

KING DAVID'S GREAT FALL

Intro: Gardening woes - broken flower withers - We want to look at the man after God's own heart, David, as his faith sometimes withers after becoming king. We want to see his actions when confronted with sin, the forgiveness he receives, and the consequences he inherits. Psalm 51:1-4

- I. Even the most faithful may fall into grievous sin
 - A. King David - II Samuel 11 - Whole chapter - Let's theorize when this sin began. Something precipitated David's actions. Idleness; feeling unessential at this point; in his early 50's; II Samuel 3:1-5 - this is what kings did in the surrounding cultures - symbol of power - necessary for political alliances - but what did God say? Deut. 17:17. Note: Abraham and Jacob were also plagued with its consequences. Note: there is a wonder, weight and glory of a woman's beauty. It makes men crazy.
 - B. King Uzziah - 2 Chronicles 26:1-5; 15-21
 - C. King Solomon - I Kings 11:1-6 with Jeremiah 17:9
 - D. Peter - Luke 22:61,62 - "a painfully humiliating proof of the awful lengths to which the best of men may go when they forfeit the restraining grace of God." JFB
 - E. Recently plagued pastorates - "The sins of God's children go nearer to His heart than the sins of others . . . the sins of the wicked anger God, the sins of His own people grieve Him." Thomas Watson
- II. God will confront the faithful with troubling and painful conviction
 - A. II Samuel 12:1-9

'Sin is the burden of every good man's soul.' - Ralph Venning *Plague of Plagues*
 - B. Psalm 38:1-4; 18
 - C. John 16:8 - If conviction in the unsaved, then surely the saved
 - D. John 20
- III. Grievous sin brings consequences 12:10-14
 - A. Separation from God - Psalm 51:11; Isaiah 59:1; 64:7; Romans 8:7; Ephesians 2:1 - Adam and Eve and our own experience
 - B. Family - Amnon's sin go unpunished, Absalom's rebellion, the verbal abuse by Shimei, 4th son Adonijah's claim to the throne, etc.

C. Service in the church mitigated - Even when repented of. "Saul, by casting an amorous eye upon Agag, lost his crown and kingdom; Samson, by dallying with his Delilah, lost his strength, sight, light, liberty, and life. But what are these losses [compared] to thy loss of spiritual strength, to thy loss of communion with God, to thy loss of the Spirit of light, life, liberty and glory; to thy loss of joy unspeakable, and [the] peace that passeth understanding?" Thomas Brooks

D. Death - II Samuel 24:10-15; Acts 5; I Corinthians 11:27-30

"His heart was more often out of tune than his harp." Thomas Watson

IV. Sin and guilt can only be dealt with through repentance and God's forgiveness.

A. II Samuel 12:13

B. Psalm 25:11,18; Psalm 32:1-5 - this Psalm also seen as written after adultery

C. Isaiah 55:6,7; I John 1:7-9

V. God can bring good out of evil. "God would never permit evil, if He could not bring good out of evil." Augustine

A. I Corinthians 10:11 - Instruction

B. II Corinthians 1:3,4 - Ministry

C. Penitential Psalms - Sanctification - Psalm 6, 25, 32, 38, 51, 148

VI. Applying the whole

A. Be encouraged: God's Word is trustworthy - What will your eulogy include?

B. Recognize Satan's devices - "Satan has three titles given in the Scriptures, setting forth his malignity against the church of God; a dragon, to note his malice; a serpent, to note his subtlety; and a lion to note his strength." Edward Reynolds

C. Wear the full armor of God - ". . . spare [sin] not, for it will not spare you; it is your murderer, and the murderer of the world: use it, therefore, as a murderer should be used. Kill it before it kills you; and though it bring[s] you to the grave, as it did your Head [Jesus], it shall not be able to keep you there." Richard Baxter

D. Be a Psalm 51 pray-er - "Be quick to admit your foolishness. Run to the throne of grace. Speedily sue for peace. Then rest in the assurance of forgiveness and restoration in the arms of the Lord Jesus." D. S.