

2 SAMUEL

IN SEARCH OF A KING PART II



Sermon 5 – 2 Samuel 13 “A house collapses”

Introduction

- i. What was your first reaction to this chapter? (Reading this account again is not necessary for these questions. Nevertheless, should you need to brush up on the story, read 2 Samuel 13.)
- ii. Why would we spend time looking at such a sad and sobering account? (See 1 Corinthians 10:6-12; Romans 15:4 and 2 Timothy 3:16-17)

1. Sin's consequences

- a. Why is this happening to David's family? (See 2 Samuel 12:10)
- b. Sin has its consequences: the alcoholic, the fraud, the adulterer – what are some of the consequences of these and other 'public' sins? What about ramifications of more personal and private sin?
- c. If applicable and if you can, share with the group, some consequences of sin you are currently living with – dealing with – trying to cope with.
- d. Why do you think Amnon immediately hated Tamar after he had raped her?
- e. Look at the verses Mark and Chris quoted from Psalm 55. How did David cope with the consequences of sin?
- f. A Christian friend says to you – “I just can't do this anymore. Why _____ did to me and my life as a result is all too much.” How would you try to respond?

2. Sin's cycle

- a. “Good looks and intelligence are not the only things that are passed on from one generation to the next.” What other less desirable aspects of ourselves are passed on to our children?
- b. What cycles of sin do we see in Amnon's and Absalom's actions in this account?
- c. What might it take to break the sin-cycle in some families? How has Jesus addressed the sin-cycle?
- d. Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 and discuss in terms of what hope there is for us!

3. Sin's revenge

- a. Ever thought before of God as avenger? See Psalm 94:1
- b. What is the irony Mark and Chris pointed out, often seen in those who take issue with the thought of God being an avenger?
- c. What is typically the problem when human beings want revenge?
- d. What did Absalom's revenge actually solve?
- e. Read Romans 12:9. What do you think would be the result of putting this into action?
- f. What is one of the clear implications of (or reasons for) praying “your kingdom come”?

What will be your personal take from this passage or study? Pray for one another that when we suffer from sin's consequences, we will take them to the Lord; that we will take action to break the cycle of sin in our life (remembering the One who has ultimately broken the cycle) and that we would so rest in God's ultimate justice, that we seek not to take revenge.

Date: 2 September 2018
Services: 730, 930, 930 Peregrin (via Chris)
Series: In search of a King II
Passage: 2 Samuel 13
Title: A house collapses
Outline

1. Sin's consequences
2. Sin's cycle
3. Sin's revenge

INTRODUCTION

- What on earth are we doing in church, spending time looking at such an awful account?
- Incest, rape, murder...
- Plotting, scheming... unbridled lust, unchecked anger...
- We're starting to see what God promised David in ch 12 – after his adultery with Bathsheba and murder of Uriah... do you recall? – ch 12:10 *Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.'*
- We are seeing the outworking of David's sin – even though he was assured of forgiveness...
- But we still haven't answered my opening question – why are we spending time even looking at this... ?
- The Apostle Paul, when exploring with the Corinthians about Israel's wilderness wanderings – 1 Corinthians 10:6 *Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did* – and then in 12 - ¹² *So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!*
- Examples – warnings... Perhaps today **you** think you are pretty invincible regarding sin – so here's a great word for you – if you think you are standing **firm**, be careful that you don't **fall**!!
- See also Romans 15:4 *For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.*
- So what we read here this morning – in this **awful** account... will – God willing – offer us warning and instruction – perhaps rebuke – and in the end – encouragement and hope!!

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- So – what I want us to do together this morning... is not so much focus on the **details** of this horrible incident... but to wrestle with some of the implications – the application...
 - So – here's where we are heading...
 1. Sin's consequences
 2. Sin's cycle
 3. Sin's revenge

- So **first**:

1. SIN'S CONSEQUENCES

- *A sword will never depart from your house...* the prophet Nathan said to David
- Let's be clear – David was forgiven.
- He had taken someone's **wife** – and taken someone's **life**... even in our society today – both are up there in the rank of moral failings.

- But astonishingly – David was **forgiven!**
...by God's grace – best understood as – something-for-nothing-when-you-deserve-the-opposite!!
- That's what David received - God's amazing grace (which Ruth made so clear last Sunday) – and so - David was forgiven! //
- As we read in Psalm 130 – *if you Lord, kept a record of sins, LORD who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness...*
- And yet – and **yet** – there were **consequences...**/
- Often the consequences of sin are the natural outworkings of our failings...
- Eg – the alcoholic – even though dry for 10 years and forgiven by God – still knows the he lost his marriage and is estranged from his family because of the damage done by his alcoholism. //
- I married a guy and his fiancé once just before the guy went to prison for 3 years for fraud. He had repented, been forgiven... but still had to do the time.
- When Susan and I returned from our honeymoon and went next door to catch up with the minister Mark was working with.... we received a huge shock because while we were away, two marriages in the church were in serious trouble... Mr and Mrs Brown and Mr and Mrs Smith... because Mr **Brown** and Mrs **Smith** had gone away for a romantic weekend together...!! //
- In the ensuing weeks – it turned out Mrs **Smith** was expecting a third child – not to **Mr Smith** – but to **Mr Brown**...
- There was great **sorrow**, there was awkward **embarrassment** at church.... Yes – there was **repentance** and **grace** and even **forgiveness**...
-BUT – **one** of those two marriages did not survive – and for the **rest** of their **lives** – this **child** would serve as a **permanent reminder** of that **liaison!** //
- King David – in **sleeping** with **Bathsheba** and knocking off **Uriah**, had wrought **havoc** on his family...
- His son **Amnon** would match – no – **out do** - his dad in sexual sin – not just **adultery** – but **incest and rape!**
- His son **Absalom** would match his dad in the sin of **murder** – no – not just **match** – but **outdo** – in that it was a **murder of revenge**... ///
- And then there were consequences for Amnon and Absalom's sin... weren't there...
- Tamar robbed of her innocence – she lived the rest of her life in **isolation** because of **shame** and **embarrassment**...
- And **Absalom** – cut off from his father because he had killed his **brother**...
- Sin's consequences!! – look and learn today at this particularly **ugly** example of what sin can do to people!
- Look at how **deceptive** temptation – particularly **sexual** temptation, can be...
- See how Amnon at **no** time – either **before** or **after** – stopped to think of the impact of his sin on sister Tamar – he was just so determined to satisfy his **desire**.
- Look at the **misery** it brought to everyone!
- **Look and learn!** /
- This is **God's world**. We are God's **creatures**.
- **Defy** God's ways, // and **terrible damage** will be done – to **ourselves** and to **others**. ///
- Very soon we will see David's family torn apart by the hatred unleashed in this terrible episode.
- Has there ever been a family so wrecked by hatred and violence as David's family?

- All the outcome of the fact that David was an **adulterer** and **murderer**! //
- It's possible some here today are living with the consequences of sin...
- The untold damage and confusion of **sexual** abuse... even of **rape**...
- The implications of a **spouse's infidelity**... /
- Maybe this Fathers' day is hard because dad was **harsh**, or **drunk**, or **abusive**... or an **adulterer**... //
- Maybe you're suffering not the effect or outworking of someone **else's** sin – but your **own** sin – and that brings a certain **self-loathing**... **shame**... and **sadness**... (as we see in Amnon after *his* sin!)
- And I want to say to any here this morning – if this is **you**... hurt or damaged in any way due to **sin's consequences**... I urge you to cast your **cares** on God who **cares** for **you**...
- There were plenty of times the writers in the Psalms were **struggling** because of the sinful actions of others... and they constantly urged themselves to keep trusting God... who had always proved himself faithful...

- Here's an example – Psalm – 55

Listen to my prayer, O God,

do not ignore my plea;

2 *hear me and answer me.*

My heart is in anguish within me;

the terrors of death have fallen on me.

5 *Fear and trembling have beset me;*

horror has overwhelmed me.

6 *I said, "Oh, that I had the wings of a dove!*

I would fly away and be at rest. – know that feeling?

But then – David – yes – he wrote this – David turns to the Lord:

As for me, I call to God,

and the Lord saves me.

17 *Evening, morning and noon*

I cry out in distress,

and he hears my voice.

Cast your cares on the Lord

and he will sustain you;

he will never let

the righteous be shaken.

- If you are *today* suffering from sin's consequences – those of someone **else** – or those of your **own** – follow David's own example – run to the Lord – call on him **night** and **day** – cry **out** in your **distress** – and he will **hear** you – cast your **cares** on him and he will **sustain** you...! /////
- Now let's look **secondly** at:

2. SIN'S CYCLE

- Here is a terrifying thought this fathers' day – the faults and failings of parents are often reproduced in their **children**...
- Good **looks** and **intelligence** are not the only things that are passed on from **one** generation to the **next**.
- We who are parents, shape our children in so many ways, in our **own image**!
- Sometimes we take **pride** in that.
- But it is also, often, a **terrifying** thought – because – although not inevitable – my children may **well** display many of my **faults** – and will almost certainly be **affected** by them.

- The flaws in my **character**, the failures of my **discipline** and the foibles of my **bad habits** can easily appear in my children... it takes no effort or planning!
- “Like father, like son” can be a terrifying thing!
- Fathers, mothers, **look** and **learn**!
- If you **care** for your children (and God knows, David cared for his!), then **guard** your own **integrity, uprightness, truthfulness** and **character**.
- See how David’s **earlier** wickedness, seems to have produced a **weakness**.
- He **loved** his sons, but he seemed **powerless** to curb *their* waywardness.
- **Amnon** was his father’s son
- **Absalom** was his father’s son!
- The children of **flawed people** are **flawed**!
- They do not get **better** and **better**.
- David not only failed **himself**, but his sons turned out to be no better. Indeed they were worse.
//
- That is the problem with human leadership. Even great and good leaders can have terrible sons!
- To **dads** here today... to **young men** here today – I wonder what it will take to break the cycle of sin and failure in **your** family!
- I remember one time when I lost the plot with Philip, and to my shame and sorrow... I was smacking him in a fit of uncontrolled rage... – I remembered – this was just like **my** dad with **me**... when Dad would hit me in uncontrolled **rage**... and I remember asking – what would it take to **break** that cycle.... FOR **ME** to be the one who broke it... !!
- And by God’s **grace**... I think that self-reflection **DID** lead to a greater self-control... and different methods of **discipline**... //
- What would it take **you** – to break cycles of sin in **your** life – and **your** family...?
- What would it mean even on father’s day for you to be in contact with your sons or daughters and say ‘I’m so sorry for **this** or for **that**’ – please don’t **repeat** my **mistakes**... please help **break** the cycle...! ///
- What might it be in your **case**??? /////
- Well – we’re left asking aren’t we - what hope **is** there then for David’s kingdom and what hope for humanity?
- And friends – you can guess by now what I’m about to say – but the hope for David’s family and kingdom – and **OUR only** hope – the **only hope** for our world today – is of course the **Lord Jesus**!
- It would only be the **perfect** offspring in the line of **David** who would ultimately not only break the sin **cycle** of sin, but **reverse its impact**!! /
- For Jesus is the **only** means by which sin’s penalty can be taken and sin’s power **stopped**!!
- The **ultimate** Son-of-David has come - who did not inherit his father **David’s flaws** and **failures**!
/
- And he has come to call us all into a kingdom where **corruption**, even like that we see here in this chapter – even in **your** past and **my** past – **your** present and **my** present – can be washed **clean**...!
/
- Here is the absolute **miracle** friends – listen to the Apostle Paul – to what God himself - says to us this morning...

- 1 Corinthians 6: *do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men ¹⁰ nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ And that is what some of you WERE. /// But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.*
- Praise **God** this morning for our **Saviour Jesus!!**
- Finally – let’s look at:

3. SIN’S REVENGE

- Look to the screen – and see with me these words from Psalm 94:1 – *The Lord is a God who avenges. O God who avenges, shine forth.*
- I wonder if you have thought of God as a God who avenges?
- But of **course** he is! The King is the **Judge!** He will deal justly and rightly with **ALL** evil!
- And far from something to be **awkward** about or **silent** about – this is a **wonderful and powerful** truth!
- Because we ourselves are deeply flawed, **WE** fail to get vengeance **right!**
- It’s an irony that those who are shocked at the idea of a God who takes vengeance – are likely to be the **same** people who when they are hurt or cheated or robbed, want something done to the person who has **done** this to **them!** /
- In the course of our lives, we **all** suffer from the sinfulness of others... just as others suffer in various ways from *our* sinfulness... / **And we want to hurt back!**
- But left up to **us** – vengeance can become another expression of our **own sinfulness, foolishness** and **weakness** – which is exactly what we see **here!**
- We see Absalom’s desire to deal with **Amnon** for the **incest** and **rape** of his **sister**. // He **waited**. He **plotted**. He **schemed**.
- In the end, Absalom’s **vengeance** solved exactly **nothing!**
- In fact – the subsequent fall out in the coming years, threatened to destroy David’s **kingdom!** //
- We need something **better** than Absalom’s planned method of **payback!** //
- We need to know this friends: from Romans 12:9 - *Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord.* (See also Deuteronomy 32:35, 1 Thess 4:6, Heb 10:30)
- If you **believe** this – **trust** this – **rest** in this – then you will **never** feel the need to avenge **yourself!**
- And this is a **powerful** reason brothers and sisters, to pray “**Your kingdom come**” - because we are asking God to sort out vengeance in **HIS** way, not **ours**.
- **God’s** way involves **forgiveness** for those who are **repentant**. // **Some may not like that!!** //
- But God’s way also involves **punishing** ‘those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus’ (2 Thessalonians 1:8)!

• **Let me close**

- Are you dealing with sins’ **consequences** today?
- Take them to **Jesus** who died to reverse their **impact**... in his loving, powerful, presence, you will find his **sustaining power** //

- Do you see the impact of a **cycle** of **sin** – in **your** life – your **family** – your **relationships**? // Do all in your power to **break** the cycle! – leaning on the One who has ultimately and powerfully and eternally, broken the **sin-cycle**... by his **glorious death** and **mighty resurrection**!
- And sins' **revenge**? Has **revenge** been **your undoing**? Either **your own** - or someone's **revenge** on **you**? // Leave **revenge** – **justice** – to the **Lord**... in whose ultimate hands it **already** lies – and see what it might mean for you to instead; / **to love** your **enemy** and **pray** for those who **persecute** you... after the **ultimate pattern** of the Lord Jesus // – who **while** we were still **sinners** – **died** for **us**!