

God Honors Godly Repentance II

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Last time we covered the sorrow of the world vs Godly sorrow, which is repentance. Repentance is a two-way affair. Once we reach a point that we know that we need God's help and cry out to Him, then He begins to deal with us and helps lead us to repentance, as we yield to Him.

As we saw, repentance is a lifelong thing we do because it's impossible to be perfect in the flesh. We are to be perfected as God's workmanship. The final perfection will not come until the resurrection.

Hebrews 11:6: "Now, without faith *it is* impossible to please God..." You have to believe that God is, therefore you have to:

- prove that He exists; that's evident by the creation (Rom. 1).

He's given that so we know.

- proved by the Word of God
- proved by the fact that we have troubles and difficulties and don't know how to get out of them

"...For it is mandatory *for* the one who comes to God to believe that exists... [everything that He is] ...and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him" (v 6). We find here that this is the same wording that God uses in telling the children of Israel to diligently keep His commandments.

Let's look at an example of two kinds of repentance.

1. there is the repentance unto salvation
2. there is the repentance that is not really repentance

There are several things that we can learn out of this one. The first one is about the widow who kept praying and going to the judge. 'Avenge me! Avenge me!' Eventually he did, which tells us that *we need to persistent in our prayers, persistent in approaching God!* Never give up praying because the answer has not yet arrived.

Luke 18:8: "I tell you that He will execute vengeance for them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of man comes, shall He find the *true* faith on the earth?"

Look at the way it's going. Now the in-thing is Chrislam. Things from the Koran, things from the Bible, preparing the way for the coming one-world religion. Just think what a glorious thing that human beings are going to think that has been worked out

- when there is peace and security
- when they have a world government

- when all the religions are working together and not fighting each other

People are going to say, 'We finally have arrived.'

There is another thing with people in the Church of God, which was also a problem with the Pharisees, Sadducees, and so forth. They knew they had arrived. For the Church, you all know what that is called. That starts with a big capital 'L'—Laodiceanism—the lack of diligence.

Verse 9: "And to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others, He also spoke this parable: 'Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one *was* a Pharisee and the other a tax collector'" (vs 9-10). One was supposed to be really righteous. Tax collectors are the most hated, even today.

Verse 11: "The Pharisee stood and prayed with himself in this manner..." He supposed he was praying to God. So there are some prayers you need to repent of because you are praying to yourself, you're not praying to God. But notice that he thought he was. Instead of saying, 'God, forgive me for being a sinner'

The Pharisee said: "...'God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unrighteous, adulterers—or even as this tax collector'" (v 11).

The things that he mentioned there, those who believe in God should not be doing. But this is kind of a small case of 'Jobitis,' because Job did what God told him to do. He thought that he was doing this on his own. Most people misunderstand the book of Job, because he actually wanted to have a trial with God with a 'betwixman' or an attorney. God on one side and Job on the other side. 'I would prove to God how righteous I am.' We'll see the end result of that in just a bit.

Verse 12: "'I fast twice in the week, and I give a tithe of everything that I gain.' And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat himself on *the* chest, saying, 'God be merciful to me, a sinner'" (vs 12-13).

Stop and think! Why is repentance absolutely necessary? *Because the human heart is so deceitful and desperately wicked and thinks it's right.* Think of all the excuses that come into your mind when you do something that is not right, and especially if you compare yourself with others. It tells us one thing very important:

1. God is looking to the heart

2. no one can read anyone else's mind
Only God knows the heart! So, the Pharisee was judging this man down here, because he was not like him. The tax collector knew what a miserable sinner he was.

Jesus said, v 14: "I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself shall be humbled; and the one who humbles himself shall be exalted." Comparison between the two types of repentance. This is a self-righteous approach to God.

Remember the prodigal son. Remember the brother. After the son came home, totally repentant, the father was happy and joyful. The brother came in and says, 'What's all this noise?' The servant came out, 'Your brother's here and your father has made a feast.' The brother said, 'He never even gave me a goat so I could have a feast with my friends.' So again, you have these two opposite things.

Let's look and see how God looks at it. In Jer. 15 is repeated repentance without works. You must have repentance *with* works. Look at how God starts this out:

Jeremiah 15:1: "Then the LORD said to me, 'Though Moses and Samuel stood before Me, My soul *could not be* toward this people. Cast *them* out of My sight, and let them go out.'" How many times did Jeremiah give them warning so they could repent? *He says He's going to cast them out!*

Verse 6: "'You have forsaken Me,' says the LORD; 'you have gone backward; therefore I will stretch out My hand against you, and destroy you; I am weary with repenting.'"

The *worldly* repentance: 'Oh, God, forgive me,' and then go out and do something else that's sinning. 'Oh, God, forgive me,' but never really desiring to change in the mind and in the heart, as we learned last week, that we have to change our thoughts, how we think. What is it in here? With 'the law of sin and death' being there and God's Spirit being there, we find something very unusual taking place. ***The more that you yield to God, and with the Spirit of God, the more that you begin to understand how desperately wicked and deceitful and conniving and tricky the human mind is!***

Just like Satan: He comes along with something that appears good and will be a benefit. Then he gradually leads people down the road to greater and greater sin. That's exactly how the human mind works. "...I am weary with repenting."

We will see the opposite of this. This is why there are disasters. I can understand people having no knowledge of the Word of God, having no knowledge of God's plan, so they look and see how God destroys people for their sins.

We need to look at it a little differently, from this point of view:

- How great is God?
- How great is His plan

And what God wants to do for us is so important that *He only selects those for conversion by calling and the person answers!*

For the others, He lets terrible things happen, because there is a second resurrection. That tells you another thing that's very important. God's plan is so great that even though He cuts these people off, lets them go through horrible things—think about during WWII, there were probably close to 100-million people killed. How many since then?

I was reading a comment by an atheist and why he started his atheist organization and being against the Bible. He said, 'There's so much killing, there's so much bludgeoning, there's so much blood and guts, and God intervenes and does a lot of it, so why should I believe in God.' I thought: How can he believe that he can do better, when look at what the world is going through? *Blood, guts and gore, famine, and all these things!* God is going to take care of it.

That tells us that ***God's plan has got to be so fantastic*** that it's worth every bit of it. ***God's love for people is so great*** He's going to give them a second physical life. That's why He gave free moral agency. God will never intervene with free moral agency. *You choose!* Everything we do is a choice.

When all hell breaks loose in the Middle East and the army is coming and the wars and disasters are there:

Joel 2:12: "'Therefore, even now,' says the LORD, 'turn to Me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning.'" Think about that; think about the book of Revelation.

What happens in Rev. 6? *The seals are let loose: famine, starvation, war, all kinds of horrible things taking place, martyrdom of the saints!* Then God intervenes with the sign of the Son of man in heaven and rips the heavens open. The earth is going to be totally startled.

What happens in Rev. 7? *The 144,000 and the great innumerable multitude!* Is that the result of verses 12-14? *Right in the middle of it, because they repent!*

Verse 13: **Yes, rend your heart and not your garments, and return to the LORD your God: for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and He repents of**

the evil.” Think of that! Right in the middle of doing it. ***That is Godly repentance!***

Now let’s look at some examples here that we need to go through. Let’s see how God looks at things compared to how men look at things. Always remember this: What did Jesus say, in giving the Sermon on the Mount and the Beatitudes, after going through many different things about how we need to conduct our lives. He said, ‘Don’t swear by heaven, that’s where God lives. Don’t swear by Jerusalem, that’s the city of the Great God. ***Let your ‘yes’ be yes and your ‘no’ be no!***’ Remember that.

Test yourself mentally this week. When you resolve something in your mind and say, ‘Yes, I’m going to do it,’ do you strive to do it or do you look for a way to not do it? Have you had the argument back and forth in your mind, ‘I will/I won’t, I will/I won’t.’ We all do. When you concentrate on thinking of that in your mind, when you’re thinking something—because we’re always speaking to ourselves, one way or the other—think about when you determine to do something and then look at how your human nature comes up with, ‘*yea, but...*’

Then stop and think, what is the determination that I need to do, to do the ‘Yes’? ***Because God judges the heart and the thoughts, He expects our outward obedience to be good!*** Even carnal people, without the Spirit of God, can do good outwardly. But ***the conversion of the mind requires repentance and the will to do it!***

Jesus is talking here to the Pharisees and the priests, Matthew 21:28: “But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first one and said, ‘Son, go work in my vineyard today.’ And he answered *and* said, ‘I will not’... [definite *no*] ...but afterwards he repented *and* went” (vs 28-29).

Notice the connection with repentance when you think of something and make a decision that is not right, and you knew it wasn’t right when you made the decision. Then you need to repent and you need to go do something. In this case, go work in the field.

Verse 30: “Then he came to the second *son* and said the same thing. And he answered *and* said, ‘Sir, I will go’; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of the father?” They said to Him, ‘The first *one*,’ Jesus said to them, ‘I tell you truly, the tax collectors and *the* harlots are going into the Kingdom of God before you” (vs 30-31). They thought they were standing on the threshold.

Verse 32: “For John came to you in *the* way of righteousness, and you did not believe him; but the tax collectors and *the* harlots believed him. Yet, you, after seeing *this*, did not afterwards repent and believe him.” ***No Godly repentance!***

Remember what Hezekiah did in showing all the booty, all of the plunder that the Syrian armies left when God sent the angels to kill the Syrians. The ambassadors from Babylon came over because they heard the army was destroyed. They wanted to find out what happened.

Hezekiah welcomed them and then he said, ‘Look at all the treasure that we have from it.’ Isaiah was sent to ask Hezekiah what they saw. He said, ‘Everything.’ Isaiah said, ‘It’s all going to Babylon.’ The punishment started after he died. Part of it was because the people did not want to follow God. They wanted to have their own worship system.

The greatest sin that people have, beginning with Cain, and all the way down through history is that men and women think that they can improve on a perfect God. They figure out, ‘We don’t want to do this; we don’t want to do that, that God says, but we’ll do this over here. And, God, by the way, we have a good idea, so we’re going to add to it.’ That’s how the Christian world got deceived in everything. This is going to show us several things:

- sin in a very determined way
- repentance and mercy by God, in another way
- how we need to react once we repent.

2-Chronicles 33:1: “Manasseh *was* twelve years old when he began to reign, and he reigned fifty-five years in Jerusalem.” I used to think when Clinton was in office, ‘Think of 55-years of Clinton.’ Now I can say, ‘Think of 55-years of Barak Obama!’

Verse 2: “But he did *that which was* evil in the sight of the LORD...” Beginning at 12 are children held responsible for their actions? *Yes, indeed!* But he probably had a lot of senior advisors telling him, ‘Look, if you want to please the people—your father was righteous and he was a good man—you really need to let them have more freedom. You really need to let them do whatever they need to do because freedom is what we want.’ Sound like a good idea? Still alive and well today.

“...like the abominations of the heathen whom the LORD had cast out before the children of Israel, For he built again the high places which Hezekiah his father had broken down...” (vs 2-3). Think how happy that made the people. ‘Oh, he’s a good king. He’s restoring our freedom of religion.’

“...and he reared up altars for Baalim, and made groves, and worshiped all the host of heaven, and served them” (v 3). Look at what the king is doing. Isn’t that wonderful?

Verse 4: “And he built altars in the house of the LORD, of which the LORD had said, ‘In Jerusalem shall My name be forever.’ And he built

altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the LORD. And he caused his sons to pass through the fire in the valley of the son of Hinnom. He also observed times, and used enchantments, and sued witchcraft, and dealt with a familiar spirit, and with wizards. He did much evil in the sight of the LORD to provoke Him to anger” (vs 4-6).

Some people because they don't understand about repentance may feel that they have sinned so much that God can't forgive them. Have you sinned as much as Manasseh? For 55-years? He didn't get his 'comeuppance' until he was 67. Maybe a few years at the end we could bring it up there and say maybe 60, because we'll see the circumstances involved.

Verse 7: “And he set a carved image, the idol which he had made, in the house of God... [just like Aaron building the golden calf] ...of which God had said to David and to Solomon his son, ‘In this house, and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen before all the tribes of Israel, I will put My name forever. Nor will I any more remove the foot of Israel from out of the land which I have set apart for your fathers—**if** only they will heed to do all that I have commanded them, according to the whole law and the statutes and the ordinances by the hand of Moses.’ But Manasseh led astray Judah and the people of Jerusalem...” (vs 7-9). Just like today, people are led into sin.

“...and caused them to do worse than the nations whom the LORD had destroyed before the children of Israel. And the LORD spoke to Manasseh and to His people... [through His prophets] ...but they would not listen. Wherefore, the LORD brought upon them the commanders of the army of the king of Assyria, who took Manasseh with hooks and bound him with chains and carried him to Babylon” (vs 9-11). That's when the Assyrians ruled Babylon.

- How bad can it get? *These are pretty bad circumstances!*
- Can you even, in the worst circumstances you find yourself, repent and change? *Yes!*
- Will God forgive you? *Yes!*
- Will He lift His judgment against you? *Yes!*

Notice what happened when Manasseh was in affliction. This is why we have trials and difficulties; don't be surprised when they come. We are living in a world full of contradictions; they will always be there. Learn from it! Understand from it!

Verse 12: “And when he was in affliction, he sought the LORD his God and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers.” That's quite a thing. Imagine what his repentance was like, there in

chains in the dungeons in Babylon; in some sorrow in the world.

In the case of Manasseh, when he repented, he had the action to go change things. The question came up: What if someone murdered someone and he's in prison. You can repent in prison, but your chances of getting out are slim to none. Perhaps in some unusual case it may work. Here in this case it's a little different and God was showing what repentance really means and how you need to have a lot of action on your part to put away sin.

Why do we have the Feast of Unleavened Bread? *We put out leaven!* That is only a token to remind us we need to put out sin out of our minds. A little leaven leavens the whole lump.

Here's what he did, v 15: “And he took away the strange gods and the idol out of the house of the LORD, and all the altars that he had built in the mountain of the house of the LORD and in Jerusalem, and threw *them* out of the city.” ***That's real repentance!***

Verse 16: “And he repaired the altar of the LORD and sacrificed upon it peace offerings and thank-offerings. And he commanded Judah to serve the LORD God of Israel. But the people still sacrificed in the high places, *but only* to the LORD their God” (vs 16-17).

How long was this? Since he reigned 55-years, *let's say this occurred the last seven years of his life*, which would be age 60-67. He started reigning at 12 and reigned 55 years.

Let's see another kind of repentance, which will help lead people to righteousness if they will follow. That is found in 2-Chron. 34.

(go to the next track)

Here we see a very interesting pattern with the next king: Josiah. His grandfather was Manasseh and his father was Amon; both were evil. It's very interesting that as you study 1st and 2nd Chronicles, you have a good king and you have an evil king. Chronicles only covers the city of Jerusalem and the kings of Judah. Whereas, 1st and 2nd Kings covers the city of Jerusalem, the kings of Judah *and* the kings of Israel. ***None of the kings of Israel ever repented!***

Ahab did from a deed that he committed—murder and taking over a field—but *he never repented to return to God!* Now we have quite a situation here that Josiah started out even younger than Manasseh,

2-Chronicles 34:1: “Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned in Jerusalem thirty-one years.”

He began to clean up all the groves, get rid of the idolatrous places where the people worshiped and began to open up the temple. So, they delivered the money to Hilkiah the priest to open the temple, and so forth. They all did the work faithfully.

Verse 14: “And when they were bringing out the money that was brought into the house of the LORD, Hilkiah the priest found the Book of the Law of the LORD *written* by the hand of Moses.”

That shows you how far away from God that they were. They finally got in and cleaned out the Holy of Holies. Where the Book of the Law should have been stored there were special sleeves on the side of the Ark of Covenant that Moses instructed them to put all the books of the Law. So, they found the Book of the Law.

Verse 15: “And Hilkiah answered and said to Shaphan the scribe, ‘I have found the Book of the Law in the house of the LORD.’ And Hilkiah delivered the book to Shaphan. And Shaphan carried the book to the king and brought the king word back again, saying, ‘All that was given into the hands of yours servants they are doing. And they gathered together the money that was found in the house of the LORD, and delivered it into the hands of the overseers and to the hands of the workmen.’ And Shaphan the scribe told the king, saying, ‘Hilkiah the priest has given me a book.’ And Shaphan read it before the king” (vs 15-18).

This also tells you what needs to be done by people who understand about God, but don’t understand what God is doing or His commandments. Maybe have some acquaintance with it. But here again we see how a leader affected all of those under him. You can take this principle, you can apply it to a church. You can apply it to whatever you want to apply it, and it will be the same.

Verse 19: “And it came to pass when the king heard the words of the Law, he tore his clothes.... [in repentance] ...And the king commanded Hilkiah, and Ahikam the son of Shaphan, and Abdon the son of Micah, and Shaphan the scribe, and Asaiah a servant of the king, saying, ‘Go inquire of the LORD for me and for those who are left in Israel and in Judah, concerning the words of the book that has been found, for great *is* the wrath of the LORD that is poured out upon us because our fathers have not kept the Word of the LORD to do according to all that is written in this book” (vs 19-21).

It got so bad, and here is another testimony. When those who are supposed to be the leaders do not lead the way that they should and do not teach, in this case the way of the priest and the Levites, that there was a faithful woman, Huldah.

Verse 22: “And Hilkiah, and those of the king, went to Huldah the prophetess, the wife of Shallum the son of Tikvath, the son of Hasrah, the keeper of the robes. (And she lived in Jerusalem in the second quarter.) And they spoke to her about this.”

What does that tell you? *There wasn’t a priest who was doing what he should be doing!* The Levites were not doing what they should be doing. This was really a tremendous revival, starting from the worst circumstances you could suppose.

Verse 23: “And she answered them, ‘Thus says the LORD God of Israel, ‘Tell the man who sent you to me. ‘Thus says the LORD: “Behold, I will bring evil upon this place and upon its people, *even* all the curses that are written in the book which they have read before the king of Judah...”’”

This pretty well indicates that they were reading the book of Deuteronomy about all the blessings and the curses. He was there. He could see that all these things were taking place with the people.

Verse 25: “Because they have forsaken Me and have burned incense to other gods, so that they might provoke Me to anger with all the works of their hands. And My wrath shall be poured out upon this place and shall not be quenched.”

Remember what we read in Joel 2, that if you repent God will lift His hand. I think we see that as we mentioned, in Rev. 7. Those people will know that it’s the hand of God bringing everything there as found in the book of Revelation, so they repent.

Verse 26: “And as for the king of Judah, who sent you to inquire of the LORD, so shall you say to him, ‘Thus says the LORD God of Israel *concerning* the words you have heard, ‘Because your heart *was* tender... [that’s what repentance brings, a soft and a tender heart] ...and you humbled yourself before your God when you heard His words against this place and against its people, and humbled yourself before Me, and tore your clothes and wept before Me, I have even heard *you* also,’ says the LORD” (vs 26-27).

Very interesting. Makes you wonder: did the men tell them what Josiah did? *Probably!* And God inspired this response.

Verse 28: “Behold, I will gather you to your fathers, and you shall be gathered to your grave in peace, nor shall your eyes see all the evil that I will bring upon this place and upon this people.’ And they brought the king word again.”

What did he do? *He gathered them all together, a special revival!* It was one of the greatest revivals recorded in the Bible. He gathered them all.

Verse 30 “And the king went up into the house of the LORD, and all the men of Judah, and the people of Jerusalem, and the priests, and the Levites, and all the people from the great to *the* small. And he read in their ears all the words of the Book of the Covenant that was found in the house of the LORD. And the king stood in his place and made a covenant before the LORD to walk after the LORD and to keep His commandments and His testimonies and His statutes with all his heart and with all his soul, to perform the words of this covenant which are written in this book (vs 30-31).

He caused them all to put away all their idolatry and all their gods and then they had a great Passover and revival, as recorded in 2-Chr. 35.

Josiah died because he wouldn't listen. He wanted to go out to a battle, and he was told not to go. He dressed up as an ordinary soldier and went anyway and got shot with an arrow and died. Then everything else began to fall. When he died, that's when Jeremiah wrote the book of Lamentations, because he knew what was coming.

Let's look at another instance here with David. This tells us ***we are never to take God for granted*** and ***we are never to assume that since God is with us, we have license to sin or license to abuse the authority that God has given!***

David had won all the battles, helped finish conquering the land. He was also in his house. He wanted to do something really good for God, which God commended him for.

2-Samuel 7:1: “And it came to pass when the king dwelt in his house, and when the LORD had given him rest round about from all his enemies, The king said to Nathan the prophet, ‘See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the Ark of God dwells within curtains’” (vs 1-2).

He had a special room in his house where he had a special tabernacle. The Ark of God was there and Asaph and the other Levites with him were the ones who officiated there. The tabernacle and the burnt altars were up in Gideon, away from where the Ark was. It wasn't brought together until the temple was finished by Solomon.

Verse 3: “Then Nathan said to the king, ‘Go, do all that *is* in your heart, for the LORD *is* with you.’” God's answer to David is important that we understand this, because there are times when we know that things are really right with God and we are really right with God. Here's an example with David. Look at how wonderful that this was.

God came and told him through Nathan, v 5: “Go and tell My servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD, “Shall you build Me a house for My dwelling? For I have not dwelt in a house since the

day that I brought up the children out of Egypt until this day, but have walked in a tent, and in a tabernacle’” (vs 5-6). God Himself is humble. He doesn't need all of that.

Verse 7: “In all *places* in which I have walked with all the children of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the tribes of Israel, *those* whom I commanded to feed My people Israel, saying, ‘Why do you not build Me a house of cedars?’ Now, therefore, thus shall you say to My servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts: “I took you from the sheeppcote, from following the sheep, to be prince over My people, over Israel.... [gave him great victories, gave him great battles] ...And I was with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies out of your sight, and have made you a great name like the name of the great ones in the earth. Moreover, I will appoint a place for My people Israel, and will plant them... [prophecy of Israel being moved to where it is at the end times here] ...so that they may dwell in a place of their own, and move no more. Neither shall the sons of wickedness afflict them any more, as before’” (vs 7-10).

He reiterates what happened with the judges, and so forth; then He says, v 12: “And when your days are fulfilled, and you shall sleep with your fathers... [he only lived to be 70 years old] ...I will set up your seed after you who shall come forth from your loins. And I will make his kingdom sure. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom for forever” (vs 12-13).

Then He gave the promise that there would never, never lack a man sitting on his throne. God has kept that.

Let's see what happened. Have you ever experienced in your life where you did something that was really, really good, according to the will of God and you felt really good about it? *You knew that God had given you a blessing because of it!* Then given a little time, you do something really terribly wrong. David did!

This time, instead of going out to war, 2-Samuel 11:1: “...David remained at Jerusalem. And it came to pass one evening, David arose from his bed and walked upon the roof of the king's house. And from the roof *he saw* a woman bathing. And the woman *was* very beautiful to look upon.... [he should have stopped, right there; he had different opportunities coming along] ...And David sent and asked about the woman. And *one* said, ‘*Is* not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?’” (vs 1-3).

What should he have done at this point? *He should have said, ‘No, that's his wife.’* The choice is involved. David was converted. He had the Spirit of

God, but *he let his human nature and his authority* take over. So, he found out who it was. Then he had another choice.

Verse 4: “And David sent messengers and took her. And she came in to him and he lay with her...” She also had choices, too. She should have told the messengers, ‘No, my husband is gone to war. I can’t leave the house.’

“...And when she had purified herself from her uncleanness, she returned to her house” (v 4).

Think about all the servants in the king’s house. That was the time they didn’t have cell phones or Twitter, but they had tongues that were like little birds and they did the ‘tweeting,’ knowing what had happened and what had gone on. *Trouble!* When you think you can get away with sin, you find out you can’t.

Verse 5: “And the woman conceived...” This means it must have been quite a few weeks from the instance before she understood she was pregnant.

“...and sent and told David, and said, ‘I am with child’” (v 5). Oh oh, how are you going to handle this problem? *David thought about it!* What he **should have done** was go pray to God and repent immediately and ask God’s advice on what to do. But he didn’t.

Verse 6: “And David sent to Joab... [his general] ...saying, ‘Send me Uriah the Hittite.’ And Joab sent Uriah to David. And when Uriah had come to him, David asked how Joab did... [putting on a façade] ...and how the people did, and how the war went” (vs 6-7). Uriah told him how the war was going. David is being magnanimous. “I’m going to give you a benefit.’ But he had in his mind, ‘I’m going to cover my tracks.’

Verse 8: “And David said to Uriah, ‘Go down to your house and wash your feet.’ And Uriah left the king’s house. And a gift from the king went out after him.” But Uriah was smarter than David:

- Why would the king do this to me?
- Why would the king have me in here?
- Why would he tell me to go be with my wife?

After all, it was right close to where the king lived.

Verse 9: “But Uriah slept at the door of the king’s house with all the servants of his lord and did not go down to his house.” Can you imagine all the ‘twitter-patting’ tongues with that?

Verse 10: “And they told David, saying, ‘Uriah did not go to his house... [David thought, ‘this is not going well.’] ...And David said to Uriah, ‘Did you not come from a journey? Why have you not gone down to your house?’ And Uriah said to David, ‘The Ark and Israel and Judah abide in tents.

And my lord Joab, and the servants of my lord, are camped in the open fields. Shall I then go to my house to eat and to drink and to lie with my wife? As you live, and *as your soul lives*, I will not do this thing’ And David said to Uriah, ‘Stay here today also, and tomorrow I will let you go.’ And Uriah stayed in Jerusalem that day and the next day. And when David had called him, he ate and drank before him. And he made him drunk. And at evening he went out to lie on his bed with the servants of his lord, but he did not go down to his house. And it came to pass in the morning, David wrote a letter to Joab and sent *it* by the hand of Uriah.” (vs 10-14).

Carrying his own death sentence. The letter written, but sealed with the king’s seal. What happened? *David thought, ‘I’ll solve the problem; he will die in battle!* So Joab, in the middle of the battle, when it’s hot and heavy, back away and leave Uriah alone.’ Joab knew what that was. **A little leaven leavens the whole lump**, and it started with that he saw her from the roof of his house. He should have stopped it right there. This affected not only the king, but the whole kingdom for the rest of his reign.

So then, after Uriah was dead, v 25: “Then David said to the messenger, ‘So you shall say to Joab, “Do not let this thing displease you, for the sword devours one as well as another... [you’re going to die in battle anyway] ...Make your battle stronger against the city and overthrow it. And you encourage him.”’ And the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband *was* dead, and mourned for her husband” (vs 25-26). Adding insult to injury.

Verse 27: “And when her mourning was past, David sent and brought her to his house...” Can you imagine the whole kingdom in an uproar over this. Sound like some things we went through in the Church. *Yes, indeed!*

“...and she became his wife and bore him a son...” (v 27). The moral of this account is this: **Be sure your sins will find you out!** That’s why we need Godly repentance. That’s why we need to be alert to things as they come along and don’t let everything get leavened with sin.

Look at everything that he did to try and overcome this. Now she was pregnant when she came. Let’s see what God did. God sent Nathan to David. He gave him a parable about a rich man and a poor man. A rich man had some come as company, and instead of killing his own lamb, he took the lamb of the poor man. David got all mad.

2-Samuel 12:5: “...‘As the LORD lives, the man who has done this shall surely die. And he shall restore the lamb fourfold because he did this thing, and because he had no pity,’ And Nathan said to David... [looked him right in the eye] ...‘You are

the man! Thus says the LORD God of Israel, “I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you out of the hand of Saul. And I gave you your master’s house and your master’s wives into your bosom, and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah. And if that *was* too little, I would have given to you such and such *things* besides. Why have you despised the Word of the LORD to do evil in His sight? You have stricken Uriah the Hittite with the sword and have taken his wife *to be* your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the children of Ammon”” (vs 5-9). This is to teach us that:

- you never can get away with sin
- you can never do anything to substitute for true repentance

He shouldn’t have allowed this thing to develop the way that it did. Here’s the punishment. Remember, ***when the one who is in charge sins, it affects everyone around him and beneath him!*** Look what happened in our church experience. Did it affect the whole church? *Yes, indeed, everyone.*

Verse 10: “Now therefore, the sword...” Remember where we started: he had rest from all of his enemies; no more war. Look at what we are entangled with because of our sins as a nation. Perpetual war, now within our gates. Not yet with terrorists, but with rioters killing police.

“...shall never depart from your house because you have despised Me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.’ Thus says the LORD, ‘Behold, I will raise up evil against you out of your own house, and I will take your wives before your eyes and give *them* to your neighbor. And he shall lie with your wives in the sight of the sun”” (vs 10-11). Right this very day it’s going to start.

Verse 12: “‘For you did *it* secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel and before the sun.’ And 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. Only, because by this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, this child born to you shall surely die.’ And Nathan left to go to his house. And the LORD struck the child that Uriah’s wife bore to David, and it was very sick”” (vs 12-15). Then the child died.

David did learn, but he did not have peace from his enemies until just before he was ready to die. Here is great Godly repentance. What we want to learn from this is that if we sin—which we do—and we let things get out of hand because we make wrong choices—which can happen—***God will forgive us upon really Godly repentance!*** But then we have to do as Jesus said to those that He healed: ***Go and sin no more!*** Here is the prayer that caused

God to forgive David for what he did, *but the penalty still remained!*

Psalm 51:1: “Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your loving kindness; according to the greatness of Your compassion, blot out my transgressions.”

He had many, all of his schemes. As king he thought he could get away with it, abused his authority, committed adultery, planned and schemed, and it affected all Israel. You go back and read how miserable David’s life was after that. Absalom rebelled!

What he had done with Bathsheba so affected all of Israel that when David was escaping to get away from Absalom, one man came and cursed him. Joab said, ‘Let me do him in; let me kill him; he cursed you.’ David said, ‘No, leave him alone; I deserve it.’

- Verse 2: “Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin”—inside:
- in the mind
- in the heart
- in the emotion

Verse 3: “For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done evil in Your sight, that You might be justified when You speak and be in the right when You judge. Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity...” (vs 2-5). Not that his mother was sinning, but that he had *the law of sin and death in him*, like all human beings.

“...and in sin did my mother conceive me. Behold, **You desire Truth in the inward parts...**” (vs 5-6). That’s what God wants. That’s why we have the Feast of Unleavened Bread every year, so that we realize ***this is a process to get our minds converted*** from being desperately wicked and evil, not knowing how to live our lives, *to becoming like Christ and having the mind of Christ!* That is a miracle that God is doing. God has to do that within us with His Spirit. We are His workmanship. Within, to change is why we have the battle going on.

Let’s look at it this way: Since what God has is so great for us, it’s very hard for us to realize how fantastic it’s going to be to be a son or daughter of God and live forever—at the resurrection you’re born again. So, view it this way.

When your mother was pregnant with you and at about six months she began talking to you, because you can hear at about six months. She would tell you all of the lovely things that she’s going to do for you.

She was telling you about the wonderful bedroom that you're going to have and the lovely crib with all the toys and how she's going to fix special things for you. As you grew up you'd get some things that you can enjoy and you'll have your own tricycle and your own bicycle and all of these things. We're going to do thus-and-such for you.

So, at seven, eight months, getting into the ninth month, he's in there moving around, sucking his thumb, or whatever, because they are practicing for nursing, so they suck their thumbs, and you're born. You understood nothing of what your mother told you, though you could hear it. You could not conceive of anything like that, because your existence was in this big water pouch.

When you were born—by the way that's being *born of water*—here you are. Now you've got to go through the whole process of living, growing, learning, and so forth. Then you can become a full-fledged adult. As a full-fledged adult you need to learn more and more.

I'll explain it this way. A couple of weeks ago I was having a doctor look at my feet. I was trying to tell him what I had gone through for three years, and so forth. I'm still having foot affliction. I have mystery feet. No one knows what it is. He was a young doctor and he was trying to reassure me that he was competent. He said, 'I have studied for seven years.' I said, 'I have studied for 55 years.' That reminds me of what this is.

When we enter into the Kingdom of God it is going to be so great that even the things listed in the Bible to tell us what it will be like cannot possibly describe it, anymore than you could tell your child in your womb, ready to be born, what it's going to be like when he or she is born into the world. You can't! *God has provided the way with His Spirit, with His Word:*

- to understand His Word
- to understand the righteousness of God
- to understand that we need to be perfected in a process

That's why we keep the Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread every year. The whole key is here is Psa. 51.

Verse 6: "You desire Truth in the inward parts; and in the hidden part You shall make me to know wisdom... [that's where it is] ...Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean..." (vs 6-7). This is the whole process of Godly repentance and the reason for it. We've seen at various stages in people's lives, as counted in the Bible, how repentance is necessary.

You just think about how Peter felt after he denied Christ three times on the Passover night. He

vowed up and down that he would never, never do it. He'd be willing to go to jail and death with Him. Jesus said, 'Nevertheless, you will.' Then when he denied Him the third time, within an eye's shot of Jesus, he looked at the Lord and the Lord looked at him. Imagine what he felt! Jesus forgave him for it, because He told him he would do it.

Verse 7: "Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow." What is the whole purpose of the Word of God and the Spirit of God? ***To be cleansed with the washing of the water by the Word!***

- the words that Jesus spoke are Spirit and Life
- the words of God are Spirit and Life
- the Holy Spirit working with our minds with the Word of God then does the cleansing

It is a process! We will never ever be rid of the problems of human nature until the resurrection. That doesn't mean that we are not to keep growing, changing, and repenting and overcoming.

What will happen when you have wisdom in the hidden parts, you will begin to understand the great sinfulness of sin.

- that's why we are to purge out those thoughts
- that's why we are to repent of them

Not do as David did, and carry them through in action. You repent of the temptation when it comes. Satan is there to throw a lot of them at us today. He's got every device in the world. So this is why we have to be strong-minded with the Spirit of God.

Verse 8: "Make me to hear joy and gladness that the bones which You have broken may rejoice. Hide Your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities" (vs 8-9). That comes through the sacrifice and blood of Jesus Christ.

Why Jesus had to die, and the way that He died, we'll be covering between now and the Passover.

This agrees with New Testament doctrine, v 10: "Create in me a clean heart, O God..." After all that he did, all the scheming, all the planning. It shows you the futility of human beings trying to cover their tracks in sin.

As I've mentioned before on *Forensic Files*, there was one, a man almost got away with murder, except for a cat hair, *one* cat hair!

Verse 10: "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me." Not double-mindedness. Let your 'yes' be *yes* and your 'no' be *no!* Steadfast spirit within me.

Verse 11: “Cast me not away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and let *Your* free spirit uphold me” (vs 11-12). ***That is real Godly repentance! God will always accept that!***

So, between now and the Passover, ***examine yourself***, come before God and ***let your prayers be meaningful!*** God will help you and forgive you. ***When you partake of the Passover, you will be renewing the New Covenant with God the Father and Jesus Christ!***

Scriptural References:

- 1) Hebrews 11:6
- 2) Luke 18:8-14
- 3) Jeremiah 15:1, 6
- 4) Joel 2:12-13
- 5) Matthew 21:28-32
- 6) 2-Chronicles 33:1-12, 15-17
- 7) 2-Chronicles 34:1, 14-28, 30-31
- 8) 2-Samuel 7:1-10, 12-13
- 9) 2-Samuel 11:1-14, 25-27
- 10) 2-Samuel 12:5-15
- 11) Psalm 51:1-12

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Romans 1
- Revelation 6; 7:12-14
- 1st and 2nd Kings
- 2-Chronicles 35

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