

Man's Greatest Need (II Samuel 11:1-12:24)

I. Introduction

A. *This Week in Clear Living*

1. Being unaccountable can be dangerous.
2. Lust is deceiving.
3. Covering sin is destructive.
4. Confession is the only solution.
5. God is merciful.

Question: What kind of king was David? Was he a good king, a mediocre king, or a bad king?

B. In II Samuel 8, David was becoming a very successful king.

1. In verses 1-2, he defeated Israel's enemies in battle, the Philistines and the Moabites.
2. In verse 3, he defeated Hadadezer, the son of Rehob, king of Zobah.
 - a. That verse also says that he recovered the border at the Euphrates River.
 - b. Remember Matthew Henry's comment about God wanting David to expand Israel's borders.
3. In verse 5, he defeated the Syrians.
4. In verses 6-10, David acquired much wealth from the defeated people.
5. Notice verse 11, which says, "Which also king David did dedicate unto the LORD, with the silver and gold that he had dedicated of all nations which he subdued."
6. David was executing the duties of his office in the manner that he should have. II Samuel 8:14-15 says, "And he put garrisons in Edom; throughout all Edom put he garrisons, and all they of Edom became David's servants. And the LORD preserved David whithersoever he went. And David reigned over all Israel; and David executed judgment and justice unto all his people."

C. In II Samuel 9, David remembered his oath with Jonathan.

1. Ecclesiastes 5:4-5 says, "When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed. Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay."
2. David was doing everything right. He found Mephibosheth, who was Jonathan's son.
3. II Samuel 4:4 says, "And Jonathan, Saul's son, had a son that was lame of his feet. He was five years old when the tidings came of Saul and Jonathan out of Jezreel, and his nurse took him up, and fled: and it came to pass, as she made haste to flee, that he fell, and became lame. And his name was Mephibosheth."
4. David took Mephibosheth and his family into his house and cared for them.

D. In II Samuel 10, David's actions were misunderstood.

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1. David often made enemies even when he tried to be a positive influence to his surroundings.
 - a. In I Samuel 25:10-11, Nabal refused to help David's men even though David and his men had been protectors of Nabal's men. Nabal later died what could be described as a premature death because of his attitude.
 - b. David had served Saul, even to the point of taking on Goliath to help Saul and Israel. Yet Saul turned against him and tried to kill him. Saul died, and David still became king.
 - c. In II Samuel 10:1-5, Hanun sent David's men away in shame when they had only come to town to pay tribute to Hanun's recently deceased father.
2. **A Simple Insight:** People that are distrusting of others are often distrusting themselves. People that think that others are trying to take advantage of them are often trying to take advantage of others. David was not perfect. He made many mistakes. But despite everything bad that he might have done, the Bible portrays him to be sincere, considerate of others, fair, decent, and possessing a genuine love for the Lord.
3. In David, one can see that people behave different than others when they love the Lord.
4. In verses 6-19, David goes to war with the Ammonites and the Syrians.
 - a. This war did not have to happen. Hanun did not trust David's benevolence, and he acted foolishly.
 - b. In the end, a lot of people were killed because of the Ammonite's unwise king.
 - c. James 1:19-20 says, "Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God."

Question: David did many good things. Does that mean that God simply overlooked most of the bad thing that he did? Support your answer.

- II. In II Samuel 11, David did one of the worst things that he ever did.
 - A. According to Dr. Ronald F. Youngblood, writer of I and II Samuel in The Expositor's Bible Commentary, chapters 11 and 12 forms a succession narrative.
 1. David sends Joab to besiege Rabbah (11:1).
 2. David sleeps with Bathsheba, who becomes pregnant (11:2-5).
 3. David has Uriah killed (11:6-17).
 4. Joab sends David a message (11:18-27).
 5. The Lord is displeased with David (11:27).
 4. The Lord sends David a messenger (12:1-14).
 3. The Lord strikes David's infant son, who dies (12:15-23).
 2. David sleeps with Bathsheba, who becomes pregnant (12:24-25).

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1. Joab sends for David to besiege and capture Rabbah (12:26-31).
- B. The account of David, Bathsheba, and Uriah proves that the Bible is an honest Book.
- C. In verses 1-2, the writer makes a point of saying that David was not where he should have been.
 1. It was a time when kings go to war, but David sent his top general, Joab, in his place.
 2. It was a time when kings go to war, but David remained in Jerusalem.
 3. Why did David stay back?
 - a. The Bible does not say.
 - b. The implication is that every able-bodied man in Israel went except David.
 4. Even verse 2 suggests that getting out of bed when he did was not normal.
- D. In verses 3-15, David's behavior became even worse.
 1. He saw Bathsheba bathing and sent messengers to bring her to him.
 2. When she became pregnant, he tried to set up her husband to make it look like the baby would be his.
 3. When that failed, he sent Uriah back to the battle to be killed.
- E. In verses 16-27, Joab puts Uriah in a part of the battle where he was certain to be killed.
 1. David and Bathsheba were guilty of adultery.
 2. David was as guilty of murder as if he had killed Uriah himself.
 3. David thought that he had gotten away with it, but he was wrong. II Samuel 11:26-27 says, "And when the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she mourned for her husband. And when the mourning was past, David sent and fetched her to his house, and she became his wife, and bare him a son. **But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD.**"

Question: We can hide our secret sins from people, but can we hide them from the Lord?

- III. In II Samuel 12, the Prophet Nathan confronted David about what he has done.
 - A. In verses 1-7, Nathan told David about a rich man that took a poor man's lamb to feed a visiting traveler.
 1. David was enraged.
 2. But Nathan pointed at David and told him that he was the one that had done the "poor" man wrong.
 3. David had everything. The Lord had been very good to him, but David took Uriah's wife anyway.
 - B. In verse 13, David admitted his sin.

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1. II Samuel 12:13 says, "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.***"
 2. Notice I Samuel 13:13-14 says, "And Samuel said to Saul, Thou hast done foolishly: thou hast not kept the commandment of the LORD thy God, which he commanded thee: for now would the LORD have established thy kingdom upon Israel for ever. ***But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart,*** and the LORD hath commanded him to be captain over his people, because thou hast not kept that which the LORD commanded thee."
 3. Why was God gracious of David and so harsh will Saul?
- C. In verses 14-31, David and Bathsheba's son died.
1. While the child's life was still in question, David fasted. When the child died, David ate.
 2. What happens to very young children when they die? II Samuel 12:22-23 says, "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? 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."
 3. According to verse 23, they go to be with the Lord.
 4. In verses 24-25, David and Bathsheba had another son, and they named him Jedidiah (***Y@diyd@yah*** - beloved of Jehovah).
 5. In verses 26-31, David finished the battle at Rabbah that he should have gone to in the first place.
 6. NOTE: According to the NIV translators, the KJV is not perfect. Verse 31 has a copying mistake that was made at some time by one of those that copied Scriptures. According to them, the Hebrew verb for "pass through" (***h'byd***) should have been ***h'byr***, which means "made to work."

IV. Next week's lesson: God's Answer to Man's Questions (I Kings 3:1-28)