



April 3rd, 2019

Sin & Consequences

“O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would I had died instead of you, O Absalom, my son, my son!” - 2 Samuel 18:33

The back end of 2 Samuel gives us the incredibly tragic account of David's later life. In the beginning of the book, David is the near perfect King. He acts with humility towards the Lord, and God rewards this behavior. However things don't end well for David or his family. After his affair with Bathsheba, David starts down a slope of lies and deception. Eventually he is confronted by Nathan the prophet - and ends up repenting. He confesses His sin to the Lord. We can know from how David is spoken of after His death, that the Lord keeps his promise to David. David is considered a man after God's own heart. So assuming a merciful God, how do we explain what happens next?

David ends up having a bunch of kids. In chapter 13 one of them, Amnon falls for his own sister Tamar and starts to hatch some wicked plans for how he might sleep with her. When those plan don't work out, he ends up just outright raping her and then tosses her out. This makes their brother Absalom furious! Filled with rage, Absalom kills his brother Amnon and then flees.

Things get way worse. Eventually Absalom return and in chapter 15 we read about him starting a conspiracy against his own father David, to take over. David ends up having to flee again and we begin to witness battles between David and Absalom's men. The whole things comes to a brutal crashing end when during a battle, despite David's wishes, Absalom is killed, thus costing David yet another child.

The end of 2 Samuel is a true tragedy. If it were TV today, it would be a tear jerker that would blow most modern dramas out of the water. But why? Why does this all happen. One of the answers is that its a consequence o David's sin!

Sin is hard to deal with. Let's start by addressing the real important issue. Jesus' death on the cross purchased the forgiveness of sin. Through His death, we can have life. Our sin is forgiven, bought, and paid for. That being said, it can be tempting to think that, because of this payment, we longer need to deal with sin. Just because our eternal future is secure, in no way means that our sin doesn't still have real, lasting consequences.

That's a lesson David learns the hard way. His affair, coverup, and murder brings a real dysfunctional nature into his life that carries into his family line. While he's not entirely to blame for the actions of his children, this culture of selfishness began with him. David had everything going for him, including God's blessing. But he fell and he fell big - and he ends up paying the consequences. The end of David's reign is marked by him sulking on the throne, living our the rest of his life in sadness and despair.

Does this mean that each sin will ruin our entire lives and the lives of our children? I highly doubt it! It does however mean that we need to keep the consequences of our sin in front of us. When we wrong people, we might receive forgiveness, but we should also expect that the relationship will be difficult going forward. Sin brings death. Death to relationships, death to trust and harmony in life, and death to the peace that living under God's Kingdom authority brings. This week, spend some time in prayer, asking the Lord to reveal to you the ways in which sin is hurting your everyday life, pray for forgiveness, and ask for the Holy Spirit to pull you out of death and into life!