David 3

David: Flawed - Peter Burton

We have followed David's meteoric rise from being Forgotten (hidden) to Faithful. He was a loyal friend, courageous leader, wise king. God-fearing. Prayerful - inner life of belief and trust, leading to outer actions of obedience, justice and love. David is the bright hope of righteous leadership. Now catastrophe.

2 Sam 11v1-17

Half the 10 Commandments broken in one story! But note the following:

- Army at war juxtaposed with David being idle.
- Bathsheba: wife and daughter (humanised). Husband Uriah was one of David's Mighty Men. 2Sam 23v8ff
- "Sent" used 11x. David was detached from intimacy.
- Rush of verbs dispassionate: he sent, took, lay. She returned, conceived. No affection, just lust.
- Speech with Uriah: "Shalom" used 3x. False interest and David was working against Shalom.
- Uriah the Hittite not a child of the Torah but more righteous than David. He carried own death warrant.

We are all susceptible to sin

David was a man "*after God's own heart*" (1Sam 13v14) but messed up. This incident was a stain: 1Kings 15v5. We're all capable of doing this! "I could never do that" is the first step towards sin. (Arrogance!)

Win the small battles

What if David had looked away? You can choose your inputs but you can't control the outcomes. David reaped the consequences of his difficult decision for the rest of his life.

Concealing sin compounds sin

David: glance> inquiry> sex> lies> murder. Seed of sin can grow exponentially. Cf. cascade of Gen 3-11. Consider Ps 1v1 Stand, walk, sit. Progressive engagement. What seeds do we have? "I'm better than others" and "I'm worse than others" are both seeds that can grow into deceitful hearts. Don't lose contact with God - start each day with him and then dialogue with him during the day - it's a warning if the dialogue stops! Keep your heart soft and sensitive to God.

<u>2 Sam 12v1-7a</u>

God <u>sends</u> Nathan. Not to condemn but to tell a parable (a short story that draws you in). David got involved and displayed righteous anger. (David as king was a Judge for Israel). But, "YOU are that man" is Nathan's response. No condemnation but David was convicted. God always goes for conviction and conversion. *God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.* John 3v17.

Be a Nathan and find yourself some Nathans

Correction comes from those we trust. As we live we can help others. Heb 13v3 *Encourage (confront) one another. so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.* Talk honestly with others and be open to being challenged. (Don't use social media for correction! Meet in person).

God's grace is greater than you can image

David's sin was great but God's grace is greater. Ps 51 has 4 words for David's failings but 19 words for God's response! E Petersen: "It's always a mistake to concentrate our attention on our sins. It's God's work on our sins that is the main event" David was contrite (unlike Saul in 1 Sam 15) - he regretted and repented. And God displayed his character - he is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Ex 34v6-7

Response

- What part of this story speaks most to us?
- What "seeds of sin" are we facing? Does sharing help us to become accountable to one another?
- Why do we find it easier to condemn than find ways to let God speak positively through us?
- Who do we think are our Nathans? And who can we encourage?
- Can we learn the extract from Ex 34v6-7 (highlighted)?