

## (2-25-24) Rebellion Meets Mercy

### 2 Samuel 24:10–25

**Topic:** Word of the Lord, Disobedience, Sin, Altar

**Big Idea of the Message:** David's last words are contrasted with his closing action, as he sins by numbering the people.

**Application Point:** Second Samuel closes with the conflict of sin and righteousness witnessed in David's life, yet he still was a man seeking after God's own heart.

How many weeks until Easter? (5 weeks)

Why is sin so important? Why have we spent all these weeks on it?

What does God say to His people: You and me?

**because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy." 1 Peter 1:16**

I want to say today: I am standing here today not to judge or condemn any person, BUT with you I am standing under the judgment of the Word of God, a place where all Christians MUST stand if our lives are to be pleasing to God at all.

Why does God command us to be holy?

1. **First, Sin will ALWAYS take us farther than we intended to go.**
  - **Read 2 Samuel 24:10.**
  - No matter what sin.
  - All the principles we are going to look at today: applies to all sin.
  - Whether: to lie, rob a bank, to betray somebody, to give way to gossip, immorality etc.
  - **THE FIRST THING WILL BE THAT WE GO FARTHER THAN WE INTEND TO GO.**
  - Telling a lie... then that lie WILL FORCE US to tell another to support it, and another, and another.
  - **"I have sinned greatly..."** this sin was worse than the one he committed with Bathsheba. It was the sin of pride. He was in rebellion against God, trying to figure out a backup plan to make sure his house stayed in power after he was gone.

***"Pride is the ground in which all the other sins grow, and a parent from which all the other sins come"***

**William Barclay**

**Surely you know that you become the slaves of whatever you give yourselves to. Anything or anyone you follow will be your master. You can follow sin, or you can obey God. Following sin brings spiritual death, but obeying God makes you right with him. 17 In the past you were slaves to sin—sin controlled you. But thank God, you fully obeyed what you were taught. 18 You were made free from sin, and now you are slaves to what is right. Romans 6:16-18 ERV**

## 2. **Second: Sin will expose someone else to danger or hurt.**

- David's sin with Bathsheba killed Uriah, soldiers, and four of his sons.
- Turn with me to **Genesis 12**.
- In the beginning of **Genesis 12** God makes a covenant with Abraham. At the ripe age of 75, Abram, Sarai and Lot depart Haran. There was a great famine, so they went to Egypt. Let's pick it up there.
- **Read Genesis 12:10-20.**
- Abram said Sarai was his sister, which was half-true, she was his half-sister. But Abram sold a lie to save his own backside, and Pharaoh almost took Sarai as his wife.
- Think about some of the sinful scandals over the years, they affect an entire family.
- **Read 2 Samuel 11-15.**
- Did your parents ever have you pick out a switch to be spanked with? That is what we see here, God gave David a choice of what switch he was going to be spanked with.
- How many died because of David's sin? (70,000 men)
- What consequences have come into our homes, families, and churches because of our sinfulness?
- I ponder that thought often. In what ways am I reaping what I have sown? How am I hurting others because of my sin? (Pride, gossip, malice, wrath, murder, bitterness, resentment, disobedient, mummering and complaining, envy and lust.)

## 3. **Third: Repentance can become more difficult.**

- This time David didn't find it difficult to repent. We find in scripture at least six times David confessing, "**I have sinned.**" (**2 Sam. 12:13; 24:10, 17; Ps, 41:4; 51:4; 1 Chron. 21:7-13**)
- **Read 2 Samuel 24:17.**
- You see if we go too far, the longer we go on in sin, the more we give way and choose evil, the harder it is to turn around or stop. In fact, if we go too far, we MIGHT JUST FIND IT IMPOSSIBLE to turn around.
- In **Numbers 22** there is the story about Balaam, an O.T. prophet. He was offered money to curse and bring down Israel. He knew it was wrong, he asked God and God said no, but he decided to do it anyway. So, as Balaam was riding his donkey to go and curse Israel, God placed an angel in his way. The donkey could see the angel in the way, three different ways and wouldn't pass. Finally, the donkey laid down and Balaam struck the donkey with his staff. God made the donkey speak and tell of what laid ahead for him. The donkey saved his life.
- How many donkeys have spoken to you lately?
- DON'T you want to turn around before it is too late?
- If you decide to turn around know this: You are dealing with the ONE that deals with hearts, he does not deal with words, DO NOT try to manipulate God, He is not mocked!
- God forgives freely and fully: If you are serious about it this morning, He is so serious He gave His only begotten Son. He will re-instate you as if it never happened, BUT YOU MUST be serious.

## 4. **Fourth: The Sin we don't confess and repent from will continue to chase us.**

- *"The sin we fail to slay is the one that slays us."*
- **Read 2 Samuel 24:18-25.**

- David confesses and repents correctly. Araunah offers the threshing floor, and the oxen that will be sacrificed for free, as a gift to the king. David rejects his offer; he knows he must pay for his sin and not allow someone else to do it for him.
  - Once we have given way to temptation it may and could remain an area of weakness, where we can so easily give way again. No matter how long you live. We can fall again in that area of weakness and easier than the first time.
  - Abraham is our picture again: 20-30 years after telling a lie, he does the same thing again; He lies about Sarah to the Philistine King. **(Genesis 20)**
  - We are capable of sinning in the same exact way again when we sow to the flesh. Satan and our flesh like to attack us in the path of least resistance.
  - Too many of us are trying to fool ourselves with how bad things are. We dismiss, deflect, and justify our sinfulness. “Oh, that’s just an insecurity, or how dare so and so judge me, or what about your sin!”
  - Insecurities can and should be put under the blood of Christ. You are complete in Him; at some point you must stop believing and give into the lies that someone else sold you and or beat you to believe.
  - When another Christian comes to you regarding a sin, blind spot, or concern, rather than allowing yourself to be triggered, try something different. Pray, talk to God, not someone who agrees with you. Ask someone spiritually stronger than you. Check your pride!
  - Stop! Stop deflecting! How can anyone help if you can’t hear! Again, Baalam! Stop beating the donkey.
- 5. Fifth: God doesn’t enjoy punishing us.**
- **2 Samuel 24:16, 25.**
  - What parent does like punishing their child?
  - In verses **16**, and **25** we see God’s grace and mercy.

### Application

- 1. We never outgrow temptation.**
- 2. God gives us time to repent.**
- 3. Sin is damaging.**
- 4. Our sin affects others.**
- 5. Confession is costly.**
- 6. Confession doesn’t cancel consequences. (Maybe just the severity)**
- 7. God will forgive and bless.**

### Conclusion

**Sin must be judged and punished. And all mankind is guilty of sinfulness.**

**as it is written, “There is none righteous, not even one; Romans 3:10**

**for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, Romans 3:23**

**Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin. James 4:17**

**But the Scripture has shut up everyone under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. Galatians 3:22**

**But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8**

**9 because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. 11 For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame." 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. 13 For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." Romans 10:9-13**

**And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. 12 But when Christ[b] had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, 13 waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. 14 For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified. 15 And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying, 16 "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds," 17 then he adds, "I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more." Hebrews 10: 11-17 ESV**