

SIN IS DANGEROUS

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We have just kept the Feast of Unleavened Bread. There is an important teaching ... to leave spiritual Egypt and to put out sin out of our lives.

It's important to take sin seriously. It can be very destructive. Even being a little bit tolerant of sin in our lives can lead to serious problems later on:

"A little leaven leavens the whole lump".

Leaving Egypt takes action. **We don't just "accept Jesus" and park at the foot of the cross.** Passover is a beginning. There is work to be done.

Jesus makes it plain how seriously we should deal with sin.

Matthew 5:27-30 (NKJV)

27 "You have heard that it was said to those of old, You shall not commit adultery.'

28 But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

29 **If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you**; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.

30 And **if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you**; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell/Gehenna fire.

Put away whatever causes you to sin. It may be painful!

We should be alert to the danger of sin and its destructiveness.

It is true that God forgives our sins. Jesus' shed blood cleanses us ... we're righteous in God's sight.

But ... be careful it doesn't make us lax and complacent ... so that we take sin casually. "It doesn't matter too much if I do this ... I can repent later".

God will forgive us if our heart is right ... but a sinful lifestyle ... choosing to sin ... will expose us to danger and destruction ... from different directions.

Paul warned the Ephesians not to “**give place to the devil**” by uncontrolled anger.

So ... we don't want to open the door for satan to come into our lives. We've left Egypt and spiritual pharaoh. He's behind us ... we don't want to invite him back in.

But perhaps the main reason to avoid sin ... one which I want to focus on today ... is because sin can have such destructive consequences. Can cause great pain to you and me ... and can last a lifetime.

And even though God forgives ... it may be that we cannot escape the consequences ... or the pain of those sins.

Think how many young couples had lives “changed” by an unplanned and unwanted pregnancy?

James 1:13-16 (NKJV)

13 **Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.**

14 **But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.**

15 **Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.**

16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.

We are often tempted by our desires. That leads to sin. Ultimately ... sin leads to death. Avoid it!

Death is the final outcome for a sinful lifestyle ... but “on the way” there can be painful consequences.

The life of King David is a “good example” of being a “bad example”. There are lessons in David's life about the terrible consequences of sin ... even though forgiveness was available. The consequences don't go away.

You'll remember the story of David and Bathsheba? The armies go off to battle David stays behind ... sees Bathsheba and lusts for her ... she becomes pregnant ... David tries to cover it up ... and finally arranges for Uriah to be killed. All rather a sordid story..

Here's God's appointed King ... guilty of adultery ... murder ... deception. Serious sins. (Maybe David had become lukewarm over time?). Maybe he thought he'd "get away" with it? He didn't!

2 Samuel 12:1-12 (NKJV)

1 Then the Lord sent Nathan to David. And he came to him, and said to him: (Confronted by Nathan) "There were two men in one city, one rich and the other poor.

2 The rich man had exceedingly many flocks and herds.

3 But the poor man had nothing, except one little ewe lamb which he had bought and nourished; and it grew up together with him and with his children. It ate of his own food and drank from his own cup and lay in his bosom; and it was like a daughter to him.

4 And a traveler came to the rich man, who refused to take from his own flock and from his own herd to prepare one for the wayfaring man who had come to him; but he took the poor man's lamb and prepared it for the man who had come to him."

5 So David's anger was greatly aroused against the man, and he said to Nathan, "As the Lord lives, the man who has done this shall surely die!

6 And he shall restore fourfold for the lamb, because he did this thing and because he had no pity."

7 Then Nathan said to David, "You are the man! Thus says the Lord God of Israel: 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul.

8 I gave you your master's house and your master's wives into your keeping, and gave you the house of Israel and Judah. And if that had been too little, I also would have given you much more!

9 Why have you despised the commandment of the Lord, to do evil in His sight? You have killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword; you have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the people of Ammon.

10 Now therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised Me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.' (*Trouble coming on David ... trouble ... violence ... death*)

11 Thus says the Lord: **'Behold, I will raise up adversity against you from your own house; and I will take your wives before your eyes and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun. (There will be violence)**

12 For **you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel, before the sun.'** ”. *(In the public eye)*

Everybody will know of David's sin (of course ... millions today know of his sin).

It will diminish David's status and honour. Reduce his personal authority ... the trust and admiration he had enjoyed.

In the past (and probably in the future) ... there were probably many situations where God had protected David from problems.

NOTE: DAVID CHOSE TO SIN. It was his decision. He knew better ... but went ahead all the same. Do we do the same on occasions?

2 Samuel 12:13-14 (NKJV)

13 So David said to Nathan, **"I have sinned against the Lord."** *(Instant repentance)*

And Nathan said to David, **"The Lord also has put away your sin; you shall not die."**

14 **However, because by this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme, the child also who is born to you shall surely die."**

We're familiar with Psalm 51 ... David's psalm of deep ... heartbroken repentance.

He was genuine! From the heart. God completely forgave him ... washed him clean. However ... that didn't stop the awful consequences. It was like David had tossed a huge boulder into the lake ... and the waves and ripples were heading in all directions.

2 Samuel 12:15-18 (NKJV)

15 Then Nathan departed to his house.

And the Lord struck the child that Uriah's wife bore to David, and it became ill.

16 David therefore pleaded with God for the child, and David fasted and went in and lay all night on the ground.

17 So the elders of his house arose and went to him, to raise him up from the ground. But he would not, nor did he eat food with them.

18 **Then on the seventh day it came to pass that the child died.** And the servants of David were afraid to tell him that the child was dead. For they said, "Indeed, while the child was alive, we spoke to him, and he would not heed our voice. How can we tell him that the child is dead? He may do some harm!"

2 Samuel 12:22-23 (NKJV)

22 And he said, "**While the child was alive, I fasted and wept; for I said, 'Who can tell whether the Lord will be gracious to me, that the child may live?'**

23 **But now he is dead; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.**"

Here's the first disappointment to David. God ignores David's request.

2 Samuel 13:1-6 (NKJV)

1 After this **Absalom the son of David** *(he was the 1st born. The Crown Prince)* **had a lovely sister, whose name was Tamar; and Amnon the son of David loved her.**

2 Amnon was so distressed over his sister Tamar that he became sick; for she was a virgin. And it was improper for Amnon to do anything to her.

3 But Amnon had a friend whose name was Jonadab the son of Shimeah, David's brother. Now Jonadab was a very crafty man.

4 And he said to him, "Why are you, the king's son, becoming thinner day after day? Will you not tell me?"

Amnon said to him, "**I love Tamar, my brother Absalom's sister.**"

5 So Jonadab said to him, "Lie down on your bed and pretend to be ill. And when your father comes to see you, say to him, 'Please let my sister Tamar come and give me food, and prepare the food in my sight, that I may see it and eat it from her hand.' "

6 Then Amnon lay down and pretended to be ill; and when the king came to see him, Amnon said to the king, "Please let Tamar my sister come and make a couple of cakes for me in my sight, that I may eat from her hand."

Devious plotting going on here.

2 Samuel 13:10-19 (NKJV)

10 **Then Amnon said to Tamar, "Bring the food into the bedroom, that I may eat from your hand."** And Tamar took the cakes which she had made, and brought them to Amnon her brother in the bedroom.

11 Now when she had brought them to him to eat, he took hold of her and said to her, **"Come, lie with me, my sister."**

12 **But she answered him, "No, my brother, do not force me, for no such thing should be done in Israel. Do not do this disgraceful thing!"**

13 And I, where could I take my shame? And as for you, you would be like one of the fools in Israel. Now therefore, please speak to the king; for he will not withhold me from you."

14 However, he would not heed her voice; and **being stronger than she, he forced her and lay with her. (he raped his sister!)**

15 Then Amnon hated her exceedingly, so that the hatred with which he hated her was greater than the love with which he had loved her. And Amnon said to her, "Arise, be gone!"

16 So she said to him, "No, indeed! This evil of sending me away is worse than the other that you did to me."

But he would not listen to her.

17 Then he called his servant who attended him, and said, "Here! Put this woman out, away from me, and bolt the door behind her."

18 Now she had on a robe of many colours, for the king's virgin daughters wore such apparel. And his servant put her out and bolted the door behind her.

19 Then Tamar put ashes on her head, and tore her robe of many colours that was on her, and laid her hand on her head and went away crying bitterly.

Destructive sins in the family. Had David's history of sexual lusts and sin and immorality ... influenced the son?

Was David compromised by what he felt able to do?

2 Samuel 13:20-31 (NKJV)

20 And **Absalom her brother said to her, "Has Amnon your brother been with you?"** But now hold your peace, my sister. He is your brother; do not take this thing to heart." So Tamar remained desolate in her brother Absalom's house.

21 But when King David heard of all these things, he was very angry.

22 And Absalom spoke to his brother Amnon neither good nor bad. For **Absalom hated Amnon, because he had forced his sister Tamar.**

23 And it came to pass, after two full years, that Absalom had sheep shearers in Baal Hazor, which is near Ephraim; so Absalom invited all the king's sons.

24 Then Absalom came to the king and said, "Kindly note, your servant has sheep shearers; please, let the king and his servants go with your servant."

25 But the king said to Absalom, "No, my son, let us not all go now, lest we be a burden to you." Then he urged him, but he would not go; and he blessed him.

26 Then Absalom said, "If not, please let my brother Amnon go with us."

And the king said to him, "Why should he go with you?"

27 But Absalom urged him; so he let Amnon and all the king's sons go with him.

28 Now Absalom had commanded his servants, saying, "Watch now, when Amnon's heart is merry with wine, and when I say to you, 'Strike Amnon!' then kill him. Do not be afraid. Have I not commanded you? Be courageous and valiant."

29 So the servants of Absalom did to Amnon as Absalom had commanded.

Then all the king's sons arose, and each one got on his mule and fled.

30 And it came to pass, while they were on the way, that news came to David, saying, "**Absalom has killed all the king's sons**, and not one of them is left!"

31 So the king arose and tore his garments and lay on the ground, and all his servants stood by with their clothes torn.

Absalom had realised what Amnon had done and plotted to murder him and carried it out. He killed his brother.

Now David has one daughter raped within the family and dishonoured ... one son murdered (first born) ... one son now "on the run". A broken and damaged family.

Eventually Absalom returns and there is a vague reconciliation of sorts. But ... worse is to come for David.

2 Samuel 15:1-6 (NKJV)

1 After this it happened that Absalom provided himself with chariots and horses, and fifty men to run before him. (*Absalom making a big impression on the people*)

2 Now **Absalom would rise early and stand beside the way to the gate.** So it was, whenever anyone who had a lawsuit came to the king for a decision, that Absalom would call to him and say, "What city are you from?" And he would say, "Your servant is from such and such a tribe of Israel."

3 Then **Absalom would say to him, "Look, your case is good and right; but there is no deputy of the king to hear you."**

4 Moreover **Absalom would say, "Oh, that I were made judge in the land, and everyone who has any suit or cause would come to me; then I would give him justice."**

5 And so it was, whenever anyone came near to bow down to him, that he would put out his hand and take him and kiss him.

6 **In this manner Absalom acted toward all Israel who came to the king for judgment. So Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel.**

Super politician. Absalom plots to get the throne. Plotting to take over the rule of Israel. Not good!

2 Samuel 15:13-17 (NKJV)

13 **Now a messenger came to David, saying, "The hearts of the men of Israel are with Absalom."**

14 **So David said to all his servants who were with him at Jerusalem, "Arise, and let us flee, or we shall not escape from Absalom."** Make haste to depart, lest he overtake us suddenly and bring disaster upon us, and strike the city with the edge of the sword."

15 And the king's servants said to the king, "We are your servants, ready to do whatever my lord the king commands."

16 Then the king went out with all his household after him. But the king left ten women, concubines, to keep the house.

17 **And the king went out with all the people after him, and stopped at the outskirts.**

King David flees!! The guy who killed Goliath.

God appointed David ... anointed by Samuel ... why is he running from his son?

The nation was in danger of being torn apart ... civil war ... as his son violently opposes his father.

2 Samuel 15:23 (NKJV)

23 **And all the country wept with a loud voice,** and all the people crossed over. The king himself also crossed over the Brook Kidron, and all the people crossed over toward the way of the wilderness.

2 Samuel 15:30 (NKJV)

30 **So David went up by the Ascent of the Mount of Olives, and wept as he went up;** and he had his head covered and went barefoot. And all the people who were with him covered their heads and went up, weeping as they went up.

2 Samuel 16:15 (NKJV)

15 **Meanwhile Absalom and all the people, the men of Israel, came to Jerusalem;** and Ahithophel was with him.

2 Samuel 16:21-23 (NKJV)

21 **And Ahithophel said to Absalom, "Go in to your father's concubines, whom he has left to keep the house;** and all Israel will hear that you are abhorred by your father. Then the hands of all who are with you will be strong."

22 **So they pitched a tent for Absalom on the top of the house, and Absalom went in to his father's concubines in the sight of all Israel. (Public humiliation of David)**

23 Now the advice of Ahithophel, which he gave in those days, was as if one had inquired at the oracle of God. So was all the advice of Ahithophel both with David and with Absalom.

Dreadful stuff! Even today's TV would be nervous about basing a movie on such violence and sordid behaviour?

2 Samuel 18:1-17 (NKJV)

1 **And David numbered the people who were with him,** and set captains of thousands and captains of hundreds over them.

2 Then **David sent out one third of the people under the hand of Joab, one third under the hand of Abishai the son of Zeruiah, Joab's brother, and one third under the hand of Ittai the Gittite.** And the king said to the people, "I also will surely go out with you myself." *(Time to sort Absalom out)*

3 But the people answered, "You shall not go out! For if we flee away, they will not care about us; nor if half of us die, will they care about us. But you are worth ten thousand of us now. For you are now more help to us in the city."

4 Then the king said to them, "Whatever seems best to you I will do." So the king stood beside the gate, and all the people went out by hundreds and by thousands.

5 **Now the king had commanded Joab, Abishai, and Ittai, saying, "Deal gently for my sake with the young man Absalom."** And all the people heard when the king gave all the captains orders concerning Absalom.

6 **So the people went out into the field of battle against Israel.** And the battle was in the woods of Ephraim.

7 **The people of Israel were overthrown there before the servants of David, and a great slaughter of twenty thousand took place there that day.**

8 For the battle there was scattered over the face of the whole countryside, and the woods devoured more people that day than the sword devoured.

9 **Then Absalom met the servants of David. Absalom rode on a mule. The mule went under the thick boughs of a great terebinth tree, and his head caught in the terebinth; so he was left hanging between heaven and earth.**

And the mule which was under him went on.

10 Now a certain man saw it and told Joab, and said, "I just saw Absalom hanging in a terebinth tree!"

11 So Joab said to the man who told him, "You just saw him! And why did you not strike him there to the ground? I would have given you ten shekels of silver and a belt."

12 But the man said to Joab, "Though I were to receive a thousand shekels of silver in my hand, I would not raise my hand against the king's son. **For in our hearing the king commanded you and Abishai and Ittai, saying, 'Beware lest anyone touch the young man Absalom!'**

13 Otherwise I would have dealt falsely against my own life. For there is nothing hidden from the king, and you yourself would have set yourself against me."

14 **Then Joab said, "I cannot linger with you." And he took three spears in his hand and thrust them through Absalom's heart, while he was still alive in the midst of the terebinth tree.**

15 **And ten young men who bore Joab's armour surrounded Absalom, and struck and killed him.**

16 So Joab blew the trumpet, and the people returned from pursuing Israel. For Joab held back the people.

17 And they took Absalom and cast him into a large pit in the woods, and laid a very large heap of stones over him. Then all Israel fled, everyone to his tent.

War in Israel. Absalom killed.

2 Samuel 18:33 (NKJV)

33 **Then the king was deeply moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept.** And as he went, he said thus: "**O my son Absalom—my son, my son Absalom—if only I had died in your place! O Absalom my son, my son!**"

Look at David's life now. King David was broken-hearted.

The consequences continue.

Civil war ... thousands dead. Absalom dead ... Amnon dead. Tamar raped. Concubines defiled. Violence and rebellion in the land.

David's latter years are troubled and painful ... because he made some bad choices. Our choices ... our decisions ... have consequences.

THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH ... but the journey there can be very painful too!

1 Kings 1:1 (NKJV)

1 **Now King David was old, advanced in years**; and they put covers on him, but he could not get warm.

Which then leads another son to think that he can do better.

1 Kings 1:5-7 (NKJV)

5 **Then Adonijah the son of Haggith exalted himself, saying, "I will be king"; and he prepared for himself chariots and horsemen, and fifty men to run before him.**

6 (And his father had not rebuked him at any time by saying, "Why have you done so?" He was also very good-looking. His mother had borne him after Absalom.)

7 Then he conferred with Joab the son of Zeruiah and with Abiathar the priest, and they followed and helped Adonijah.

Adonijah (Absalom's brother) sets himself up as king ... even though David ... and God ... had already identified Solomon to be king. So in effect David abdicated and sent Zadok to anoint Solomon as King that very day.

1 Kings 1:38-49 (NKJV)

38 **So Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, the Cherethites, and the Pelethites went down and had Solomon ride on King David's mule, and took him to Gihon.**

39 **Then Zadok the priest took a horn of oil from the tabernacle and anointed Solomon.** And they blew the horn, and all the people said, "**Long live King Solomon!**"

40 And all the people went up after him; and the people played the flutes and rejoiced with great joy, so that the earth seemed to split with their sound.

41 Now Adonijah and all the guests who were with him heard it as they finished eating. And when Joab heard the sound of the horn, he said, "Why is the city in such a noisy uproar?"

42 While he was still speaking, there came Jonathan, the son of Abiathar the priest. And Adonijah said to him, "Come in, for you are a prominent man, and bring good news."

43 Then Jonathan answered and said to Adonijah, "No! **Our lord King David has made Solomon king.**

44 The king has sent with him Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, the Cherethites, and the Pelethites; and they have made him ride on the king's mule.

45 So **Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet have anointed him king** at Gihon; and they have gone up from there rejoicing, so that the city is in an uproar. This is the noise that you have heard.

46 Also **Solomon sits on the throne of the kingdom.**

47 And moreover the king's servants have gone to bless our lord King David, saying, **May God make the name of Solomon better than your name, and may He make his throne greater than your throne.**' Then the king bowed himself on the bed.

48 **Also the king said thus, 'Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, who has given one to sit on my throne this day, while my eyes see it!'** "

49 **So all the guests who were with Adonijah were afraid, and arose, and each one went his way.**

David intervened. Solomon was crowned.

Initially ... Solomon allowed Adonijah to live ... but Solomon did give him some strict conditions that he had to live honourably. But ... he didn't. He was deluded about his own super importance ... sought devious route back to the throne. So ... Solomon had him executed.

So. Another of David's sons slain.

So ... as David came to the end of his life ... he looked back at his last few years:

- Amnon rapes his sister Tamar
- (Son) Amnon murdered by his own brother
- (Son) Absalom killed after dividing the nation

- (Son) Adonijah rises up to take the throne rather than accept God's and David's choice
- Adonijah eventually slain

In amongst all of that ... David had to flee into the wilderness to avert civil war ... his concubines were raped by his own son.

No doubt David wanted to grow old gracefully ... enjoy his latter years ... see his kingdom prospering and at peace ... see his sons and daughters ... grandchildren ... leading happy and rewarding lives. But ... it was all a bit of a nightmare.

He thought he had covered over his sin with Bathsheba ... no one would know. Look what happened.

If David had seen the consequences ... would he have still chosen that night of illicit lust and passion with Bathsheba?

God forgave David. David will be in the Resurrection. He will reign over Israel in the millennium.

One of Jesus' own Title was: "Son of David".

But forgiveness ... reconciliation with God ... didn't eradicate the consequences of David's sin ... or yours and mine!

So. Putting sin out of our lives isn't only because its offensive to God. It's good to avoid sin so we avoid its consequences.

Galatians 6:7-8 (NKJV)

7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.

8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

You reap what you sow ... there is a cause for every effect.

Sin is dangerous. Look on it as an enemy. To lay aside sin ... to strive against it. We need to think about consequences when we are being tempted.

Hebrews 12:1-4 (NKJV)

1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,

let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

2 ***looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith,*** who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

3 **For consider Him** who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.

4 You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, **striving against sin.**

We're leaving the Feast period now ... we will soon be distracted. Keep the lesson with us ... many reasons to avoid sin. SIN IS DANGEROUS TO US! Let's seek our best to avoid it.