

“Consequences”

2 Samuel 12:13-14

I. INTRODUCTION

A. *Back To Basics*

1. My mother is a gourmet cook
2. It was an adventure sitting down to a meal at our house when I was growing up
3. You rarely knew what you were going to get
4. She bought countless cook books and watched dozens of cooking shows - loved Julia Child
5. To this day she cooks exotic dishes and I must say, they are really good!
6. Though I've had the opportunity to try some pretty unusual foods, my favorite meal is a good hamburger and fries
 - a. yeah, okay—I'll eat the occasional Crepe Fillipes au jus
 - b. but when I want a real meal—give me a cheeseburger dripping with grease

7. As a pastor, it is my primary duty to feed the flock of God
 - a. the food I am to serve is God's Word
 - b. and just as a good cook spends hours in preparation for a meal
 - c. pastors need to spend much time in study and preparation to teach
8. It's my aim when we gather together as a fellowship, to serve up a good meal
 - a. one that is pleasant to the taste - yes
 - b. but even more, one that is filled with spiritual nourishment -
 - c. one that will help you grow strong in Christ
9. Our menu here at Calvary Chapel is the whole Bible
 - a. that means that sometimes the meal will be exotic and different
 - b. and at other times, it will be something familiar; something we've looked at many times before
 - c. the reason for this, of course, is because the Bible repeats those issues which are most important

B. *Today*

1. Our passage today is one of those familiar lessons
2. It reveals one of the basic truths of the Christian life
3. What I'm saying is that I haven't prepared an exotic spiritual meal of some new thing
4. Today, we sit down to a really good basic meal
 - a. like a really good hamburger
 - b. or a plate of bacon, eggs and toast
5. What we see here is one of those things that we must come back to over

and over again

II. TEXT

A. *Setting the Scene*

1. We are in the same chapters Darren covered so well last week as we looked at the spiritual arrogance of David
2. It's the story of David's sin with Bathsheba
 - a. David saw her bathing and gave orders that she was to be brought to him
 - b. Bathsheba became pregnant and when she told David, he had her husband return from the battlefield to try to get him to visit his wife, and thus cover up his sin
 - c. but Bathsheba's husband was an honorable man and refused to go home while the troops he commanded were still in battle and away from their wives
 - d. David then gave orders to Uriah's commanding officer to place Uriah in the greatest danger so that he would be killed
 - e. that way, David would be free to marry Bathsheba
3. This is a story of intrigue and corruption at the highest level
4. And it is all the more painful to see it happening to this great man of God!
5. In fact, the two events that stand out in the life of David are:
 - a. his killing Goliath
 - b. and his failure with Bathsheba
6. David thought he had done a pretty good job of covering up his sin
7. But what is secret sin on earth is an open scandal in heaven
8. And God was not going to allow David to think that he could get away with this heinous act
9. So He sent Nathan to confront David . . .

B. *Vs. 1-9*

(1) Then the LORD sent Nathan to David. And he came to him, and said to him: "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.”

1. David was outraged by this news
2. He had no idea Nathan was setting him up - he though Nathan had heard this bit of news and was coming to David to set things right
3. Well, Nathan came to set things right all right, but it was David who was going to get it!

{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.

4. God asked David a very good question = “WHY?”
5. “Why did you do this terrible thing David?”
6. As I read these words of God to David I hear the voice of a distraught and disappointed Father who desires His son to see the foolishness of his sin
7. What had God failed to give David— what was he lacking that he would fall to this?
8. From beginning to end, God had blessed David
 - a. He had taken him from following sheep to leading a mighty nation
 - b. God had given David power and wealth
 - c. He had made him wildly famous and popular
9. And then God said, “If you felt you needed something more, why didn’t you come to me? I would have given it to you!”
10. But David went his own way and took matters into his own hands
11. This is ever the way it is with sin
 - a. we go our own way -
 - b. we turn from God and attempt to live by our *own* rules
 - c. we think we have better knowledge of what we need and how to live than God
12. And all the while, God stands before us with out-stretched hands
 - a. waiting for us to come to Him -
 - b. *wanting* us to turn to Him and ask Him to lead us and give us what we need
13. You know, really— sin is the *height* of foolishness
14. For when we sin, we turn from the One Who loves us, Who knows what we need, and Who *wants* to give it to us -

15. To our own fickle and short-sighted lusts
16. As a father raising 3 children, I know what it means to see them make foolish choices
 - a. I give them instruction and show them how to live
 - b. but then watch as they turn away in rebellion
 - c. later, when their sin finds them out and they suffer for their evil choices, I have to take that difficult but necessary step of discipline
 - d. often I will ask them, "Why?"
 - e. I don't really expect an answer from them
 - f. rather, I am trying to get them to realize the foolishness of their prior choices
17. That is what God does here with David
18. And David realizes the error and foolishness of his sin . . .

C. Vs. 13-14

{13} So David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." 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."

1. It is vs. 13- & 14 that I want to concentrate on this today
2. There are two important and basic truths these vs. teach us that we should continually return to
3. This is the "hamburger" I was referring to earlier
4. Those truths are these:
 - a. FIRST - If we confess our sins, God forgives us
 - b. SECOND - There are consequences to sin

D. FIRST: If We Confess Our Sins, God Forgives Us

1. When David was confronted with his sin, rather than rationalizing or getting angry with Nathan, or in some other way trying to cover it up, he admitted it
2. He said, "I *have* sinned against the Lord."
3. This is confession
 - a. to confess means to *agree*
 - b. the word means to say the same as
 - c. God told David he had sinned
 - d. now David agrees with God
4. To David's confession, Nathan replies that God has put away his sin so that he will not die
 - a. meaning God is not waiting over David's head, ready to squash him
 - b. when David confessed, God put away the *guilt* of the sin
 - c. and because the guilt had been put away, there would be no *judgment* of the sin
5. Before Nathan came to David, David had tried to hide his sin

6. But the more he tried to forget it, the more it bothered him
7. Psalm 32 was written at this time . . .

Psalm 32

{1} Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered.

{2} Blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity, And in whose spirit there is no deceit.

{3} When I kept silent, my bones grew old Through my groaning all the day long.

{4} For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was turned into the drought of summer.

{5} I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

8. This is the first lesson this passage teaches us
9. As John says in his first letter 1:9: "If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
10. The condition to forgiveness is confession - to agree with God about our sin
 - a. that it is sin
 - b. that it is wrong & evil
 - c. and even, that *apart* from His grace, we *deserve* judgment
11. David knew what it meant to try to hide his sin before he confessed
 - a. he knew the emotional heaviness that came from that nagging sense of guilt
 - b. he knew the spiritual dryness and barrenness that came from a failure to confess
12. But because God is faithful, He went after David and convicted him
13. David's describes this conviction as the Hand of God resting heavily on him
14. But still, till Nathan confronted David, David ran from God
15. A lady driving her car one night when saw the lights of a truck come up very quickly behind her
 - a. then it looked like it would try to pass her
 - b. road too narrow so she sped up - so did the truck
 - c. she began to fear that the truck driver was following her - so she turned, he turned too
 - d. once again she turned, as did the truck
 - e. each time she sped up, the truck would increase its speed to stay on her bumper
 - f. in panic she drove into a crowded gas station and jumped out of the car, yelling that someone was trying to catch her
 - g. just then the truck pulled in right behind her

- h. the driver got out of the truck and rushed to her car
 - i. opening the back door he reached in and pulled out a man who had been hiding in the back, waiting to attack the woman when she got home
 - j. from the truck driver's height in his cab, he had seen the man hiding in her back seat and had chased her to help her
 - k. she, not knowing had tried to get away
16. God, from His exalted position, sees how sin lies in wait to destroy us
- a. the Holy Spirit convicts us and seeks to protect us
 - b. but so often, like that woman, rather than stopping and listening to the voice of the Spirit, we keep running
17. David ran till he was backed into a corner by Nathan
18. But as soon as he confessed his sin, he received God's forgiveness
19. What was true for David is true for us
- a. when you sin, don't rationalize it
 - b. don't try to cover it up or hide it
 - c. confess it to God
 - d. agree it is evil and wrong and ask His forgiveness
 - e. and then enjoy His cleansing

E. SECOND: There Are Consequences To Sin

{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."

- 1. While God forgave the guilt of David's sin,
- 2. There were still consequences to his sin
- 3. This is the mistake many new Christians make
- 4. They think that God's forgiveness means He will somehow magically wipe away the results or effects of their sin
- 5. People who work in prisons say that the number of guys who "get saved" in jail is very high
 - a. they are arrested for some crime
 - b. spend a few weeks in the slammer
 - c. attend a bible study and get religion because they hear that God loves them and forgives them
 - d. while many of these jailhouse conversions are real, many are nothing more than another scam
 - e. they think they can get God to help them avoid having to do time for their crime by joining the God Squad
- 6. But God's forgiveness does not mean that He will somehow eradicate the consequences of our evil choices
- 7. When I was a youngster, loved to play with matches
 - a. my mother repeatedly told me not to
 - b. but I did anyway when she wasn't looking
 - c. one day I lit one by holding it between the cover and striking bar
 - d. it burned through the paper and burnt my finger

- e. in shock, I threw the match aside, but it landed right in the center of my dad's chair
 - f. the hot match head burned a nice crisp hole in the upholstery
 - g. now, there was no way I could hide it, though I tried
 - h. my mother saw it and questioned me and at first I tried to play dumb
 - i. but with some firm persuasion, I admitted to it
 - j. after the proper discipline, I asked her forgiveness which she granted
 - k. but that burned spot remained on that chair for the rest of it's days
 - l. it stared out at every one who entered the room like a big, black, sinister eye
8. Friends, while God can forgive the *legal* debt our sin incurs, our evil choices still set in course a series of effects that will inevitably bear bitter fruit
 9. Paul says it this way in Gal 6, "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked. What ever a persons sows, that is what they shall reap. If we sow to the flesh, then we shall reap corruption, but if we sow to the Spirit, then we shall reap everlasting life."
 10. David's sin resulted in Bathsheba becoming pregnant and bearing a son
 11. And because of this, God's enemies were given opportunity to defame God and revile His holy name because David stood as God's point man for that age
 12. Therefore, in order to silence these enemies and save these blasphemers from multiplying their guilt, God would take the child and thus remove the focus of their insults
 13. By doing so, both David and Bathsheba would be put through the intense sorrow of the loss of a child - but it was a sorrow they brought on themselves!
 14. Now, I want everyone to understand me
 - a. that child did *not* die as an act of God *judging* David
 - b. God did *not* take the child's life to get back at him
 - c. the child died because his life would have been the occasion of the stumbling of many

F. The Long View

1. You know, in the long view of things, we can be glad that while God forgives the guilt of our sin, He doesn't remove the effects of our sins
2. For it is these effects that over time wean us from those sins
3. Satan makes sin so appealing, but once we partake, we later come to see the bitter results
4. If we have half a brain, these bitter results eventually train us off the sin
5. But if God not only forgave the guilt but also removed the consequences of our sin, then we would never learn
6. We would keep pursuing the same evil choices,
 - a. knowing only the temporary pleasure of sin
 - b. but never tasting the longer term ruin
7. What a world of total chaos and destruction this world would be!

III. CONCLUSION

A. *Jesus Paid The Price*

1. Let's conclude this morning by turning our attention to *how* God can forgive us
2. You see, many people have the mistaken idea that God forgives sin, just because He's a nice guy
3. That He just decides to forgive
4. NOT SO!
5. God's forgiveness isn't based on His just deciding to set aside our guilt because He loves us so much He can't help Himself
6. No - because God is perfectly righteous and just, He cannot just set aside our sin
7. What would we think of a judge who let murderers go free just because they felt like it?
8. No - God is able to forgive *because* He has made a way for the guilt of our sin to be fully paid for
9. It was paid for at the Cross of Jesus Christ

B. *Louis Slotin*

1. On May 21, 1946 in Los Alamos, New Mexico, a young and daring scientist was carrying out a necessary experiment in preparation for the atomic test to be conducted in the waters of the South Pacific atoll at Bikini.
2. He had successfully performed this experiment many times before.
3. He was determining the exact amount of U-235 necessary for a chain reaction, which scientists call a critical mass.
4. He would push two hemispheres of uranium together, then, just as the mass became critical, he would push them apart with a screwdriver, stopping the chain reaction
5. 5. But this day, just as the material became critical, the screwdriver slipped from his hand and the two hemispheres came too close together.
6. Instantly the room was filled with a dazzling bluish haze
7. Young Louis Slotin, instead of ducking and saving himself, tore the two hemispheres apart with his hands just before it exploded
8. By this instant, self-forgetful daring, he saved the lives of the other 7 people in the room
9. On the way to the hospital in the bus that carried them he said, "You'll come through all right. But I haven't the faintest chance."
10. 9 days later, Louis Slotin died in extreme agony
11. Nearly 2000 years ago Jesus Christ walked directly into sin's most concentrated radiation, allowed Himself to be touched by its curse, and died bearing it's guilt
12. But by that act, He broke the chain reaction of sin's power over us

A Harvard University study found that 6 of every 10 juvenile delinquents had fathers who drank to excess; many had mothers who did the same; 3 out of

4 lacked parental interest or discipline; and 4 out of 5 had parents who took no interest in their friends or amusements. Many wayward children came from broken homes, and few had religious training of any kind.