

When a Good Man Forgets His Place

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from Internet sources)

Introduction:

A. 2Sam. 24:1-25

B. What was David's greatest sin?

1. Most would answer that it was the series of sins he committed over his illicit affair with Bathsheba.
2. David was a middle aged man when he sinned with Bathsheba. He gave in to lust in an effort to reclaim a vanishing youth. You cannot go back, and you should be mature enough to know it.
3. Now David is an old man. Lust has been replaced by other sins.
4. The sins that tempt in youth may not tempt in maturity when age comes, but there are other sins waiting to take their place.

C. David's sin of the census cost many lives.

1. The sin with Bathsheba destroyed his and her honor, cost the lives of Uriah and several of David's children, and discouraged the nation.
2. The sin of the census cost 70,000 men, not counting their families.
3. Can you imagine living with a sin you committed that caused the death of another person?
4. Can you imagine that just by remembering who you are and that others are in your care, you would have avoided that sin?

I. THE TRAGEDY OF DAVID'S SIN

A. 2Sam. 24:1-4

1. Sometimes, people are overcome by evil - Gal. 6:1.
2. But at other times, people walk into sin with their eyes wide open.

B. It was a sin driven by anger; God was angry with Israel.

1. 1Chron. 21:1 - Satan was used by the Lord as the agent of His chastisement. David was moved to do what was already in his heart.
2. God is not the author of sin; He had sufficient reason to punish them
 - a. They followed Absalom when he rebelled against David.
 - b. The majority of Israel went after Sheba the rebel - 2Sam. 20:1-2.
 - c. Their hearts were lifted up in pride over their victories - 2Sam. 23

C. It was a sin driven by arrogance - 2Sam. 24:2

1. God's reason in forbidding a census was to keep Israel from pride; they needed to remember that God gave them victory
 - a. Ex. 30:12 - Census must be accompanied by an atonement fee
 - b. Psalm 33:16-18

D. It was a sin driven by aggression - 2Sam. 24:3-4

1. David rejected wise and loving counsel - Prov. 16:25, 11:14, 12:15

II. THE TRAUMA OF DAVID'S SIN

A. 2Sam. 24:5-16 - No one sins in a vacuum. David's sin affected him, but it devastated his people.

B. The trauma of conviction - 2Sam. 24:10; John 16:7-8; Heb. 12:6, 11

- C. The trauma of the choices - 2Sam. 24:11-14
 - 1. The nation can experience seven years of famine.
 - 2. Israel's enemies can have victory over them for three months.
 - 3. Israel can face three days of plague.
 - 4. David doesn't get to choose whether or not other will suffer; his sin mandated that it would happen. Regardless of the choice David made, the people of Israel were going to suffer terribly.
 - 5. He leaves it in God's hands, which he should have done before he ordered the census
 - 6. Our sins have consequences - Gal. 6:7-8
 - a. We do not control how many other people and to what extent they must suffer from our sins.
 - b. Job 4:8; Hosea 8:7; Haggai 1:6-7
- D. The trauma of the chastisement - 2Sam. 24:15-16
 - 1. 70,000 men and their families die in three days (5% of the population; 1 of every 20 people)
 - 2. You cannot control the outcome of your sin; you have no power to limit its effects. Affecting just one person is one too many.
 - 3. "Know what you sow; so you won't weep when you reap!"
 - 4. Good people, you need to remember: sin always has consequences.
 - a. Rev. 3:19

III. THE TEACHING OF DAVID'S SIN

- A. 2Sam. 24:17-25 - David's sin and his recovery from it has much to teach us about dealing with our own sin.
- B. It teaches confession - 2Sam. 24:17
 - 1. Acts 13:22; Prov. 28:13; 1John 1:9
- C. It teaches contrition - 2Sam. 24:17
 - 1. David takes full responsibility for his sins; he did not blame others or circumstances or pressure
 - 2. When we get honest about sin, we will stop making excuses; we will stop playing games; we will stop pointing fingers; we will stop hiding in the shadows. It's not someone else's fault. We are guilty and we need to deal with it.
 - 3. When we are honest about our sin - Psalm 51:17, 34:18; Luke 18:11-14
- D. It teaches cost - 2Sam. 24:18-25
 - 1. Serving God and enjoying His blessings comes at a price
 - 2. Our sins are going to cost us a great deal. But they have already cost God more than we can imagine.
 - 3. And our sins are extracting a price from everyone else around us.