



THURSDAY 04.29.10

II Samuel 13:23-29

After King David refused to punish Amnon, Tamar's brother, Absalom, decided to take matters into his own hands. After killing Amnon, Absalom would live in exile before returning to Jerusalem several years later. Even then, the relationship between David and Absalom would continue to deteriorate and eventually lead to Absalom's military rebellion against his father's throne.

- David's inability to reprimand Amnon cost the life of one son and his relationship with another. What might David have done to avoid this outcome?
- Jesus reminds us in the story of the prodigal son (Luke 15) that God not only wants to restore his relationship with us individually, he also desires us to restore relationships with one another. Is there a relationship in your life today in need of restoration? What step might you take today to start that process?



FRIDAY 04.30.10

II Samuel 18:24-33

For those interested in the preservation of David's reign, the death of Absalom, who had led a rebellion against his father, was wonderful news. For David, the only news that mattered to him was that he had now lost a third child. The first son born from Bathsheba had died on the seventh day of his life. Absalom had killed Amnon, and now Absalom had also been killed at the hands of David's men. The man who held all the power in Israel could not save his own sons.

- As we have seen throughout this series, God often uses imperfect people. Today we are reminded that these flawed individuals were also familiar with deep heartache and pain. Faith does not insulate us from struggle. It provides the bridge to hope and everlasting life.
- How is your faith building a bridge in your life that leads to hope and everlasting life?



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A RESOURCE FOR DISCIPLES SEEKING TO LOVE GOD, LOVE OTHERS & SERVE THE WORLD ...

Series: *UNRated*
Sermon: *Womanizer King Woos and Kills for Lust!*
Scripture: **2 Samuel 11:1-3, Psalm of David 32:1-7**

1. What did David do wrong that got him where he was capable of such behavior?
2. What could David have done different to head this destructive behavior off at the pass?
3. What did David do after the fact that made recovery possible?

David was the king of Israel and lived from around 1040 to 970 BC. He was raised as a shepherd and was the son of Jesse. As the youngest son, little was expected of him. But the prophet Samuel anointed him when he was a young man as the future king of Israel even though Saul was already the king. He begins the journey watching his father's flocks of sheep, building a relationship with God as he wrote and sang psalms to God. He became a hero of Israel when he killed Goliath, a Philistine and enemy of Israel. He becomes a great warrior and led soldiers many times into battle against the Philistines. At the death of Saul, he becomes king. He was used by God to make Israel a great nation, defeating the enemies of this young nation, expanding its borders and building the city of Jerusalem. Even though he hopes to one day build the Temple, this is left to his son Solomon to do.

David is especially known as:

- The greatest king of Israel and the ancestor of Jesus;
- A prolific writer of the Psalms;
- The young shepherd boy who killed Goliath;
- A great leader and general who seldom lost a battle;
- A man after God's own heart;
- A man who danced before the Lord;
- A king who had a great moral, ethical and spiritual breakdown when he sinned with Bathsheba and arranged for Uriah, her husband, to be killed and then attempted to cover it up;
- A man who recovered and wrote these words, "I am blessed above all men just that my sins are forgiven."



Introduction

Following Israel's conquest of the Promised Land, the nation was organized under the leadership of a series of judges. Eventually Israel cried out for God to anoint someone as king over Israel. Rather than looking to God alone for leadership, Israel had decided that it needed a political leader like their surrounding neighbors. Saul, the first king of Israel, is described in I Samuel as "standing head and shoulders" above all other men. Saul excelled at "looking the part" of king, but what he failed to do was stay faithful to God as he led God's people. And so, God went looking for a new man to lead the nation.

This week we turn our attention to David, the one God turned to at this critical moment in Israel's history. David is celebrated throughout scripture as a "man after God's own heart." Yet, David found himself stumbling at different points in his life, and in our readings this week, we will unpack some of the consequences of those actions. As you read David's story this week, may this prayer guide you:

Holy and loving God, we remember this week that even those most celebrated in the Bible for their faith were filled with flaws. They made mistakes. They lost their way. They experienced failures in their lives just like everyone else. God, help us to remember the power of confessing our sins, our constant need to recommit to living your way and the grace that carries us every day of our lives.



TUESDAY 04.27.10

Psalm 51

The Psalms are where we find much of the music and poetry that shaped the devotional life of the Israelite people. In Psalm 51, David writes about his period of sorrow and confession following his confrontation with the prophet Nathan. David had committed adultery with Bathsheba, sent her husband, Uriah, into battle to be killed and taken this fallen warrior's wife for his own (to read more, look at II Samuel 11-12).

- David writes, "Surely you desire truth in the inner parts." Have you ever tried to confess without telling the whole truth? Why is truth such an essential part of confession?
- The word "repent" means to turn around. This often involves turning away from our destructive actions and towards the abundant life God offers. In what ways have you turned around in your life? Are there areas in your life you need to "turn around" today?



MONDAY 04.26.10

I Samuel 16:1-13

After God rejects Saul, Samuel, the prophet God had chosen to anoint Saul, grieves over Saul's failure. In the midst of this grief, Samuel sets out to find the man God had chosen for him to anoint and is sent by God to the house of Jesse in search of the next king.

- Seven sons are presented to Samuel before Samuel replies in desperation, "Are these all the sons you have?" As it turned out, the one whom God had chosen was not even invited to the party! What do you think prompted Jesse to leave David out tending the sheep? Has God ever surprised you by working through someone else in an unexpected way?
- God says to Samuel, "The Lord does not look at the things mans looks at . . . the Lord looks at the heart." What do you think God sees in you?



WEDNESDAY 04.28.10

II Samuel 13:1-14, 21

Immediately following David's confrontation with the prophet Nathan and his subsequent confession and repentance of his sinful actions, the author of II Samuel moves to this disturbing story about David's son, Amnon, and his half-sister, Tamar. As the father has acted in sin and selfishness, now his son seems to respond in a similar way. While chapter 13 ends with a note about David's anger, David does not punish his son for these evil actions.

- Why do you think David chose not to punish Amnon for his actions? How might David's past actions have inhibited him in responding to his son's behavior?
- Amnon says that he is "in love with Tamar." Paul reminds us in I Corinthians 13 that "love does not demand it's own way." Why are acts of selfishness so "offensive" to God's definition of love?
