

THE LIFE OF DAVID

SHEPHERD. WARRIOR. POET. KING.

WEEK 8: SIN IS NOT SILENT

Sin has consequences and they speak loudly. Our sin ripples through each generation, replicating its ugliness in what is “caught” by those watching us. This was certainly the case in the life of David’s family, which we see unravel in chapters 13-18 of 2 Samuel. The take-away for us today, is to take stock of the sins we think are small, and to deal with those fiercely, not only for our own relationship with God, but to make sure that we do not allow our sin to spill over into future generations. We are responsible to draw the line in the sand and stop our sin in its tracks. No one else can do this for us.

Today’s Text: 2 Samuel 13-18

I. SIN SPEAKS MULTI-GENERATIONALLY

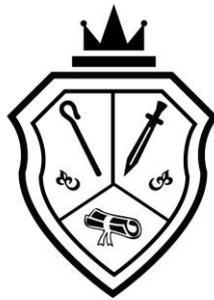
- **Read 2 Samuel 13:1-2,15**

We know that David had a lust issue and that it had major implications in his own life and in the lives of those around him. But in not repenting and dealing with his issues in a God-honouring way, his issues were then played out in the lives of his sons, starting with his eldest son, Amnon.

Amnon had a lust issue for his sister, and also felt entitled to have her for himself, just as David had for Bathsheba. Though Amnon was totally responsible for raping his sister, his thinking, or his standard of “normal”, was directly shaped by what he saw in his father’s life. These kinds of issues are caught, rather than taught.

David did not change his attitude towards women, even after he had stooped as low as to commit adultery and murder, but instead chose to sweep everything under the carpet and make things appear just fine. In so doing, he did not consider Bathsheba’s needs in any way, he only ever thought about himself and his own desires. And in the very same attitude, Amnon followed suit by pursuing and defiling Tamar.

- ❖ **Q: In what way do you think that David’s lack of repentance played a part in Amnon’s perspective on sex and his own sense of entitlement?**



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- ❖ Q: Based on this story, why is it so important that we deal with our sin seriously before God, even when it seems that we may have got away with anyone else knowing about it?
- ❖ Q: Why is this passage a particular wake-up-call to fathers (even though the principle applies to all of us)?

2. SIN SPEAKS THROUGH PARALYSIS AND PASSIVITY

- **Read 2 Samuel 13:22-33**

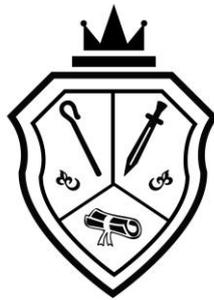
David was furious when he had heard of what Amnon had done to Tamar. But he didn't do anything about it. His passivity did not help his family in any way, and instead, paved the way for Absalom to avenge his brother, after many years of growing bitterness. Following Amnon's murder, Absalom fled the scene and did not return for three years. Again, we see the family pattern of doing what they wanted, destroying lives around them, without any thought to the ripple effect it would have on the greater family, or anyone else for that matter.

- ❖ Q: What pattern did David set in motion when he did not deal with his sin towards Bathsheba appropriately?
- ❖ Q: Why do you think David, though angry, was passive regarding punishing Amnon for raping Tamar?
- ❖ Q: Why was Amnon's murder by Absalom, in some way, linked to David's way of dealing with sin?

3. SIN SPEAKS BY DIVIDING A NATION

- **Read 2 Samuel 15**

David's inaction towards Amnon's murder by his brother Absalom led to even more dire consequences. Absalom was deluded into believing he could lead Israel better than his own father, forgetting that David had been appointed to the role of king by God. He deceived himself into thinking that through further sin, and killing his father, that true justice and true leadership would prevail, if he himself took on the role as king.



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He only thought about his own desires, and once again, following the same pattern as the rest of his family, he pursued that which pleased himself, without any consideration for the good of the people around him or the generations to come. For four years he went about trying to convince the subjects of David's kingdom, that he would be a finer choice of king. Eleven years after Tamar's rape, Absalom was marinated in bitterness and sin to the point that he was ready to launch an attack to kill his father and take over his kingdom. Sin grows and multiplies when we do not cut it down at the base, and pull out the roots.

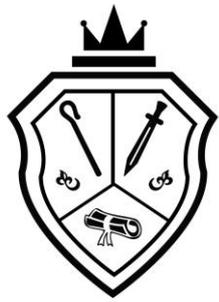
- ❖ Q: Why do you think David's inaction helped Absalom in his deluded thinking about his own grandeur?
- ❖ Q: Why do you think that sin breeds further sin and self-deception?
- ❖ Q: How do you think David could have dealt with Absalom upon his return that would have helped the situation to get back on track, rather than to further spiral?

4. SIN SPEAKS THROUGH A TRAGIC END

- **Read 2 Samuel 15:13-16 & 18:9-15, 19-30,33**

David, yet again, chose to run from the circumstances instead of dealing with them. He could have fought against Absalom and won, but he chose not to. The text does not tell us why, but we have seen enough of a pattern in the story to conclude that David did not want to deal with things in the right way. However, despite his character weakness, David still went to God and prayed, and asked for help. God showed up and Absalom was stopped in his tracks and killed. David was so deeply grieved at his son's death, because he loved him so deeply, and yet during Absalom's life, he did not act as a responsible, God-fearing father, who should have trained his family and his children in God's ways. His emotions did not reflect his character. Emotions feel, character acts.

This story serves to teach us about the power of our sin in the lives of our families, and the generations that follow. It teaches us how passivity is actually a choice to say that sin is alright and needs no action. We have the choice to deal with our sin differently, and to choose to put it to an end, and turn back to God. We can choose to make better decisions than David did, and recognise that even great men of God are not immune from being weak when it comes to sin and major character flaws.



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This narrative serves as a brilliant example of how easy it is for us to fall into sin, and to keep falling, dragging others down with us. Let's choose to respond differently to God.

- ❖ Q: Why does it help us to see that David had a huge flaw, not just in his immorality, but in his character, in the area of passivity?
- ❖ Q: On the spectrum of passive to active, how do you personally fare when dealing with sin? Are you proactive about confessing and dealing with it, and being accountable to others? Or do you passively accept it and hope it will go away without doing anything?
- ❖ Q: Having read of the consequences in David's life, why do we need to deal with passivity towards sin aggressively now?

Personal Reflection Q: *What is the one big take-away that God is asking you to put into action this week?*

