

# David—great sins and great mercy but always a heart in the right place, part 2

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- **Where we left off**
- Previous lesson we talked about how David was a man after God's own heart and lived much of his life in constant awareness, if not obedience to God
- Most know about his sin with Bathsheba—
- God forgave, but consequences
- Son died and eventually other son revolts—Absalom
- But so much more to his life
- **A less-discussed sin with big consequences**
- Remember Bible in narrative sections does not always say “note this as you should or shouldn't do what happens next”
- You are supposed to know
- Bible previously in the law had numerous commands on how children should be raised, taught about the Lord, punished when sinned
- And it seems David failed greatly as a parent
- One son rapes his half-sister; another kills him; runs away and what does David do?
- Nothing.....
- **Absalom**
- Returns to the land; David won't see him
- Finally does, but obviously Absalom harbored resentment and hate
- Conspiracy builds and finally open rebellion
- God delivers David; Absalom killed; David mourns until Joab challenges him to man up and be grateful
- Other conspiracies follow
- But David victorious and continues to fight battles
- **Numbering the people—sin with HUGE consequences**
- Much confusion over this situation on exactly what the sin was
- In I Chron. 21 and 2 Sam. 24
- David somehow “incited” to number the people (temptation not a sin—a test) but he gave in and did it
- Possible causes: Pride of the people (God angry with Israel in 2 Sam)
- Or David's pride
- Regardless, not done according to proper way for census in the Law which also involved the temple “ransom” to be paid
- Huge consequences: a plague that destroyed 70,000 people
- **David again – deep regret, repentance, intercession on behalf of the people**
- Angel stopped at the “threshing floor of Arunah”
- David buys the land:
- “No, but I will surely buy *it* from you for a price; nor will I offer burnt offerings to the Lord my God with that which costs me nothing.” So, David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver. And David built there an altar to the Lord and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. So, the Lord heeded the prayers for the land, and the plague was withdrawn from Israel.” 2 Sam 24: 24-25
- **Application thoughts**
- Some of these passages on God's judgment are very hard to understand
- On ones such as the killing Uzzah; the Gibeonite revenge and the execution of Saul's grandsons
- Very difficult, but some things to keep in mind:
- We don't know the entire story—commentators can sometimes help, e.g. that Uzzah an instance of pride (he had taken care of it for months, his job to do it) on the revenge on Saul's descendants (he had slaughtered people Israel was sworn to protect, perhaps those who were killed had taken the lands illegally and benefited from it)
- **In all these situation, God's will must be done God's way**
- God's commands serious—what he says is WRONG is wrong, not matter how much times change and how politically inconvenient it is to believe that.
- Application today-- “progressive Christians” are not Christians, “Christ's ones”
- <https://progressivechristianity.org/the-8-points/>
- Much not biblical—read with caution and discernment.
- **How not to make the same mistakes**
- God does not change, and the exclusivity of his

demands and that Jesus is the ONLY way of salvation is the same

- We don't say these things with pride—story of the man who played Jesus—denunciations delivered with much sadness—as we should when seeing sin—
- But we can't call good evil and evil good
- **Isaiah 5: 20-21** Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!
- It's hard to talk about this but it must be done HIS way, not ours—kind of like the Tower of Babel—choosing a unity but one that is not God's way—
- Also, very hard to talk about this because so often winsome people, wonderful writers, speakers can say things that are totally wrong
- **Key—who is our “Referent Other?”**
- What audience do we live before?
- But it is not this group of wonderful people or progressive peers we will stand before after this life—but our Lord – “It is He who has made us and not we ourselves”
- Again, and again if we are going to speak, we'd better be right and in line with what the Bible says, properly exegeted
- Again, why we MUST read the Bible, read all of it to know what God wants
- You can't truly love someone if you don't know what upsets them—scripture is very clear—ONE way—at the name of JESUS every knee will bow—speak from a knowledge of the Word
- **Attitude, attitude, attitude**
- When we share truth—we must do so as humble servants
- Most not called to thunder from Sinai
- Speak truth in love—but always grace and truth
- Restore gently
- If we react with anger—people will respond to that
- Extraordinarily difficult—study how Jesus did it and pray for His leading
- **Back to David**
- Don't stop with a focus on “whys” of judgement
- Always grace and work to be done
- David took that threshing floor and made it the location for the Temple
- But he didn't stop there
- 1 Chron 5:22 And David said, Solomon my son is

young and tender, and the house that is to be builded for the Lord must be exceeding magnificent, of fame and of glory throughout all countries: I will therefore now make preparation for it. So, David prepared abundantly before his death.

- **David's ABUNDANT preparations**
- Read through 1 Chronicles 22-27
- Provided resources in gold, silver, iron, wood, stone
- Provided the people trained to do the work
- Organized all the workers, Levites, all involved in Temple work into groups and schedules to do the work
- Detailed job descriptions
- **The Prophecy (teaching) and Music Ministry**
- Next David and the worship leaders selected some from the family of Asaph, Heman, and Jeduthun for special service in preaching and music. 1 Chron 25:1, MSG
- Assumption that in organizing all the music, he wrote and finalized many of the Psalms that most likely were only in oral form prior to this.
- **David could not build, but given the plans to build**
- **1 Chron 28: 11-19** Then David presented his son Solomon with the plans for The Temple complex: porch, storerooms, meeting rooms, and the place for atoning sacrifice. He turned over the plans for everything that God's Spirit had brought to his mind: the design of the courtyards, the arrangements of rooms, and the closets for storing all the holy things. He gave him his plan for organizing the Levites and priests in their work of leading and ordering worship in the house of God, and for caring for the liturgical furnishings. He provided exact specifications for how much gold and silver was needed for each article used in the services of worship: the gold and silver Lampstands and lamps, the gold tables for consecrated bread, the silver tables, the gold forks, the bowls and the jars, and the Incense Altar. And he gave him the plan for sculpting the cherubs with their wings outstretched over the Chest of the Covenant of God—the cherubim throne. “Here are the blueprints for the whole project as God gave me to understand it,” David said.
- **He also encouraged Solomon**
- <sup>20</sup>David also said to Solomon his son, “Be strong and courageous, and do the work. Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord God, my God, is with you. He will not fail you or

forsake you until all the work for the service of the temple of the Lord is finished. <sup>21</sup>The divisions of the priests and Levites are ready for all the work on the temple of God, and every willing person skilled in any craft will help you in all the work. The officials and all the people will obey your every command.”

- 1 Chronicles 28:20-21 New International Version (NIV)
- **He not only left material wealth and the plan for the Temple**
- But from a time when one giant-killer was hard to find
- David’s Mighty Men in 2 Sam 23 and 1 Chron 11
- Lists of men who killed giants, fought great battles, stood their ground and helped David win his victories
- Men came from every tribe and many surrounding nations: Moabite, Ammonite, (sometimes peaceful, but often sworn enemies) “Uriah, the Hittite” (a powerful empire, enemy of Israel, displaced after Exodus)
- A picture of the church perhaps encompassing every people
- **Final application—David did not let his sin define his life**
- Key truth—
- God gets rid of your sin “for his name’s sake, 1 John 2:12 because of what Jesus will do for David and does do for us.”
- **30** Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord!  
<sup>2</sup> O Lord, hear my voice!  
Let your ears be attentive  
to the voice of my pleas for mercy!
- <sup>3</sup>If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,  
O Lord, who could stand?
- <sup>4</sup>But with you there is forgiveness,  
that you may be feared.
- <sup>5</sup>I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,  
and in his word I hope;
- <sup>6</sup>my soul waits for the Lord  
more than watchmen for the morning,  
more than watchmen for the morning.
- <sup>7</sup>O Israel, hope in the Lord!  
For with the Lord there is steadfast love,  
and with him is plentiful redemption.
- <sup>8</sup>And he will redeem Israel  
from all his iniquities.
- **Some say, “but I can’t forgive myself”**
- God does, and you can’t put yourself above God—and it may be an excuse....
- There may be consequence, e.g. Moses couldn’t

enter the Promised Land

- But there is always yet much for you to do
- While you breathe you can do something for the kingdom of God
- David went back to a love of his youth Music, the Psalms (perhaps merely oral before, probably.... then committed to writing—but now in a much more mature way AND in a way to leave a legacy to others
- What has God called you to do? I will go to this—teach, tutor, PRAY—many of you listening, able to use tools—pods, video, blogs—leave behind blessings
- But many of you, serve in ways I can’t imagine because God has a unique plan for everyone.
- I’m sure David has an eternity of surprises of people in heaven by meeting those who have been blessed by what he wrote in the Psalms—you never know who might be blessed by what you do!
- No matter how great your sin—and David committed many—bad parenting, adultery, murder, pride—The same God who loves and forgave him, loves and forgives you—accept it and rejoice in it!
- Up off your face and fulfill your calling with a clean, free, forgiven heart.