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Scripture: 2 Sam 12:1-20

Title: David and Bathsheba: If sin crosses your way...

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Intro:

- 1 Person gets one chocolate bar, a other person has many
- the person with many chocolate bars invites a friend and takes the chocolate bar away from the one with just one, because he has the power to do it
- is that fair?
- Nathan tells the story with sheep and according to Exodus 22:1 the person with the many sheep has to give four to the person he took the chocolate from
- Person gets four chocolate bars

Story:

Probably all of us know the story of David and Bathsheba:

It was again time for war and all the Israelites went out to fight against the Ammonites, but for some reasons David stayed back in Jerusalem and practised some weird sleeping manners, he got up in the evening from his bed and walked around on the roof.

While he was wandering around he saw a beautiful women bathing and he decided to figure out who she was.

He heard from one of his men that this woman is Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah. He was at that time with all the other Israelites fighting against the Ammonites.

So David sent Messenger to get her and committed adultery with her.

Just a few days later Bathsheba realized that she is pregnant and told that David right away.

He looks for a way how he can get out of this terrible situation und gets Uriah from the Battlefield and sends him home, but he doesn't show to much interest in going home to his wife while the ark, Israel and Judah are staying in tents and his master and his masters men are camping on the open field.

Cause Uriah doesn't realize that he should go to his wife and David isn't able to hide his sin, he decides to send Uriah's master Joab a letter which basically says, that Joab should let Uriah die on the battlefield.

After Uriah is dead David takes Bathsheba as his wife and everything seems to be ok, nobody realized anything but "the thing David has done displeased the Lord".

Let us get the facts straight: David commits adultery and after he can't hide that, he murders Uriah, the wife's husband

While I was studying this scripture I wondered what happened to David that he acted like this?

Didn't he study the law enough and couldn't know all the rules?

For sure not, cause when Nathan comes and tells him the parable about the sheep he quoted Exodus 22:1 which says *If a man steals an ox or a sheep and slaughters it or sells it, he must pay back five head of cattle for the ox and four sheep for the sheep.*

He knew the law!

He knew that for adultery according to Leviticus 20:10 and murder according to Leviticus 24:17 he had to die, he knew that it was totally wrong.

David wasn't all the time like this, because God chose David as King of Israel and Judah, because he saw his good heart.

1 Sam 16:17: The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.

He was very sensitive to sin. When he cut off a piece of Saul's robe he realized right away that he did something wrong and went to Saul and apologized for that.

Some things in his heart changed, maybe it was the success, maybe it was all the money, maybe he wasn't happy with that what he got from God,... It was in anyway a slow fade. His heart didn't change from now to tomorrow, there were little actions which weren't normal for a king: He stayed in Jerusalem, while Kings were suppose to be with their army, he slept during the day and got up in the evening from his bed,...

That is David's story, what's about ours.

What are the parts in your life where your actions fall short? We don't like to talk about those parts of our life and I'm sure David liked it neither.

But Paul is pretty clear in Romans 3: 10-12 when he says:

10As it is written:

"There is no one righteous, not even one;

11there is no one who understands,

no one who seeks God.

12All have turned away,

they have together become worthless;

there is no one who does good,

not even one."[\[c\]](#)

Everybody of us is a Sinner, we fail daily.

That's a fact which I and you have to realize. Maybe it's just me, but I often think that I'm a pretty good Person which does a really good job in living a Christian life and then

it is once in a while really good for me to realize that I'm very often angry, unloving, jealous,...

David comes to this realization and confesses in 2 Samuel 12:13 "I have sinned".

No more excuses, just the straight facts.

Adams excuse probably would have been in this situation: "You made this women bathing in front of my eyes, you God even created her. And in anyway, this women came to me, I didn't go to her"

That is the impressive thing about David, he doesn't come up with any excuses, he just confesses.

And God forgives him, he takes away the death penalty, Nathan promises him, that he isn't going to die for that.

Jesus died for us and took away the death penalty for us. He died so that we can live.

He takes away the death penalty but our sins still have consequences.

And it also had for David some really hard consequences. He took the life away from one Person and four of David sons died.

His son Absalom makes Verse 11 true, when he takes over the Kingdom and David has to flee out of Israel (2 Sam 15: 1-17). Absalom also pitched a tent on the roof on the palace *and he lay with his father's concubines in the sight of all Israel. (2Sam 16:22)*

Sin also has consequences in our life. It destroys relationships and trust, it hurts people around us.

At Kids Alive, the kids programme I work with, we have so many kids which suffer under those consequences.

David accepted those consequences in his life. He realized that it was his fault that his son had to die. He brought those consequences over his life, not God.

After his son died, David went to the temple and worshiped God (2Sam 12:20) and in 1 Kings 15:5 it says that *David had done what was right in the eyes of the LORD and had not failed to keep any of the LORD's commands all the days of his life—except in the case of Uriah the Hittite.*

He changed the attitude of his heart.

Paul describes this Process in Colossians 3: 8-9 as striping of yourself from anger, rage, slander,... and putting on a new self, which is renewed in the image of Christ.

Nathan had to come and remind David about that and we can learn from his story that

1. we are all sinners
2. we need to recognize the sin in our life
3. we need to ask for forgiveness
4. we have to live with the consequences of our sin
5. we need to let our hearts be changed by God

I know that I'm just able to touch this topic in one sermon and I want to challenge you to meditate over those five points

David wrote a Psalm after he got the visit from Nathan the Prophet and I want to conclude this sermon with David words from Psalm 51

Psalm 51

For the director of music. A psalm of David. When the prophet Nathan came to him after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba.

- 1 Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your unfailing love;
according to your great compassion
blot out my transgressions.
- 2 Wash away all my iniquity
and cleanse me from my sin.
- 3 For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is always before me.
- 4 Against you, you only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are proved right when you speak
and justified when you judge.
- 5 Surely I was sinful at birth,
sinful from the time my mother conceived me.
- 6 Surely you desire truth in the inner parts [a] ;
you teach [b] me wisdom in the inmost place.
- 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.
- 13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will turn back to you.
- 14 Save me from bloodguilt, O God,
the God who saves me,
and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.
- 15 O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.
- 16 You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;
you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.
- 17 The sacrifices of God are [c] a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart,
O God, you will not despise.
- 18 In your good pleasure make Zion prosper;
build up the walls of Jerusalem.
- 19 Then there will be righteous sacrifices,
whole burnt offerings to delight you;
then bulls will be offered on your altar.