

David's sins, results and repentance

Objective:

- ⌚ To contemplate on the causes and results of sinning and the acceptable repentance towards God.

References:

- ⌚ Holy Bible : 2 Samuel: 11
- ⌚ "The life of David" by Frederick Brotherton Meyer,
- ⌚ "The Dynamics of the cross in our Life" by the departed Fr. Bishoy Kamel.
- ⌚ "Fighting temptation" A Sermon by H.G. Bishop Youssef to the Youth.
(<http://www.suscopts.org/resources/audio/hg-bishop-youssef/english-sermons/>)

Memory Verses:

“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.” (James 1:14)

“Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done [this] evil in Your sight” (Psalm. 51:4).

Introduction:

- ⌚ Reading: 2 Samuel: 11
- ⌚ David was chosen by God from among many brothers "I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart" Acts 13:22. Yet he sinned a great sin, so how can he still be called a man after Gods own heart??

Lesson Outlines:

1- Causes of David's sin

David before becoming a king	David after becoming a king, prior to sinning
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• He was escaping from Saul. No place to rest and completely dependent on God.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• He had established a kingdom and started to depend on his strength and power.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He was brave and courageous, based on his strong faith in God and always was in the front line fighting against the enemies of God. E.g. against Goliath, “Today the Lord will deliver you into my hands...” (1Sam 17:46). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He started to worry about himself and stayed in his home while his people are fighting for him. He simply had nothing to do, he slept as much as he could and rested his body.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He was content with the little he had and thanking God in everything. God was the source of his joy and happiness. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He had many wives, which was against the law of Moses. He started to indulge himself and seek temporary earthly pleasures.

As we learn from James 1:14, King David’s sin came about by his own desire. Had he had a clean desire then at the time he saw the naked woman he would have turned around and left, However due to a lustful desire that was within him he fell into the sin of adultery which later transpired into the sin of murder.

2- Committing of sin

Bad desire + Opportunity = Sin

Falling into sin with Bathsheba required two ingredients and these two ingredients are the same for every human, they are the ingredients of desire and opportunity. If we consider the numerous sins we may fall into daily then we will realise that had one of those two ingredients not been present than the likely hood of us falling into that sin would be greatly reduced.

Take for example a person who has the desire to gamble, his opportunity to fall into this sin is greatly increased if that person goes to a casino... other examples may include..

Sexual lust – meeting with a boyfriend/girlfriend

Masturbation – pornography

Swearing – hanging around with friends who swear

- If David were during this time, living the life of continuous repentance and confession, examining every thought, then he would not have sinned. Yet, since he was relaxing too much, his spirituality started to deteriorate

his thoughts started to wonder and the opportunity presented itself so he fell into sin and then into the bigger sin, which started off by a thought or a bad desire.

□ David stayed for a whole year not wanting to repent his sin. Instead he tried his best to cover it, which led him to commit a more dreadful sin.

□ The nobleness of Uriah the Hittite, refusing even to go to his home to rest and be with his wife, Bathsheba, while the people of God were fighting. Instead of admiring his noble act, David made him carry a letter to Joab to simply get Uriah killed in the battle and Bathsheba to be his wife. This is what sinning can do to us, it make us blind and self-centred.

2- Repentance

Read 2 Sam. 12

God revealed his sin. →The parable that Nathan the prophet told to David.

You are the man! Thus says the Lord... Why have you despised the commandment of the Lord?

- David's confession "I have sinned against God" And Nathan said to David, "The Lord also has put away your sin; you shall not die". That shows how merciful God is to the repentant soul. Even though God hates sin so much, but he is also so compassionate and loving. Nothing can stop the fountain of His love for the repentant soul. As soon as David confessed his sin, God granted him forgiveness, just as a loving father awaiting the return of His prodigal son.
- David wept bitterly, and wrote "Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done [this] evil in Your sight..." (Psalm 51). David lived the rest of his life repenting his sins with a contrite heart, and left us a treasure of Psalms for the church and the whole world to benefit from. Perhaps the end of his life was stronger than the beginning.
- The true repentance means and complete changing of the mind and desire. But how does one remove a bad desire??
 1. We need to pray and ask the Lord to help us remove this desire from our hearts
 2. Ask advice from our confession fathers and be honest with them and tell them I have such and such a desire.. how do I get rid of it.

3. We need to keep ourselves clean by trying to avoid situations which may excite the desire once more.
4. We must read our bible, spiritual books, the stories of the saints etc.

4-Consequence of sin:

The sin was forgiven, but the consequence of sinning must follow:

- 1- The sword will not depart your home (Absalom's treason)
- 2- The son that is born to you will die
- 3- God will take your wives and given them to others
- 4- Evil will arise from your home

Yet, God's mercy to His repentant soul converts the results of sinning into a purifying fire. He would allow tribulations and sufferings so that the soul would be decorated and beautiful to be wed to her heavenly groom. Behold, you [are] fair, my love! (Song of Songs 4:1)

Conclusion:

If we feed our mind with Christ → the output would be good deeds, where as, if we feed our minds with the evil worldly desires → the output is bad deeds.

The computer terminology of G I G O (**G**arbage **I**n **G**arbage **O**ut) has the same principle for our spiritual lives. If we watch bad movies, listen to bad music, say bad jokes, then our personalities will be bad, our conversations will be bad however, if we listen to Christian music, and watch clean shows and read our bibles and the stories of the saints then our personalities will be good and clean.

Applications:

- To be aware of our free time, and to try to occupy our selves and our mind with useful spiritual work (Any service to the church...). A vacant mind is a factory for the devil.
- To live the life of scrutiny. To examine every thought on a daily base and be very cautious about what we hear or see. We should train our eyes to see the images of Christ on the Cross, as the good shepherd...etc., so that we would not allow our selves to see images of this world. Any thing evil that we get to see or hear gets stored in our mind and becomes copy righted to the devil. Thus, in any time of weakness or slumbers the devil replays those images to us, with modifications, so that we may fall in sin (this is why in the mass the priest plays, remove from us every memory of evil entailing death). Yet, if our minds are occupied with the images of Christ

on the Cross-and his life giving words, there will be no room for any worldly image or thought.

- To struggle against sin till bloodshed as St. Paul says, and not to feel sorry or find excuses to our selves. e.g. the martyr who was tied on a bed and an evil women was brought to him in order to try to make him fall in sin. Yet, he did not find anything to do except to cut off his tongue and to spit it on her face. For those saints, it was better to sacrifice their blood than to offend God.
- To live the live of continuous repentance
- Nothing could stop the love of God to mankind. The only thing that could hurt the human soul is to keep the sin inside and not to confess them. The saints knew that repentance is what bring them close to God, so they lived their life repenting every sin, so that they enjoy the warmth of being in the bosom of the Father and taste the kingdom of heaven while still here on earth.