

Tales of the Shepherd King

Part 6 – When the King Falls

2 Samuel 11-12

Cause

- Satan will exploit a character flaw at the most crucial time to do the most damage upon the most people
- Location – he wasn't where he was supposed to be
- Activity – he wasn't doing what he was supposed to be doing
- Response – he was asking questions (like “where's the line?”) instead of fleeing temptation (2 Tim 2.22)
- Strategy: Change the environment
- Strategy: Change the activity
 - (both are ways to flee even if you can't get up and walk away)
- Strategy: Change the focus – take every thought captive and QUOTE SCRIPTURE!

Bonhoeffer: in temptation, Satan doesn't make us hate God but forget Him. The temptation is all we can see in that moment (which is why we must flee and forsake).

Cover up

- Hiding our sin will never atone for our sin
 - Psalm 32 – it only allows our sin to fester in unhealthy ways and bring unhealthy effects to us
 - DEUT 29.19 – hear words, bless self in heart, I shall be safe...
- Hiding our sin multiplies our sin
 - In our attempts to cover up instead of confess, we compound our sin and often include others in the aftermath
 - Even the innocent parties get sucked into our drama and affected by our story – Uriah was faithful to David even as David was unfaithful to Uriah

Consequence

- The consequences matched the sin
 - Violence met with violence
 - Immorality met with immorality
 - Death met with death
 - Even there, though, is a picture of redemption that was coming – a Son dying instead of the person who deserved to die
- Was God right to bring such harsh consequences? Of course
- Is it right for us to be warned by such harsh consequences? Of course!
 - Some say fear of consequences shouldn't be the driving force behind your decision-making – and there's something right about that

- But if the fear of consequences are the only thread that keeps you tied to righteousness instead of drifting into sin, that fear (as motivation) is better than any sin with an unwillingness to embrace the “lower motives” such as fear

Cure

- The only cure for our sin: God’s mercy in not counting our sin against us
 - It wasn’t the child who put away David’s sin – it was God
 - DEUT 24.16 – fathers not put to death for their sons or sons for their fathers
- Hear the word and do the word
 - This means turning to God for your forgiveness and life and freedom
 - David repented because he saw that it was the best way – all the other ways didn’t work

Questions for Discussion:

1. What are your 2-3 biggest areas of temptation right now? How long have you struggled with them? When are you most successful against those temptations?
2. What scripture do you most often turn to when tempted (if any)? What is one scripture you can identify that you need to memorize to deal with your specific temptation?
3. Reread 1 Corinthians 10.13. What do you learn about temptation? About God? About you?
4. Reread 2 Timothy 2.22. What does it look like in your life to flee immature desires and pursue godly qualities? With whom do you do that regularly? How does that happen?
5. In what ways have you tried to hide your sin before? How did that work out in the end? Did you find it true that it multiplied your sin?
6. Paul promises in Galatians 6 that you reap what you sow. How did David reap what he sowed? How have you seen this at play in your life with the consequences of your sin? What would you say to warn others about it?
7. Read Ephesians 2.1-4. What does it say about our condition before Christ? How does it describe the mercy of God and His love for us?