

25 October 2015

David was wise because when he sinned he acknowledged his sin before God (Pt 2 David).

Introduction.

This is our second study on the person of David in the scriptures.

From our previous study.

(1) The Lord looked on the heart of David and told Samuel to anoint him king, and (2) the Lord sought David – a man after His own heart, (3) David obeyed his earthly father.

Three points are established from the Scriptures for this study.

(1) David behaved himself wisely in all his ways, and (2) David disobeyed the law, and (3) David acknowledged his sin before the Lord.

Our three points in more detail.

1. David behaved himself wisely in all his ways.

Supporting Verse.

1Sam.18: 5 “And David went out whithersoever Saul sent him, [and] behaved himself wisely”.

Context and meaning of our verse.

* If you want to know about brotherly love then think on verse 1, where scripture records that “the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David”, hence verse 3 where Jonathan and David made a covenant, “because he loved him as his own soul”. According to verse 4 Jonathan removed his garments, and his armour and gave them to David. Then we have our verse, where scripture points out that David followed Saul wherever he went, “and behaved himself wisely”. The expression “behaved wisely” in the scriptures is only applied to David and all four occurrences are in 1 Sam. 18. Our verse continues with the consequence of David behaving himself wisely, where “Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of all the people, and also in the sight of Saul’s servants”. Additional consequences are noted in verse 14 where it states that “the Lord was with him”, therefore Saul “was afraid of him” (verse 15).

Other scriptural support.

1Sam 18:14, 15 & 30, and Ps.101: 2.

Scriptural examples.

1Sam.24: 7, when David showed Saul (who sought to kill him) mercy when he let Saul go (verse 19) David showed wisdom in his action.

Application of our verse today.

* Our verse is from the Old Testament, but we apply it to us today, on the basis that Paul behaved himself wisely in all his ways, hence confirming that it is a trait that a Christian should desire today (see 1Thes.2: 10, 2Thes.3: 7 & 2Cor.11: 24–28).

Illustration.

* The movie “Battleship” has a young man who does wrong, his brother hauls him into the Navy, he stuffs up in the Navy and is about to get booted out when earth is invaded by aliens who destroy most of the ships, including his brother’s. The ship he is on loses his commander and Lieutenant, and so he finds himself Captain. That ship sinks and he decides to take to sea a 70 year old battleship that is well past its use-by date. He maneuvers the ship to pound the enemy against all odds and defeats them almost single-handed. After the enemy is defeated the Admiral sets “him over” his own ship because he behaved himself wisely within the context of the battle.

Learning from our Illustration.

* Man sees behaving wisely as defeating a physical enemy, winning a rugby game, an olympic medal, or simply pulling something stunning out the bag that others recognise as almost super-human, and so they are promoted to positions of authority, as was the example of our Lieutenant who was promoted to Lieutenant Commander. But God identifies a man that behaves wisely as one

who is a faithful servant of what he has been given (Matt.24: 45 – 47), who walks in the house of the Lord “with a perfect heart” (Ps.101: 1), sets “no wicked thing before” his eyes.

Challenge & or encouragement.

* Saul saw David behave himself wisely, and so feared him, because he knew that for a man to live like that he had to be walking with the Lord (1Sam.18: 15). Paul encourages us to “Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good” (Rom.12: 9), which is similar to Amos (5: 15) and Micah’s call to do the same. But you can only do so today if you read the scriptures, and obey them, and live well-behaved, unblameable, just and holy (1Thes.2: 10). Then we may be seen by our brothers, and what is more important, by our God, to behave ourselves wisely in all our ways.

2. David disobeyed the law.

Supporting Verse.

2Sam 11: 3b & 4 “Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite? And David sent messengers and took her, and she came in unto him”. Verse 15: “And he wrote in the letter, saying, set up Uriah in the forefront of the hottest battle, and retire ye from him, that he may be smitten, and die.”

Context and meaning of our verse.

* David has just come from a battle where the children of Israel had “destroyed the children of Ammon, and besieged Rabbah. But David tarried still at Jerusalem.” In verse 2 David is relaxing in his house, and goes for a walk along the roof: “and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon.” David then chose to enquire of the woman, from which he is told that she is “the wife of Uriah the Hittite”, then we have our verse, where David sent messengers unto her and “took her, and she came in unto him”. We then find out that she conceived and “sent and told David” (verse 5). In verses 6–13 David interacts with Uriah giving him instruction to “Go down unto thine house, and wash thy feet” (verse 8), “Tarry here to day also, and to morrow I will let thee depart” (verse 12). In verse 17 we find that Uriah died in the battle, and then David “fetchd her to his house, and she became his wife, and bare him a son. But the thing that David had done displeasd the Lord” (verse 27).

Other Scriptural support.

2Sam 24:10

Application of our verse today.

* Given that the law was given that we would all come to the knowledge of sin (Rom.3: 20), and that Paul used the law to establish that “all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Rom. 3: 23) then this passage from the Jewish Holy Writings is applicable to us today.

Illustration.

* Forty woman have come forward and accused Bill Cosby of sexual assault. It has been headline news on and off for the last 10 years. Some of his alleged victims have made claims of abuse that go back 25 years. But who would have ever thought possible that the star of “The Cosby Show” would do anything out of character for such a funny, likeable man.

Learning from our Illustration.

* If Bill Cosby is guilty then he will be another high-profile American that has fallen from grace (as the phrase goes). But no one is immune from sin (Rom.3: 23), “there is none righteous, no, not one” (Rom.3: 10). Whether in the body of Christ, in Rome, or the world, a man is never free from sin. David’s example demonstrates to us all that the devil can snare anyone of us, and according to the scriptures particularly those who oppose themselves and “are taken captive by him at his will” (2Tim.2: 26). We may not all commit adultery, nor all murder, but we have all broken one of the “Ten Commandments”, we have all disobeyed the law.

Challenge & or encouragement.

* Kings, Queens, bosses, Popes, Parliamentarians, unsaved and saved, all have one thing in common. And the scriptures record that David was no different, just because he was king, just because he was anointed by God for a work, he nevertheless broke God’s law. That is why the law

was given, that all would come to “the knowledge of sin” (Rom.3: 20). That is why a preacher of the gospel often begins with the law to establish this fact before his audience. The challenge for an unsaved man is how he is going to clean up his sin before he stands before God in judgment after death (Heb.9: 27), because he cannot do so by his own good works. And the challenge for a saved man is to **never** forget, never underestimate the power of Satan who desires to sift him as wheat. Hence he is no different to David in that he breaks God’s law. Our encouragement today is to think nothing of yourself, but know as David, that he had disobeyed God’s law, and displeased Him (2Sam.12: 13).

3. David acknowledged his sin before the Lord.

Supporting Verse.

2Sam.12: 13 “And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the Lord. And Nathan said unto David, The Lord also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die.”

Other scriptural support.

2Sam 24:10 & 17

Scriptural examples.

In the matter of the “accursed thing” Achan transgressed the covenant of the Lord (Josh.7: 15–20).

Application of our verse today.

Given that the law is used by Paul to illustrate that all have sinned our verse is applicable to us today.

Illustration.

* When believers hold forth the word of God in a tract, or a preacher preaches the gospel of Christ crucified there is one consistency with those who walk past on the street and deny Christ: the attitude of “I am ok”, or “I’m good”. “I’m good” can be interpreted in their context to mean: “I am a good person”, “I do not need God, Jesus, or any religion”.

Learning from our Illustration.

* In Christ there is no room for an attitude of “I am okay” or “I am good” because there is no biblical foundation to call evil good (Is.5: 20). But nevertheless some of the saved who are backslidden struggle to see or acknowledge sin because they are snared and blinded by Satan. First a man must see that all have sinned, and then when he looks into the mirror of the scriptures, he knows he has sinned before God. In the acknowledgment of his sin David was straight up: he did not hide it, call it something else or make excuses for his sin. And that is the way of a saved man today who walks in the fear of the Lord, he acknowledges his sin before the Lord.

Challenge & or encouragement.

* In all of man’s busyness today his greatest challenge is to not allow the acceptance and tolerance of the world to slip into his own actions, where he makes excuses when he transgresses the law, or where he covers up his sin from those whom he loves, and from God. Be encouraged today to pray for your weaker brother, who cannot see his transgressions of pride or arrogance or what ever snares him, and at the same time, pray for yourself that you do not focus on your brother’s sin, but acknowledge the mote in your own eye (Matt.7: 3). The example of Pharaoh saying “I have sinned this time: the Lord is righteous” (Ex.9: 27) should be sufficient to prove to us that acknowledgement of our sin before God is **not** all that is needed for us to have a perfect heart before the Lord.

* Given that the scriptures record that David walked wisely in all his ways, yet he sinned in the “matter of Uriah the Hittite” (1Kg.15: 5), what else did David need to do other than acknowledge his sin, for him to have a heart after God (previous teaching)?

Summary of our three points.

(1) David behaved himself wisely in all his ways, and (2) David disobeyed the law, and (3) David acknowledged his sin before the Lord.