – but I digress.

David has sown to the flesh many bad things at this time in his life. Someone will now say the Blood of Christ covers it – and it sure does – because we don't lose our salvation; but underneath that covered up sin there will be a festering sore that is going to require resolution. Don't think so? – try it. As we begin this report, David has made his confession of sin; and he has been restored in fellowship with God. But, during that fellowship, God reminded David he had caused the enemies of God to have occasion to blaspheme Him. That's why it is worse for a Christian to sin than a lost person. God also laid out some very serious consequences. We're only covering one of them in this report. We can thank God He doesn't give us up but – again – there will be consequences – and those consequences may be severe – and possibly lifelong....

XIII

1 And it came to pass after this, that Absalom the son of David had a fair sister, whose name was Tamar; and Amnon the son of David loved her.

2 And Amnon was so vexed, that he fell sick for his sister Tamar; for she was a virgin; and Amnon thought it hard for him to do any thing to her.

3 But Amnon had a friend, whose name was Jonadab, the son of Shimeah David's brother: and Jonadab was a very subtil man.

4 And he said unto him, Why art thou, being the king's son, lean from day to day? wilt thou not tell me? And Amnon said unto him, I love Tamar, my brother Absalom's sister.

5 And Jonadab said unto him, Lay thee down on thy bed, and make thyself sick: and when thy father cometh to see thee, say unto him, I pray thee, let my sister Tamar come, and give me meat, and dress the meat in my sight, that I may see it, and eat it at her hand.

6 So Amnon lay down, and made himself sick: and when the king was come to see him, Amnon said unto the king, I pray thee, let Tamar my sister come, and make me a couple of cakes in my sight, that I may eat at her hand.

7 Then David sent home to Tamar, saying, Go now to thy brother Amnon's house, and dress him meat.

~ David had so many wives I've lost track of them all – and here we have the result of those marriages: two half-brothers, Absalom and Amnon. Jonadab was no friend, although he is called a friend. Well, with friends like him, you don't need any enemies. Deceit and trickery run in David's foreign family like a particular hair color, it would seem. David is completely taken in by the ruse. This is *EXACTLY* the same treachery David inflicted on Uriah, you will recall. When we deceive, we will be deceived in the same way, friends. Whatsoever we sow, that shall we also reap. Not something close – the same thing. I hope you'll read all the gory details the Word of God was compelled to not casually leave out. They are included because we are studying the total depravity of mankind; and it's disgusting. God hates it....

8 So Tamar went to her brother Amnon's house; and he was laid down. And she took flour, and kneaded it, and made cakes in his sight, and did bake the cakes.

9 And she took a pan, and poured them out before him; but he refused to eat. And Amnon said, Have out all men from me. And they went out every man from him.

10 And Amnon said unto Tamar, Bring the meat into the chamber, that I may eat of thine hand. And Tamar took the cakes which she had made, and brought them into the chamber to Amnon her brother.

11 And when she had brought them unto him to eat, he took hold of her, and said unto her, Come lie with me, my sister.

12 And she answered him, Nay, my brother, do not force me; for no such thing ought to be done in Israel: do not thou this folly.

13 And I, whither shall I cause my shame to go? and as for thee, thou shalt be as one of the fools in Israel. Now therefore, I pray thee, speak unto the king; for he will not withhold me from thee.

14 Howbeit he would not hearken unto her voice: but, being stronger than she, forced her, and lay with her.

15 Then Amnon hated her exceedingly; so that the hatred wherewith he hated her was greater than the love wherewith he had loved her. And Amnon said unto her, Arise, be gone.

16 And she said unto him, There is no cause: this evil in sending me away is greater than the other that thou didst unto me. But he would not hearken unto her.

17 Then he called his servant that ministered unto him, and said, Put now this woman out from me, and bolt the door after her.

18 And she had a garment of divers colours upon her: for with such robes were the king's daughters that were virgins apparelled. Then his servant brought her out, and bolted the door after her.

19 And Tamar put ashes on her head, and rent her garment of divers colours that was on her, and laid her hand on her head, and went on crying.

~ So, Tamar is traumatized. She was raped and thrown out into the street and the door locked behind her. She begged Amnon to simply ask David for permission for them to get married, because David seemed to permit anything in his house. At least that wouldn't have destroyed her. Amnon supposedly loved her so much he was sick but, suddenly, after he had his way with her, he hated her; but not just hated her – he hated her *EXCEEDINGLY*. This was a dark day in the house and palace of David. Treachery was the only dish on the menu.

And, it gets worse. Notice how David was angry but did *NOTHING* about the rape. I'm trying to imagine how Tamar felt about her dad. There are many men in Scripture who were indulgent fathers. Indulgent fathers – and mothers – can only expect to raise spoiled little brats that do horrible things. Remember, old man Eli, the high priest, had ilk for sons. Samuel didn't do any better – even after being raised in the temple. One would naturally assume Samuel would have been a disciplinarian after growing up around Hophni and Phinehas; but, no, it didn't happen that way, and Samuel's sons turned out dishonest, you will recall. David knew Samuel well; and David knew his sons. One would assume David would have learned something from those problems, but he didn't. No, David was not only indulgent, but he was *overly* indulgent. There is absolutely *NO* discipline in David's house and the consequences are deadly.

I am confident many of my readers do not agree with me on a lot of things. I feel most people believe I am some old-fashioned square – and I am. These last several reports have included some very old-fashioned comments to be sure. Well, I am the father of two grown children, and I just happen to know what I'm talking about in this connection from experience. Further, I don't temper these reports beyond prayer and lining

up with the Word of God. I intend to present Christ as He is. I have a strict policy of reporting to the Lord about what I say on this forum on which I teach – and I have been wrong – without question. Quite frankly, I wish I hadn't said some of the things I have said, and I always wanted to be a much better writer than I am; but, I have never had to tell God I pulled a punch or soft-peddled a situation for some personal gain, either. I've never withheld or watered down a Biblical truth because I wanted to keep a friend or because I was afraid of hurting someone's feelings. So, that leads us to some very, very strong medicine.

Serious problems develop in *ANY* and *EVERY* home today that lacks a Godly example and Scriptural discipline by the parents. My friends, if you are a parent, and you have a child to whom all you do is lecture them and place them in time out – but never discipline properly according to the Word of God – then you are creating one of the monsters we see every day on the news in our contemporary society. You're not raising a little angel, friends. That child is not a cross between a piece of Dresden china and a cymbidium orchid. You won't break its little psyche with some strong corporal punishment. I don't mean abuse – and if you question this, and don't know the balance, then you need not have children – they should be taken away from you, frankly. My advice is, you'll do well to act upon Godly principles before you lose your children. If we don't apply the board of education to the seat of knowledge from very early on, then we'll raise a fool. David was just such a father, and he has some horror stories coming up in his house – Tamar is just the beginning. This is simply a tremendous – and difficult – Biblical lesson to accept...

20 And Absalom her brother said unto her, Hath Amnon thy brother been with thee? but hold now thy peace, my sister: he is thy brother; regard not this thing. So Tamar remained desolate in her brother Absalom's house.

21 But when King David heard of all these things, he was very wroth.

22 And Absalom spake unto his brother Amnon neither good nor bad: for Absalom hated Amnon, because he had forced his sister Tamar.

23 And it came to pass after two full years, that Absalom had sheepshearers in Baalhazor, which is beside Ephraim: and Absalom invited all the king's sons.

24 And Absalom came to the king, and said, Behold now, thy servant hath sheepshearers; let the king, I beseech thee, and his servants go with thy servant.

25 And the king said to Absalom, Nay, my son, let us not all now go, lest we be chargeable unto thee. And he pressed him: howbeit he would not go, but blessed him.

26 Then said Absalom, If not, I pray thee, let my brother Amnon go with us. And the king said unto him, Why should he go with thee?

27 But Absalom pressed him, that he let Amnon and all the king's sons go with him.

28 Now Absalom had commanded his servants, saying, Mark ye now when Amnon's heart is merry with wine, and when I say unto you, Smite Amnon; then kill him, fear not: have not I commanded you? be courageous, and be valiant.

29 And the servants of Absalom did unto Amnon as Absalom had commanded. Then all the king's sons arose, and every man gat him up upon his mule, and fled.

30 And it came to pass, while they were in the way, that tidings came to David, saying, Absalom hath slain all the king's sons, and there is not one of them left.

31 Then the king arose, and tare his garments, and lay on the earth; and all his servants stood by with their clothes rent.

32 And Jonadab, the son of Shimeah David's brother, answered and said, Let not my lord suppose that they have slain all the young men the king's

sons; for Amnon only is dead: for by the appointment of Absalom this hath been determined from the day that he forced his sister Tamar.

33 Now therefore let not my lord the king take the thing to his heart, to think that all the king's sons are dead: for Amnon only is dead.

34 But Absalom fled. And the young man that kept the watch lifted up his eyes, and looked, and, behold, there came much people by the way of the hill side behind him.

35 And Jonadab said unto the king, Behold, the king's sons come: as thy servant said, so it is.

36 And it came to pass, as soon as he had made an end of speaking, that, behold, the king's sons came, and lifted up their voice and wept: and the king also and all his servants wept very sore.

37 But Absalom fled, and went to Talmai, the son of Ammihud, king of Geshur. And David mourned for his son every day.

38 So Absalom fled, and went to Geshur, and was there three years.

39 And the soul of King David longed to go forth unto Absalom: for he was comforted concerning Amnon, seeing he was dead.

~ Absalom waited for his day of revenge - and that day came. Amnon was killed by Absalom for the rape of their sister Tamar. The initial report was that ALL of David's sons had been killed. Well, as a result of this murder, Absalom is forced to flee to another country. If David had dealt with the rape instead of ignoring it, this tragedy could have been avoided – but he didn't. Absalom waited for David to take action, but David never did; so, Absalom resented David and took revenge. I think David loved Amnon, too, although Absalom was certainly David's most favored son. It is obvious Absalom was David's choice for succession to the throne – NOT Solomon. Absalom and Tamar both came from Maacah – a pagan and Bedouin wife of David – and both were involved in scandal. According to the Mosaic Law, David never should have married Maacah. To make matters worse, David

offers a half-hearted forgiveness as Absalom returns to Jerusalem. See, David didn't get by with this sin. He's reaping what he has sown....

XIV

1 Now Joab the son of Zeruiah perceived that the king's heart was toward Absalom.

2 And Joab sent to Tekoah, and fetched thence a wise woman, and said unto her, I pray thee, feign thyself to be a mourner, and put on now mourning apparel, and anoint not thyself with oil, but be as a woman that had a long time mourned for the dead:

3 And come to the king, and speak on this manner unto him. So Joab put the words in her mouth.

4 And when the woman of Tekoah spake to the king, she fell on her face to the ground, and did obeisance, and said, Help, O king.

5 And the king said unto her, What aileth thee? And she answered, I am indeed a widow woman, and mine husband is dead.

6 And thy handmaid had two sons, and they two strove together in the field, and there was none to part them, but the one smote the other, and slew him.

7 And, behold, the whole family is risen against thine handmaid, and they said, Deliver him that smote his brother, that we may kill him, for the life of his brother whom he slew; and we will destroy the heir also: and so they shall quench my coal which is left, and shall not leave to my husband neither name nor remainder upon the earth.

8 And the king said unto the woman, Go to thine house, and I will give charge concerning thee.

9 And the woman of Tekoah said unto the king, My lord, O king, the iniquity be on me, and on my father's house: and the king and his throne be guiltless.

10 And the king said, Whosoever saith ought unto thee, bring him to me, and he shall not touch thee any more.

11 Then said she, I pray thee, let the king remember the LORD thy God, that thou wouldest not suffer the revengers of blood to destroy any more, lest they destroy my son. And he said, As the LORD liveth, there shall not one hair of thy son fall to the earth.

12 Then the woman said, Let thine handmaid, I pray thee, speak one word unto my lord the king. And he said, Say on.

13 And the woman said, Wherefore then hast thou thought such a thing against the people of God? for the king doth speak this thing as one which is faulty, in that the king doth not fetch home again his banished.

14 For we must needs die, and are as water spilt on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again; neither doth God respect any person: yet doth he devise means, that his banished be not expelled from him.

15 Now therefore that I am come to speak of this thing unto my lord the king, it is because the people have made me afraid: and thy handmaid said, I will now speak unto the king; it may be that the king will perform the request of his handmaid.

16 For the king will hear, to deliver his handmaid out of the hand of the man that would destroy me and my son together out of the inheritance of God.

17 Then thine handmaid said, The word of my lord the king shall now be comfortable: for as an angel of God, so is my lord the king to discern good and bad: therefore the LORD thy God will be with thee.

18 Then the king answered and said unto the woman, Hide not from me, I pray thee, the thing that I shall ask thee. And the woman said, Let my lord the king now speak.

19 And the king said, Is not the hand of Joab with thee in all this? And the woman answered and said, As thy soul liveth, my lord the king, none can turn to the right hand or to the left from ought that my lord the king hath spoken: for thy servant Joab, he bade me, and he put all these words in the mouth of thine handmaid:

20 To fetch about this form of speech hath thy servant Joab done this thing: and my lord is wise, according to the wisdom of an angel of God, to know all things that are in the earth.

21 And the king said unto Joab, Behold now, I have done this thing: go therefore, bring the young man Absalom again.

22 And Joab fell to the ground on his face, and bowed himself, and thanked the king: and Joab said, To day thy servant knoweth that I have found grace in thy sight, my lord, O king, in that the king hath fulfilled the request of his servant.

23 So Joab arose and went to Geshur, and brought Absalom to Jerusalem.

24 And the king said, Let him turn to his own house, and let him not see my face. So Absalom returned to his own house, and saw not the king's face.

25 But in all Israel there was none to be so much praised as Absalom for his beauty: from the sole of his foot even to the crown of his head there was no blemish in him.

26 And when he polled his head, (for it was at every year's end that he polled it: because the hair was heavy on him, therefore he polled it:) he weighed the hair of his head at two hundred shekels after the king's weight.

27 And unto Absalom there were born three sons, and one daughter, whose name was Tamar: she was a woman of a fair countenance.

28 So Absalom dwelt two full years in Jerusalem, and saw not the king's face.

29 Therefore Absalom sent for Joab, to have sent him to the king; but he would not come to him: and when he sent again the second time, he would not come.

30 Therefore he said unto his servants, See, Joab's field is near mine, and he hath barley there; go and set it on fire. And Absalom's servants set the field on fire.

31 Then Joab arose, and came to Absalom unto his house, and said unto him, Wherefore have thy servants set my field on fire?

32 And Absalom answered Joab, Behold, I sent unto thee, saying, Come hither, that I may send thee to the king, to say, Wherefore am I come from Geshur? it had been good for me to have been there still: now therefore let me see the king's face; and if there be any iniquity in me, let him kill me.

33 So Joab came to the king, and told him: and when he had called for Absalom, he came to the king, and bowed himself on his face to the ground before the king: and the king kissed Absalom.

~ David was deceived again and again in his life by those around him; just as he had deceived. Whatsoever a man soweth – *THAT* shall he also reap! David was good at seeing what should be done in the life of others – but he had very little clarity concerning his own life. The one area the woman in the beginning of this chapter was wrong about was verse fourteen. Even so, David was only half-hearted in forgiving Absalom for the murder of Amnon; as we see in verse twenty-four. Well, that's not the way God forgave David, friends. God didn't banish David from fellowship and close the spiritual door on him. God restored the joy of David's salvation. We're told in the Word of God to be tender-hearted; forgiving one another even as God, for

Christ's sake, hath forgiven us. David didn't do that for his son Absalom; and it is likely David's most egregious sin.

This was another truly unfortunate chapter of unforgiveness in David's life; and it sets the stage for rebellion and an attempted coup by Absalom. Absalom may have been a bad son, but he was a *GREAT* politician; albeit corrupt, criminal and crooked. Absalom was subtle and sleight, but with a good, friendly and extroverted personality. Actually, Absalom is exactly like his dad, but he fails to represent David's qualities; and, of course, doesn't defend the crown of Israel. I think Absalom could shake hands with every person in the kingdom, pat them on the back and they would invite him to dinner. Well, the next leg of our Spiritual Safari will record the rebellion by Absalom against David.

Today, God forgives; and if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual are commanded to restore such a one in the spirit of meekness. Let's not beat our fellow man over the head with religion. I know I'm guilty of that – no need to point it out. We're *ALL* reluctant to forgive and we can *ALL* be very hurtful at times. Some of us are simply unlovable and critical, I realize that of myself. Certainly, the truth must be spoken – but – when forgiveness is asked for, it should be extended whole-heartedly without reservation or hesitation. If we don't, we will live to regret it. If we know to do good but do it not, to us, it is sin ~