

Sermon: I'm Broken

Text: 2 Samuel 12; Psalm 51

Introduction:

Our text for today follows the tragic account of King David—giving in to his lust and committing adultery with Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah. It seems like an insignificant statement at the beginning of 2 Samuel 11 when we read: “In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king’s men and the whole Israelite army. They destroyed the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained in Jerusalem.”

I’m not exactly sure what it means that springtime was when kings went off to war. I can’t imagine kings declared war with another country every year just because the weather improves. But what this DOES tell us is that David wasn’t where he was supposed to be. He was taking it easy when he shouldn’t have been—and had way too much time on his hands. Time to get into trouble, which is precisely what he did.

David’s lust and adultery was drastically compounded when he thought he could cover up Bathsheba’s pregnancy by “arranging” for her husband to be killed. The entire situation is a sad, sad nightmare. And all of this, of course, from a man who was known to have a deep faith in God.

David might have thought that he somehow “got away” with arranging Uriah’s death. Until the day that Nathan the prophet showed up at the palace, and asked to speak with the king. Our text today examines that conversation. Take special note of the fact that Nathan is the man that God uses to speak for Him. God puts the words in Nathan’s mouth. Nathan’s words are God’s words. But instead of thundering with a voice from heaven, God uses the gentle rebuke of a simple man. Think about how easy it would have been for David to ignore this man’s words. Think about how natural it would have been for David to deny any knowledge of Nathan’s accusations, and allow his pride to be unleashed in rage directed at Nathan—he was the king after all.

But that’s not what David does. Not at all.

Examination:

- Read **2 Samuel 12**
 - In 2 Samuel 11, we see David enter into sin and begin a domino effect of other sins that followed. Identify each of David’s sins and how it led to another sinful choice or action in his life. David’s sins did not just affect him but also others around him. What were the effects on each of the following:
 - Bathsheba
 - Uriah
 - The prophet Nathan
 - The military commander Joab
 - Other soldiers under Joab’s command
 - The baby conceived by Bathsheba

- Once Uriah was dead, David seemed to think he had gotten away with his coveting, adultery, lying, and murder. When Nathan confronted him, David realized that God knew everything. What are some ways that people seek to deceive themselves into thinking that their tracks are covered and their sins are hidden (from themselves, others, and God)?
 - King Saul (when confronted by Samuel in 1 Samuel 13) did not admit his sin, repent, and really seek forgiveness ... he even made excuses. That is why God rejected him. How is David's response to facing the reality of his sinfulness different than Saul's response?
 - God forgave David, but there were still consequences to his sinful actions. What were some of the consequences David faced immediately and over the long term because of his sinful choices?
 - Why is it important that we walk in God's grace but still realize we might face very real consequences of our sins?
 - What do we learn about the holiness and heart of God when we consider the message delivered by Nathan to David?
 - Imagine you could have asked David at the end of his life, "What advice and insight would you give me about temptation and sin?" What do you think David would say to you?
 - David's life, even with his falls and frailties, still pointed to God. How can God use our lives – the good and bad – to show His presence, love and grace to the people around us?
- Read **Psalm 51**
 - What stands out to you the most in this confession of David?
 - How does God create in us clean hearts?
 - What does this passage teach us about our sin nature?
 - Do you ever worry about God taking the Holy Spirit from you?

Application:

What does it mean to repent? Take some time this week to study the meaning of repentance, and ask God to reveal to you what He wants you to repent of.