Keep The Door Closed On Demonic Dysfunction, Part. III

2 Samuel 12 Part of the mercy of God can be seen in the honesty of people around us. God used the Prophet Nathan to bring King David to his senses. Sin derails good thinking. David has sinned sexually, committed murder and was trying to act as if nothing happened. One of the best ways to turn your life around is to first you are wrong. Since David was too bound by the chains of lust to free himself, God sent a freeing word through the Prophet. What does a word of freedom sound like? YOU ARE WRONG. You are a sinner. You need help. You need to repent. It is YOUR fault!

One of the problems with modern churches and contemporary preachers is we are more concerned about peoples feelings than we are about setting them free. Every sin is not to be confronted in the same way. Nathan had to use a harsher approach because David was completely hooked into denial. If allowed to continue, David would become a habitual hypocrite. **Genesis 6:3**. When we hear or sense the conviction of the Holy Spirit we must respond to it immediately.

David found that sinful behavior makes God an enemy. Through Nathan, God said, "Behold, I will raise up evil against you out of your own house, and I will take your wives before your eyes, and give them unto your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun. For thou didst it secretly; but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun". Will God really rise up evil against someone? Who can you run to when God is your enemy?

David was called, in the course of a just Providence to pay this fourfold debt? David lost four sons by untimely deaths, (this son of Bathsheba, on whom David had set his heart, was slain by the Lord; Amnon, murdered by his brother Absalom; Absalom, slain in the oak by Joab; and Adonijah, slain by the order of his brother Solomon). Her own brother dishonored his daughter, and his wives raped publicly by his own son! How dreadfully, then, was David punished for his sin! Behold the goodness and severity of God! Please don't just read through this lesson. Let the force of God's Word rest on your heart. If you are in sin, go to God today and repent. He will help you. He will forgive. He will give you another chance. Don't make the lives of others more difficult than they already are. Stop now!!!

All God's threatening and promises are conditional therefore David prayed that the child be spared. When the child died, he ceased to grieve because God's decision was final.

In <u>2 Samuel 12:9</u> it says, David despised the commandment of the Lord. In doing this, David despised God Himself. We can't despise God's commandments without despising Him. Many who live in either open or hidden sin seem to believe it has no effect or little effect on their relationship with God. But despising God's commandment means despising God Himself, and we can't have fellowship with God and despise Him at the same time. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. (1 John 1:6)

David had to condemn his own sin before he could find forgiveness. Other men who had been guilty of such failure might have defended their actions, or killed Nathan. Not so with this man. He knew God, and he knew the wrong of his action, and he confessed his sin. We often try to excuse or minimize our sin. We do not simply condemn sin in ourselves. The destruction of hidden sin is confession and repentance. To whom should

we confess? The answer is the question, "Whom have we sinned against?" Another question is how soon should we confess? The answer is within 15 seconds or less. As soon as you are aware of sin, confess that sin immediately. If you sin secretly, confess secretly, admitting publicly that you need the victory but keeping the details yourself. If you sin openly, confess openly to remove stumbling blocks from those who witnessed your sins. In that way you will release them from a lifetime of judging you. In this sense, the confession of our sin needs to be specific.

One lady stood in a crowded church and said, "Please pray for me. I need to love people more." The leader gently told her, "That is not confession, sister. Anyone could have said that." Later in the service, the woman stood again and said, "Please pray for me. What I should have said is that my tongue has caused a lot of trouble in this church." Her pastor whispered to the leader, "Now she's talking." It costs nothing to say, "I'm not everything I should be" or "I ought to be a better Christian." It does cost something to say, "I have been a troublemaker in this church" or "I have had bitterness towards certain leaders, to whom I want to apologize right now."

Always seek godly advice and counsel before confessing your sins to the church. Most church people cannot properly respond to confessions of sin because they are not honest before God regarding their own sins. Sometime you can achieve the same result by sharing with a small group of spiritual Elders/Leaders who know how to assist you in rebuilding your life.

You may have read about the case of Mary Winkler who murdered her minister husband. She shot him as he lay sleeping. The Sunday after Mary's confession was made public, the people from their hometown packed the church where her husband pastured. The preacher that morning touched on the theme of sin and forgiveness. He said, "No sin is too great that it can't be forgiven and no sin forgiven by God should be held onto by man." There is little doubt that Mary's sin will forever affect her children. They had nothing to do with her murder, but they will forever be personally affected by this tragedy. The baby produced by David and Bathsheba died as a result of their sin. Sin always leads to death. The mystery of sin is the guilty may appear to go free and the innocent did. (Cain/Able).

VS. 15-23. This illustrates an important principle; even when sin is forgiven, a price must be paid. God does not simply pass over or excuse our sin. It is forgiven and a price is paid. Often an innocent party pays the price for forgiveness. This is exactly what happened to Jesus. We were guilty but he died that we might live. Our sins touched His life. The child did not die as payment for sin, but only as a result of David's sin. Perhaps had David not interfered, this child may have been born into the arms of Uriah and Bathsheba. David fasted...the child died. This shows that extraordinary prayer and fasting does not change God's mind. The fasting put David in the right place to receive what he must from God.

After the death of the baby, David went to Bathsheba and lay with her. This shows that God did not command that David forsake or leave Bathsheba, even though his marriage to her was originally sinful. He was to honor God in the marriage commitment he made, even though it began in sin. Paul commands the same principle in 1 Corinthians 7:17. As the Lord has called each one, so let him walk. In part, this principle in context warns us against trying to undo the past in regard to relationships. God tells us to repent of whatever sin is there and then to move on. If you are married to your second wife, after

wrongfully divorcing your first wife, don't think you must now leave your second wife and go back to your first wife, trying to undo the past. As the Lord has called you, walk in that place with Him right now. There are some situations you can never fix while on earth. Ask God to grant you the serenity to accept the things you cannot change, courage to change the things you can and wisdom to know the difference. The name Jebidiah, means, "beloved of the Lord." It was God's way of saying that He would love and bless this son of David and Bathsheba.

David's state of heart in the intervening year is reflected in Psalm 51