

Toxic Pt. 3

Pastor James Foley – Sunday, October 30, 2022

RECAP PT. 1

NOTE 1 – Last Sunday AM we addressed the account of David v. Bathsheba (2 Sam. 11–12) in order to identify and illustrate an array of principles regarding the operation and outflow of sin. We noted the following accordingly...

- 1) The End of Sin – Sin is Often Met with Unintended and Unforeseen Cost(s)
- 2) Sin Does Not Satisfy – It Will Not and Cannot Facilitate Long-Term Contentment
- 3) Sin Begets Sin – Sin Naturally Produces More and Worsening Degrees of Sinfulness
- 4) Sin Enslaves – Sin is a Binding Agent that Ever-Seeks to “Dominate” those it Ensnares

NOTE 2 – Please review this sermon and the corresponding notes online at www.NewLifeBarre.org.

NOTE 3 – Today I want to pick up where we left off. Please turn to 2 Samuel 11–12 as I recap the account.....

RECAP PT. 2

NOTE 1 – In the context of 2 Samuel 11, David is serving as king over a unified Israel. He has been used of God to usher in a golden age (i.e., spiritually, economically and militarily). He has been identified as a man after God’s own heart, enjoying a rich intimacy with the Lord. He has even received promise of an everlasting dynasty (cf. 2 Sam. 7, Davidic Covenant).

NOTE 2 – However, 2 Samuel 11 records a rather tragic series of moments in the life of David...

1) David Grew Negligent in His Kingly Duties

2 Samuel 11:1a, c (NIV)

1 In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king’s men and the whole Israelite army. . . . But David remained in Jerusalem.

2) David Lusted After a Beautiful (Bathing) Woman

2 Samuel 11:2–3a

2 One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful, 3 and David sent someone to find out about her.

3) David Continued in that Lust Upon Discovering She Was Married

2 Samuel 11:3b–4

3 . . . The man said, “She is Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite.” 4 Then David sent messengers to get her.

4) David Violated the Lord, Uriah and Bathsheba by Committing Adultery

2 Samuel 11:4b

4 . . . She came to him, and he slept with her.

5) David Sought to Manipulate the Situation (Cover-Up of Royal Proportions)

FYI – In 2 Samuel 11:6–13 David recalled Uriah from battle that he might sleep with his own wife, removing any hint of impropriety when news of her pregnancy came forth! However, Uriah proved overly loyal to David and his men, refusing the comforts of home and hearth while his peers served the Lord in war.

6) David had Uriah Killed in the Midst of Battle

2 Samuel 11:14b–15

14 . . . David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it with Uriah. 15 In it he wrote, “Put Uriah out in front where the fighting is fiercest. Then withdraw from him so he will be struck down and die.”

7) David was Callous at the News of the Death of Uriah

2 Samuel 11:25b

25 . . . “The sword devours one as well as another.”

RECAP PT. 3

Of course, the Lord was not about to let such acts go without exposure or consequence! Rather, He sent Nathan the prophet to confront David about his behavior and to proclaim the following penalties (‘aharit) in kind...

1) The Son Born of the Affair Would Die

2 Samuel 12:14b

14 “. . . because by doing this you have shown utter contempt for the Lord, the son born to you will die.”

2) The Sword Would Never Depart from His House

2 Samuel 12:9–10

9 “Why did you despise the word of the Lord by doing what is evil in his eyes? You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your own. You killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. 10 Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.’

3) David Would Experience Public Humiliation for His Private Crimes

2 Samuel 12:11–12

11 “This is what the Lord says: ‘Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity on you. Before your very eyes I will take your wives and give them to one who is close to you, and he will sleep with your wives in broad daylight. 12 You did it in secret, but I will do this thing in broad daylight before all Israel.’”

RECAP PT. 4

Once again, this story exhibits the following principles...

- 1) The End of Sin – Sin is Often Met with Unintended and Unforeseen Cost(s)
- 2) Sin Does Not Satisfy – It Will Not and Cannot Facilitate Long-Term Contentment
- 3) Sin Begets Sin – Sin Naturally Produces More and Worsening Degrees of Sinfulness
- 4) Sin Enslaves – Sin is a Binding Agent that Ever-Seeks to “Dominate” those it Ensnares

Q. What other principles re: the nature and cost of sin can we glean from this bib. account?

SAYING NO TO SIN PT. 1

1) Sin Degrades & Humiliates. Sin Brings Low those Who Persist in Sinfulness.

NOTE 1 – I am going to say a name and consider first thing you think of: Judas Iscariot; President Richard Nixon; Jim Bakker; Bill Cosby; Jeffrey Epstein. Notice how the first thing that likely popped into your mind was an association with some moral failing or depravity! Consider the following excerpt...

QUOTE – “Think about that public figure—the president, a sports star, a prominent educator, etc.—that has worked for years to gain the respect of the people and establish a solid reputation. And then look at what happens to that reputation when that person commits gross sin and his sin finds him out. Everything changes! A reputation is sullied, and you now look at that person differently. He or she has been polluted, colored, stained. All the hard-earned popularity, all that individual’s great accomplishments become compromised in a moment.” –M. Brown

NOTE 2 – Think about how this principle connects with King David. How do you think his children saw him from this moment on? How about his other wives? Bathsheba? His soldiers? The nation of Israel? The surrounding nations and/or enemies? Did people ever look at him the same, even after restoration?

KEY – Next time you are tempted to sin, consider that sin, by nature, degrades and humiliates!

SAYING NO TO SIN PT. 2

Sin Steals Joy.

NOTE 1 – Joy is a precious commodity that many diligently seek to acquire...

1) Some Pursue Joy in Romantic and/or Sexual Pleasure

QUOTE – “Lord Byron—romantic poet and satirist—lived a life of pleasure with women and Mediterranean boys wrote [the following], ‘The worm, the canker and grief are mine alone.’”

2) Some Pursue Joy in Wealth or Material Accumulation

QUOTE – “Jay Gould, American railroad financier and speculator, stated the following while dying: ‘I am the most miserable man on earth.’”

3) Some Pursue Joy in Position, Prestige and Notoriety

QUOTE – “Lord Beaconsfield, British author and politician, enjoyed more than his share of both. In the end he stated, ‘Youth is a mistake; manhood a struggle; old age a regret.’”

4) Others Pursue Joy in Power or Military Conquest

QUOTE – “Alexander the Great conquered the known world of his day. Having done so it is recorded that he wept in his tent, noting, ‘There are no more worlds to conquer.’”

NOTE 2 – Yet David was a man familiar with the joy of the Lord. His inspired writings recount so...

Psalm 16:11 (Emphasis Mine)

11 You make known to me the path of life;
you will fill me with **joy** in your presence,
with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

Psalm 28:7 (Emphasis Mine)

7 The Lord is my strength and my shield;
my heart trusts in him, and he helps me.
My heart leaps for **joy**,
and with my song I praise him.

Q. Yet do we see any indication of joy in the midst of his sin w/ Bathsheba, etc.?

Q1. Do we read of David shouting with joy before God? NO

Q2. Do we read of David singing songs unto the Lord herein? NO

Q3. Do we read of David dancing ‘wildly’ before the Lord herein? NO

Q4. Do we read of David penning any psalms of praise unto his God? NO

QUOTE – “When sin enters the picture, our joy is sapped. The strength we once possessed seems to dissipate, and our passion depletes. Our enthusiasm to connect with the Lord in prayer, praise and worship is curbed and our victory seems to depart for far-off shorts. Gone is the bounce in our step and the song in our heart. Why? Because sin steals joy! It promises much, but leaves us guilty, ashamed and hollow.” –M. Brown

NOTE 3 – What we do see is David pen the following subsequent to his exposure...

Psalm 51:7–12 (Emphasis Mine)

7 Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean;
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

8 **Let me hear joy** and gladness;
let the bones you have crushed rejoice.

9 Hide your face from my sins
and blot out all my iniquity.

10 Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

11 Do not cast me from your presence
or take your Holy Spirit from me.

12 **Restore to me the joy of your salvation**
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

KEY – Next time you are tempted to sin, consider that sin steals joy!

SAYING NO TO SIN PT. 3

Sin Steals Time. It robs us of that most precious of commodities.

NOTE 1 – We only have so much time on this earth...

Psalm 39:5 (of David)

5 You have made my days a mere handbreadth;
the span of my years is as nothing before you.
Everyone is but a breath, even those who seem secure.

NOTE 2 – Each day you are given by the Lord, you are allotted only so much time to accomplish all that have to do (i.e., no more and no less). If you use that time wisely, you can effectively fulfill God’s purposes for your life. If you choose to waste that time, it is forever forfeit.

NOTE 3 – Few things in life bother me more than wasted time! Stolen goods can be replaced and friendships mended, but lost time cannot be regained; even in eternity. That is why the Word teaches us to make the most of our time!

KEY 1 – Yet sin inevitable steals time, being the worst time-sink in existence. Consider...

- 1) We Lose Time in Committing Sin
- 2) We Lose Time Running from God
- 3) We Lose Time in Even Confession
- 4) We Lose Time Resisting ‘Next’ Sin

KEY 2 – Consider the account of King David...

- Q1. How long was he absent from the front lines, leading his men?
- Q2. How long did he “lust” after the bathing beauty, Bathsheba?
- Q3. How long did it take for David to secure her information?
- Q4. How long did the “one-night stand” with her last?
- Q5. How long did it take to discover she was pregnant?
- Q6. How long did it take to recall Uriah from the battle lines?
- Q7. How long did it take to pen the letter to the General of Israel?
- Q8. How long did David wait for word from the General and his messenger?
- Q9. How long did it take for God to speak both to and through the prophet, Nathan?
- Q10. How long did it take for David to communicate the words, “I Have Sinned” (finding pardon)?
- Q11. How long did David have to deal with the promised outflow and fallout of his failings w/ Bathsheba?

A. In any event and no matter how you answer such questions, the true answer is far, far, far, far, far too long!

KEY – Next time you are tempted to sin, remember that sin facilitates the forfeiture of time.

SAYING NO TO SIN PT. 4

Sin Hurts. It Fosters Pain, Harm and Torment in Every Direction.

1) Sin Hurts the Sinner

Q. To what degree was this true in the life of David?

A. I am sure the loss of a child, sullied reputation, familial fallout, etc. was quite painful.

2) Sin Hurts the Sinner's Friend(s) & Family

Q. Who was hurt by the sinfulness of David in this account?

A. Bathsheba; Uriah; the infant who died; the children of David; his soldiers; the nation; his other sons; etc.

3) Sin Hurts the Lord (Hear HIS Heart re: David)

2 Samuel 12:7b–12, 14

7 . . . “This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: ‘I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. 8 I gave your master’s house to you, and your master’s wives into your arms. I gave you all Israel and Judah. And if all this had been too little, I would have given you even more. 9 Why did you despise the word of the Lord by doing what is evil in his eyes? You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your own. You killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. 10 Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.’ . . . 11 “This is what the Lord says: ‘Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity on you. Before your very eyes I will take your wives and give them to one who is close to you, and he will sleep with your wives in broad daylight. 12 You did it in secret, but I will do this thing in broad daylight before all Israel.’”

KEY – Sin always hurts those we care most about. Next time you are tempted to sin, consider that.

SAYING NO TO SIN PT. 5

Your Sin Will Find You Out

NOTE 1 – Moses offered these words (cf. Num. 32:23), noting that unrepentant sin eventually comes to light...

ILL. – “The drunken husband snuck up the stairs quietly. He looked in the bathroom mirror and bandaged the bumps and bruises he had received in a fight earlier that night. He then proceeded to climb into bed, smiling at the thought he had pulled one over on his wife. When morning came, he opened his eyes and there stood his wife. “You got drunk last night and got into a fight, didn’t you?” asked the wife. “No, honey!” he said. To this she replied: “Well, if you weren’t, then who put all the Band-Aids on the bathroom mirror?”

NOTE 2 – Jesus also addressed the exposure sin inevitably brings...

Luke 12:2–3

2 “There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. 3 What you have said in the dark will be heard in the daylight, and what you have whispered in the ear in the inner rooms will be proclaimed from the roofs.”

NOTE 3 – We must consider that there is nothing hidden from the sight of God...

Hebrews 4:13

13 Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

Q. Can we not see this principle evidenced in this scene from the life of David?

A1. Who was it that moved the prophet Nathan to confront the king?

2 Samuel 12:1 (Following the Misdeeds of David)

1 The Lord sent Nathan to David.

A2. Who worked to ensure that this unrepentant private crime went public?

2 Samuel 12:12

12 “You did it in secret, but I [i.e., the Lord] will do this thing in broad daylight before all Israel.”

SUMMATIONS

Q. Why should you reject the temptation to sin?

- 1) The End of Sin – Sin is Often Met with Unintended and Unforeseen Cost(s)
- 2) Sin Does Not Satisfy – It Will Not and Cannot Facilitate Long-Term Contentment
- 3) Sin Begets Sin – Sin Naturally Produces More and Worsening Degrees of Sinfulness
- 4) Sin Enslaves – Sin is a Binding Agent that Ever-Seeks to “Dominate” those it Ensnares
- 5) Sin Degrades & Humiliates. Sin Brings “Low” those Who Persist in Waywardness
- 6) Sin Steals Joy. Sin Will Not Produce Lasting Joy in the Lives of the Wayward
- 7) Sin Steals Time. Sin Will Only Work to Cost You Time and Opportunity
- 8) Sin Hurts. Sin Fosters Pain, Harm and Torment in Every Direction.
- 9) Sin Brings Exposure. Be Sure that Your Sin Will Find You Out.

KEY 1 – Allow these principles to motivate greater degrees of holiness before God!

KEY 2 – Those in need of forgiveness will find the Lord more than willing and able...

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

CONCLUSION

NOTE 1 – Feel free to give either in person or online at www.NewLifeBarre.org.

NOTE 2 – Feel free to participate in our “beyond-Sunday” ministries (MM, WM, CYC, B. Study).

NOTE 3 – Please join us today for Potluck Supper. We would love to have you stick around to fellowship!

Numbers 6:24–26

24 The Lord bless you

and keep you;

25 the Lord make his face shine on you

and be gracious to you;

26 the Lord turn his face toward you

and give you peace.