

IN THE SIGHT OF THIS SUN

2 SAMUEL 11:27 – 12:31

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~ It requires very little effort to identify sin in someone else's life. We can see the speck in other eyes, while refusing to acknowledge the plank in our own, as Jesus said. In our previous report, we considered the record of David's awful sin, ad nauseam; and the Lord does not play it down in Scripture so, neither did our Spiritual Safari. The sin David committed stands out like a blackberry in a bowl of cream. David's sin has caused many people throughout the ages to completely miss his otherwise overall greatness, because that's how sin diminishes our witness.

David didn't live his life in sin committing murder and adultery; but there are people today who call themselves Christians that condemn David while they do live that way. Remember, Jesus saith, *"if you are angry at your brother without a cause, you are guilty of murder."* He also said, *"if you so much as look upon a woman to lust after her, you are guilty of adultery."* I think that pretty well nails down a lot of people. When someone lives their life in abject, continuing sin, they simply are not God's man. The child of God cannot live in sin, friends. The child of God may sin, but they will never continue in a sinful lifestyle. This is the only characteristic that distinguishes a child of God and a child of the devil, as far as I can tell. A sheep may fall in the pig pen, but it will get out as quickly as possible. The pig, on the other hand, will wallow in the mire.

It's easy to lay back in a spiritual spa, place a cucumber over our eyes to blot out the light, and just relax and forget about our sins. God said men can become flawed like a piece of pottery; and one minor flaw can ruin a very valuable work of art. Some merchandise is marked down to nearly worthless due to a minute flaw that can't even be seen with the naked eye, in some cases. Well, God discounts David because of his sin. In the last leg of our safari, we didn't soft peddle the issues, and we're not going to overlook them as we continue the account of David. Let's be clear: David's sin was as black as ink – as dark as night – as low as the underside of Satan's belly and as deep as hell. Sin is sin, friends. David's authority as king

compounds the heinous nature of David's crimes. Bathsheba had no choice but to submit to David. Uriah was, likewise, subject to David.

So, the natural question is: how could David be a man after God's own heart in light of these sins? The answer is: David wasn't after God's heart when he was committing these atrocious and inexcusable acts. We're overlapping the last verse from our previous report as the first verse of this report – just to make sure we don't miss it. Don't neglect to read this section of Scripture in your own Bible after praying for wisdom, judgment and discernment; and before you read this report. If you approach these studies in that manner, this safari will become so much more meaningful to your heart. As we begin, God is displeased with David and, because David is God's chosen man, God is going to move in judgment.

Make no mistake, friends; God judges our sins in *THIS* life. Whom the Lord loveth, He chasteneth. That means today. We are only judged after death in Heaven to determine if we receive a reward and, if so, of what value. God plans very definitely to move upon our sin and do something about it *in the flesh*. Christ suffered and died a violent death because our sin is that heinous. Why? – Because God said our sin is that heinous. When one sins, they reveal they despise God. God hates your sin, my beloved. We must settle the sin question properly with God before there will ever be any fellowship with Him.

Modern day psychology refuses to label sin as such. We attempt to mitigate and minimize anything labeled sinful behavior as a "right" – or by denying sin is even real – or worse; erroneously believing the Lord is going to minimize or dismiss said sin. As a result, society is collapsing as the love of many waxes cold due to sin as I type this report and as you read it. To believe we can live any way we want to and call ourselves children of God is a woefully misguided life philosophy. If you believe God has changed His Mind concerning murder, adultery, lying, stealing – or covetousness – then you do not know the God of Holy Writ.

The unbeliever who rejects Christ is lost and will spend eternity in hell. That's not my theory, it's not my opinion or philosophy or doctrine or theology – it's what God says. On the other hand, if you are a child of God,

and you get into sin, then God is going to correct you and chasten you to deliver you, so as by fire. In our next report, we will see an absolutely awful scandal amongst the children of David as Tamar is raped by her brother – David’s son. David will be heartbroken. Our last report left David sitting on his throne in a smug complacency thinking he was getting away with murder. But in the back of his mind, he was constantly wondering and worrying who knew about Uriah and Bathsheba, and David. Well, friends, David is going to live to regret this thing he has done – you can just write that down....

XI

27 And when the mourning was past, David sent and fetched Bathsheba to his house, and she became his wife, and bare him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD.

XII

1 And the LORD sent Nathan unto David. And he came unto him, and said unto him, There were two men in one city; the one rich, and the other poor.

2 The rich man had exceeding many flocks and herds:

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.

4 And there came a traveller unto the rich man, and he spared to take of his own flock and of his own herd, to dress for the wayfaring man that was come unto him; but took the poor man's lamb, and dressed it for the man that was come to him.

5 And David's anger was greatly kindled against the man; and he said to Nathan, As the LORD liveth, the man that hath done this thing shall surely die:

6 And he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity.

7 And Nathan said to David, Thou art the man. Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I anointed thee king over Israel, and I delivered thee out of the hand of Saul;

8 And I gave thee thy master's house, and thy master's wives into thy bosom, and gave thee the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that had been too little, I would moreover have given unto thee even more things.

9 Wherefore hast thou despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in his sight? thou hast killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and hast taken his wife to be thy wife, and hast slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon.

10 Now therefore the sword shall never depart from thine house; because thou hast despised me, and hast taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be thy wife.

11 Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house, and I will take thy wives before thine eyes, and give them unto thy neighbour, and he shall lie with thy wives in the sight of this sun.

12 For thou didst it secretly: but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun.

~ Nathan was a brave man to follow God's instructions and speak to David this way. There is no other account in the Bible – or in secular history – of an interaction between a king and a subordinate such as this. One nod from David and Nathan would have been summarily executed right there in the court. Mary, Queen of Scots, would have boldly declared she was above the law. Charles II would have thrown Bathsheba in the tower, and no one would have ever heard from her again. James III would have hired witnesses to swear this was all a mistake. Mohammed would declare an edict authorizing *BOTH* crimes legal in *THIS* case. Henry II would have

publicly abrogated the seventh commandment; and Queen Elizabeth would have suspended, incarcerated – and highly likely executed – Nathan. In years gone by, the Duke of Windsor would have given up the throne for Bathsheba. Many American presidents would have abolished the Ten Commandments and offer Nathan an appointment to the Supreme Court as a bribe to cooperate. Well, David's sins are found out now ~

A rich man and a poor man – how typical is that? In the city of Orlando where I live, we have slums directly across the street from million-dollar homes. Well, the rich man had it all, but the poor man had nothing in this world except a little lamb. This is a striking picture of the continual war between rich and poor. In our modern-day society, the major problem is NOT racism; no, friends, our problem is the poverty / wealth ratio – and always has been – make no mistake about that. Well, David displays a severe and pious sense of justice at this point. David knew Nathan was not making this story up. David thought this was an event that happened out there in the kingdom, and he thinks Nathan is requesting action against it. It's so easy to preach to someone else and tell them what they should do, isn't it? Most of us think we are Ph.D psychologists who place others on our critical spiritual couch; and we act as if we can analyze anyone's situation and motives at any time. It always results in spiritual malpractice.

Now, we do not get political in this safari, but we have a tremendous basic principle on poverty given. Our contemporary politicians all claim they have the solutions to the problems of the poor man in the world. They make promises to secure election to office that they could never keep or do. I don't care who they are or what they say or promise, it is *NEVER* being done for the common good of the poor amongst us. This is an axiom you may want to write down to prevent fooling yourself. A successful poverty program has never been accomplished in the past, and it isn't happening today. Politicians talk about how they need money for this poverty program and that poverty program; but guess who pays for those programs? – *THE POOR!* Millionaires and billionaires don't even pay taxes anymore. The government will take *your* little ewe lamb without even thinking about you. This account in the Word of God by Nathan is completely up to date; and it gave David a terrifying glimpse of himself. *THAT* is what made David a man after God's own heart....

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; thou shalt not die.

~ We can all thank God for the testimony of David in verse thirteen. David immediately confessed. God is going to begin a punishment that, as far as I can tell, never ends in this life for David. Interestingly, David never asks God to stop the lashes that follow. Our next report will be simply abhorrent, I promise you that. If you are squeamish, I wouldn't even read it. In all fairness to God, David should have died for this. *THAT'S* how gracious God is. Amazingly, people today blaspheme God for punishing David's sins. That's how convoluted religion has become. I hear David's story of Bathsheba cited again and again by the skeptic. It always sounds like projection. They never seem to mention Uriah, either. What a picture we have here, friends....

14 Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also that is born unto thee shall surely die.

15 And Nathan departed unto his house. And the LORD struck the child that Uriah's wife bare unto David, and it was very sick.

16 David therefore besought God for the child; and David fasted, and went in, and lay all night upon the earth.

17 And the elders of his house arose, and went to him, to raise him up from the earth: but he would not, neither did he eat bread with them.

18 And it came to pass on the seventh day, that the child died. And the servants of David feared to tell him that the child was dead: for they said, Behold, while the child was yet alive, we spake unto him, and he would not hearken unto our voice: how will he then vex himself, if we tell him that the child is dead?

19 But when David saw that his servants whispered, David perceived that the child was dead: therefore David said unto his servants, Is the child dead? And they said, He is dead.

20 Then David arose from the earth, and washed, and anointed himself, and changed his apparel, and came into the house of the LORD, and worshipped: then he came to his own house; and when he required, they set bread before him, and he did eat.

21 Then said his servants unto him, What thing is this that thou hast done? thou didst fast and weep for the child, while it was alive; but when the child was dead, thou didst rise and eat bread.

22 And he said, While the child was yet alive, I fasted and wept: for I said, Who can tell whether GOD will be gracious to me, that the child may live?

23 But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.

~ David knew the child would go be with God, friends. David knows he is going to be with the child, but his son could never come back. Jesus said, regarding children that have died, *“their spirits are before My Fathers Face always.”* We have a precious lesson for those who have lost a child in death. They’re with the Lord, friends – rest assured of that from His Word. If you love God, you can look forward to being reunited with your child in Heaven. David is rejoicing now, but when his other son, Absalom, dies during the rebellion, David weeps and mourns bitterly – because David wasn’t so sure about Absalom. Of course, the case of Absalom will be answered for all of us in that day....

24 And David comforted Bathsheba his wife, and went in unto her, and lay with her: and she bare a son, and he called his name Solomon: and the LORD loved him.

25 And he sent by the hand of Nathan the prophet; and he called his name Jedidiah, because of the LORD.

26 And Joab fought against Rabbah of the children of Ammon, and took the royal city.

27 And Joab sent messengers to David, and said, I have fought against Rabbah, and have taken the city of waters.

28 Now therefore gather the rest of the people together, and encamp against the city, and take it: lest I take the city, and it be called after my name.

29 And David gathered all the people together, and went to Rabbah, and fought against it, and took it.

30 And he took their king's crown from off his head, the weight whereof was a talent of gold with the precious stones: and it was set on David's head. And he brought forth the spoil of the city in great abundance.

31 And he brought forth the people that were therein, and put them under saws, and under harrows of iron, and under axes of iron, and made them pass through the brickkiln: and thus did he unto all the cities of the children of Ammon. So David and all the people returned unto Jerusalem.

~ Our safari ends this report with David on the battlefield doing what he should be doing. David's kingdom will continue to be extended and expanded and, from here, we will see David become a very great ruler of the ancient world. He won't get by with his sins, though. In the next leg of our expedition, we'll reveal another awful family crime. The rape of David's daughter will result in Absalom killing his rapist brother. The entire affair will turn out to be a tragic scandal. Can you imagine the things that were said about this royal family throughout Israel about this? Certainly, they questioned why he was ruling over them when he couldn't even rule his own house. It's an ugly picture in the palace coming up. Before we get through with the account of David's life from here, I think we'll all feel like saying, "Lord, I think he's had enough!" All David desires is to be brought back into fellowship with God. David knows all of these things are happening because of his sins. See, the child of God doesn't get by with sin, my beloved readers ~

Psalm 51:1 Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. 3 For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. 4 Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest. 5 Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me. 6 Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom. 7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. 8 Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice. 9 Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. 10 Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. 11 Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. 12 Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. 13 Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee. 14 Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation: and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness. 15 O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise. 16 For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering. 17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise. 18 Do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion: build thou the walls of Jerusalem. 19 Then shalt thou be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole burnt offering: then shall they offer bullocks upon thine altar ~