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Dear God, What Happened to David?

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Series: God's Living Legends II

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INTO HIS LIKENESS RADIO

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Dear God, What Happened to David?

Dear God, 'twas just a harmless glance;
That shouldn't be so bad!
I walked up on my roof one day,
An innocent, restless lad.

I was all alone and had lots of time
Lord, all my troops were away!
I'd sent them off like a good king should
Right into the heat of the fray!

I would've gone right along with 'em, Lord
But I felt I deserved a rest
Lord, you know the years I fought the fight
As a soldier, I was the best!

But, Lord, you know you made me a king
What's a fella supposed to do?
If I'd a gone and fought and died
Just where would that leave you?

So I stayed at home and rested up
And that fateful afternoon
I just happened to take a casual glance
Then it all happened so soon

I lingered awhile and then I looked
And Lord, I just looked again
And before I knew it lust conceived
And soon, lust brought forth sin

And Lord, I took what was not mine
Bathsheba was her name
It seems I looked a mite too long
And now I'm faced with shame

The consequences have begun
The heat is on (and how)
The only question left, Dear Lord,
Is "What do I do now?"

Signed, Your Guilty King, David

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If only David had written that little poem, at least the rest of chapter 11 of II Samuel could be erased from the hall of infamous errors of Biblical judgment. But he didn't, and the text must remain as it is.

King David, the man of the hour, has just become David, the fool of the century. As we read so sadly last week, our hero lingered, looked, lusted, and took what was not his. And as we also concluded last week, it didn't have to happen. God had given to David a way of escape...again and again and again. But the arrows of temptation stung David at just the right time, and down he went. But the story gets worse before it gets better.

David, you see, at this point has two choices. He can face up and 'fess up, or he can clam up and cover-up. Unfortunately, he chose the latter, and we would be hard pressed to determine which was the greater sin, his adultery or the unbelievable charade that followed. It is hard indeed to even fathom that these verses were written about our King David. It is hard to believe that a man after God's own heart could stray so far and sink so low and, above all, that it could happen so fast. Hard to believe that is, until you look into the mirror.

There is, you know, something about a cover-up that is darker than the crime itself. A child can be much more easily forgiven a transgression against his parents' wishes if he owns up to it and faces the consequences; but if he lies like a fish when he's cornered, then you begin to doubt, not just his judgment, but his character.

A politician can make some brutal mistakes and be forgiven, as history reminds us; but a politician who lies and connives and covers up the truth when confronted, receives no mercy at all from the rank and file. Recent history confirms that fact.

When the heat is on, and the light of truth is about to focus its revealing glow on some sinister deed, the real essence of a man or woman seems to surface in how that man or woman owns up to the reality of what he or she has done. That is why this study of King David leaves us so grieved and leaves us so constrained, I trust, to examine our own lives and ask ourselves just how we respond when we're about to be found out for who and what we really are.

David has committed adultery; he knew in advance that the woman was the wife of Uriah, the Hittite. Now comes an airmail,

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special delivery letter from across the street saying, Dear David, I am expecting a child. The King of Israel is the Father. Love, Bathsheba.

David it seems, reads the letter in apparent disbelief and then does what any conniving worm would do, he sends for Uriah the Hittite—not to ‘fess up, mind you and face the consequences, but to lure the unsuspecting wronged hubby into a net with the potential possibility of setting King David free as a bird. Let’s read the sad story,

Then David sent to Joab, saying, “Send me Uriah the Hittite.”
And Joab sent Uriah to David, {ta dum, ta dum, ta dum! That is in the original.}

When Uriah had come to him, David asked how Joab was doing, and how the people were doing, and how the war prospered.
(II Samuel 11: 6,7 NKJV)

DEAR URIAH: HOW GOES THE BATTLE?

You can just see it now. Uriah is eating a double burger with cheese on the front lines with his buddies, and a memo comes from headquarters addressed to him, saying, please report home immediately. Do not pass Go. Head directly for the palace and a visit with King David.

“King David doesn’t even know my name!” Uriah probably exclaimed. “What could he possibly want with me?” At any rate, Uriah was a faithful, patriotic man, as the passage will reveal, and if the king calls, the soldier answers. So the homebound Hittite hits the outskirts of Jerusalem after days of walking in the hot sun, and soon he is standing alone in front of the famous giant-slayer himself. Awed, he asks, “What can I do for you, O King?”

“Just wanted a report on how the troops were doing on the front lines,” the king replies, “And who could give me a more accurate report than Uriah.” A little confused, Uriah, who did not know he was even known in the palace, gives a detailed blow-by-blow account of the conflict and the conquests, and King David pretends to listen as though he had been waiting breathlessly for this latest dispatch from the Associated Hebrew Press.

DEAR URIAH: WHERE’S THE BEEF?

Then David, concerned citizen that he was, decides to make Uriah’s stay at home as comfortable as possible, so he says,

And David said to Uriah, [“Why don’t you go home for a

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spell?” That’s the Texas translation.] “Go down to your house and wash your feet.” So Uriah departed from the king’s house, and a gift of food from the king followed him [a mess of meat.]
(II Samuel 11:8 NKJV)

“Go home, rest a while, and take life easy,” David urged the weary messenger, as he calls out to his hefty helpers, “Where’s the beef? Send some home with my friend Uriah.” Actually, most translations just read, “He sent a present with him.” Either way, his goal was to get him back to his loving wife where he belonged, so the two of them could spend an evening together, and so no questions about who the father of the child might be could be left to puzzle the faithful soldier a few months hence.

No doubt, David slept well that night, assured that his little charade had provided the cover-up he needed, as though that would make things right with God.

But God wasn’t about to let David off the hook so easily.

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.

So when they told David, saying, “Uriah did not go down to his house,” David said to Uriah, “Did you not come from a journey? Why did you not go down to your house?”

And Uriah said to David, “The ark and Israel and Judah are dwelling in tents, and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are encamped in the open fields. Shall I then go to my house to eat and drink, and to lie with my wife? As you live, and as your soul lives, I will not do this thing.”

(II Samuel 11:9-11 NKJV)

Now one of two things is obviously true. The first possibility was that this was one honorable man. Either because of religious reasons or out of honor and respect for his fellow soldiers who were still struggling on the front lines, this man refused to take advantage of his sudden call home.

But there is an even greater possibility, and that is that Uriah really knew what was going on. David had trusted messengers with his memos to and from Bathsheba’s house, and it was entirely possible that the gossip that had already made the circuits had reached Uriah, too. In other words, Uriah may have stayed away from Bathsheba both out of anger and revenge. He may well have figured out why King David had such an incredible interest in his welfare, and he wasn’t about to go along with the game.

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This may be why in verse 11 he specifically made reference in his conversation with David to the fact that “shall I then go into mine house, to eat and to drink, and to lie with my wife?” Not on your life. Regardless of which of the two concepts applies, the thing that really matters is the fact that David’s plan had backfired.

DEAR URIAH: LET’S DRINK TO THAT

So enter plan “C” as we read,

Then David said to Uriah, “Wait here today also, and tomorrow I will let you depart.” So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day and the next.

Now when David 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. (II Samuel 11:12,13 NKJV)

David’s next ploy was to get Uriah so drunk he would ignore either his anger or his patriotism and go home to Bathsheba. Once again, his plan failed. Uriah partook of his alcohol and got inebriated, but then he collapsed with his buddies at the palace and never went home.

Now mind you, this is our boy David doing all this. He is close now to the panic stage trying to save his own reputation and his own position, and owning up to what he has done has apparently not yet entered his mind. The only thing occupying King David’s mind is how he can protect himself. At this point, everyone else is expendable.

DEAR URIAH: HERE’S A MESSAGE FOR JOAB

Having failed to get Uriah to go home to his wife rationally, and having failed to get Uriah to go home drunk to his wife irrationally, David now moves to see that Uriah will never go home again. Either David had to get him there long enough to cloud the issue, or he had to finish him off, so Bathsheba would become a widow, and thus become eligible to join the ranks of David’s houseful of wives. The former had failed, so now the latter seems to be almost a natural decision. The strange thing is, it never seems to enter David’s mind that what he is contemplating is murder.

In the morning it happened that David wrote a letter to Joab and [believe it or not] sent it by the hand of Uriah.

And he wrote in the letter, saying, “Set Uriah in the forefront

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of the hottest battle, and retreat from him, that he may be struck down and die.” (II Samuel 11:14,15 NKJV)

There is a word for it. It is called premeditated murder. This is not an act of uncontrolled passion or anger. It is an act of uncontrolled passion. David took another man's wife. This is a cold, calculated decision to take another man's life. It is even more grievous than that. It is a cold, calculated decision to take another's man life in such a way that it would appear that he died of other causes. It is not only murder. It is murder of the lowest order. It is much the same as paying a hit man to finish someone off. No, it is even lower than that, as we shall see. Not only is David taking someone's life and doing it deceitfully, he is doing it in such a way that it will cost other innocent people their lives as well. It is much like having someone go in and blow up an auditorium full of people in order to be sure that one of the thousands that were in there died. So it is not only cold and calculated, it is a crime so vicious, you would not expect it of the most hardened criminal.

Such, you see, is the potential of the flesh. The heart is deceitful and desperately wicked, who can know it? If you were to have asked David a month before if he were capable of taking another man's wife, and then in a devious act of cover-up, of taking another man's life, no doubt he would have scolded you for even so much as suggesting that a man after God's own heart could have it in his heart to do such things.

The problem is, however, that none of us fully realizes the depths to which we can sink, and the speed with which we can reach those depths, when we are not walking in the Spirit. When David took Bathsheba, he left the will of God. Out of the will of God, his potential for evil was incredible. Often those who have aggressive, dynamic personalities, who in the will of God are such powerful forces for Christ, out of the will of God, have an equally great potential for sin. Often those who rise highest can sink lowest. David, it seems was such a man.

This time, David's plan succeeded.

So it was, while Joab besieged the city, that he assigned Uriah the Hittite to a place where he knew there were valiant men [he sent him to face the Green Berets in other words].

Then the men of the city came out and fought with Joab. And some of the people of the servants of David fell [some of the troops died]; and Uriah the Hittite died also.

(II Samuel 11:16,17 NKJV)

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On the surface just another statistic in the files of the Israeli war department. On the surface just another statement of fact in the Word of God. “Uriah, the Hittite died also.” But something else died, too. Bathsheba’s husband died. David’s integrity died. God’s reputation died a thousand deaths. David, the man of spotless credentials, who risked his life rather than so much as touch the Lord’s anointed, who grieved that he had even cut the hem of the garment of the very man who was hunting him down like a criminal to slay him, this same David now, without so much as a twinge of conscience, has ordered a man to be mysteriously killed in order to cover up his own act of adultery. David had not only taken the life of one of God’s creations, in all likelihood, he had taken the life of one of God’s special children, for though Uriah was a Hittite, his name literally means “Yahweh is my light”. So he may well have been a mercenary soldier who had come to trust in the God of Israel. We do not know. But either way, David, the warrior, who had slain thousands in defense of the reputation of God, now destroys virtually everything he had done to exalt the name of that God by taking one life that did not belong to him into his own hands.

Perhaps David, in all of his exploits as a warrior, had come to consider life too cheaply. Perhaps he simply viewed Uriah as another expendable commodity in the overall scheme of things. We do not know. What we do know is that what he was doing now would do more to break the heart of his God than anything else he could or would ever do. We know that from a passage in I Kings 15,

Because David did what was right in the eyes of the LORD,
and had not turned aside from anything that He commanded
him all the days of his life, except in the matter of Uriah the
Hittite.
(I Kings 15:5 NKJV)

David sinned against Uriah by taking his wife, then compounded that sin unbelievably by taking his life. And as we shall see, God’s heart was broken in the process.

DEAR JOAB: THOSE THINGS WILL HAPPEN

Now let’s see how David deals with the news that his plan has succeeded.

Then Joab sent and told David all the things concerning the war,
and charged the messenger, saying, “When you have finished

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telling the matters of the war to the king,

if it happens that the king's wrath rises, and he says to you: 'Why did you approach so near to the city when you fought? Did you not know that they would shoot from the wall?

Who struck Abimelech the son of Jerubbesheth? Was it not a woman who cast a piece of a millstone on him from the wall, so that he died in Thebez? Why did you go near the wall?'— [if he should say that, loose translations,] then you shall say, [by they way,] 'Your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also.'"

(II Samuel 11:18-21 NKJV)

Joab was a cunning politician as well as a mighty warrior. He sent a message back to David, and the message was specific not only in its content, but in its progression as well. He said, "Approach King David and give him a report on the status of the battle. First tell him the bad news. As we approached the city, we got too near the wall, and as a result we lost a lot of men. Then, when the king gets irate and screams why would a good warrior do a thing like that? Don't you remember what happened to Abimelech at Thebez?' Then quietly add, "Oh, yes, King, and by the way, Uriah, the Hittite is dead also." The inference was, the king's countenance should be altered drastically by that footnote.

Indeed it was. Listen to David's sad response,

So the messenger went, and came and told David all that Joab had sent by him.

And the messenger said to David, "Surely the men prevailed against us and came out to us in the field; then we drove them back as far as the entrance of the gate.

The archers shot from the wall at your servants; and some of the king's servants are dead, and your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also."

Then David said to the messenger [this is his low point], "Thus you shall say to Joab: 'Do not let this thing displease you, for the sword devours one as well as another. Strengthen your attack against the city, and overthrow it.' So encourage him."

(II Samuel 11:22-25 NKJV)

What an unusual response from a commander-in-chief. "Así es la vida...such is life. So we lost a little skirmish there; a few hundred men died, eh? Just got too close to a little old wall, huh? You say, Uriah died, too? Well, you just tell old Joab not to be discouraged. The sword devoureth one as well as another. Must just have been their time to go. Tell Joab to round up the troops

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and have another go at it. We'll get 'em next time. Oh, yes, thanks for such a thorough report."

Dear Joab: Those things will happen. Don't take it too hard. Dear David: Do you realize what you just did? In an effort to cover up the grievous sin of adultery, you just committed premeditated murder and took hundreds of innocent lives in the process? And your response is, "Well, that's the way the cookie crumbles... must have been their time." David, do you realize what's happened to you? Your once-sensitive conscience that grieved over touching Saul's robe is now so dead, only God can resurrect it. What has happened to you, David? What has happened? David, can't you hear me? David? David?

Apparently David isn't listening. Apparently our man after God's own heart has something else on his mind. Let's see what it is.

DEAR BATHSHEBA: AFTER THE FUNERAL, STAY AT THE CHURCH,

When the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she mourned for her husband.

(II Samuel 11:26 NKJV)

Boo-hoo, the script says, I am a widow. Yoo-hoo, she now says, David, I'm available.

And when her mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord.

(II Samuel 11:27 NKJV)

This is twice now that David has waltzed a widow down the aisle still fresh from her mourning. You can just hear now, "Dear Bathsheba, after the funeral, just stay at the church." Her dear departed husband barely buried, Bathsheba consented to be wife who knows how many for the marriage minded monarch. You say, well, by my count, this wife is number four. Well, your count may have missed a passage in II Samuel 5:12-13. It reads like this:

over Israel, and that He had exalted His kingdom for the sake of His people Israel.

And David took more concubines and wives from Jerusalem, after he had come from Hebron. Also more sons and daughters were born to David.

(II Samuel 5:12,13 NKJV)

David had more wives than Campbell's has soups, but the

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mighty man perceived that the one he didn't have who belonged to someone else was what he wanted. So now, David's sin has run its course.

He lingered. He looked. He lusted. He took. He lied. He deceived. He connived. He murdered. He rejoiced. He pretended. Then, he married...as though that would make it all right. The lie had come full circle. Had David written that little poem to God that we read at the outset, the circle may well have been broken. But it was not. And now the sin has reproduced itself until, it has destroyed hundreds of lives. That is the object of sin. Sin desires to multiply itself until, like a cancer that is left unattended, it spreads through the kingdom destroying life and denying God.

Dear God: What has happened to David?

You are probably asking the question by now, "Dear God, what happened to David?" What has happened to the fair haired lad you chose from among all the others "because man looks on the outward appearance and God looks on the heart?" What has happened to that brave young man who stood in the presence of a giant who had brought a nation to its knees and cried, "Thou comest to me with a sword and with a spear, and with a shield; but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel whom thou hast defied."

What has happened to that brave young warrior who stood before enemy armies in the strength of Jehovah without so much as batting an eye, and watched them fall before his sword.

What has happened to that sensitive man who, though hunted and pursued like a wild animal by a maniac king, refused to so much as harm the king because he was anointed of God.

Dear God: What has happened to David?

I think God might well answer us this morning: "At least four things have happened to David; and they are all the result of unconfessed sin."

In other words, David has taken his eyes off the real King and placed them on King David instead. Sin has entered his life, and rather than forsake it and confess it, he has been clinging to it as though it were adequate to meet his needs when life's real tests appear on the horizon.

And what has happened is this: David has forgotten that...

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- 1- Sin Separates
- 2- Sin Perpetuates
- 3- Sin Alienates
- 4- Sin Dominates

He has forgotten, and thus he is in bondage to his own choices. If someone does not awaken him soon, he will totally destroy his life, his ministry, his witness, his future, and the future of God's people, Israel. If only we could write to him and say:

Sin Separates

Dear David: Don't you realize what you are doing? Don't you realize that sin separates. David, your spiritual sensitivity is gone. You no longer even hear when God speaks. His word is foreign to you. That heart that once beat so in tune with His, that spirit that once would rather die than grieve His heart, no longer responds to God's breath and touch as once it did. Somewhere along the way, you became enamored with your position in the Kingdom. Somewhere along the way, you became impressed with your own importance. You began to take liberties with the word of God. Not big ones at first, mind you. Just small compromises. And your seemingly insatiable lust for women you simply construed to be the right of a famous king. So you just took more wives and compounded the problem.

Little sins at first, David. Seemingly insignificant choices—like staying home while the troops went off to battle. But what you forgot was that sin separates. With each compromise, your spiritual hearing aid lost some of its power. Now God has to shout to get your attention, where once only a whisper would do. There was a time when you wouldn't so much as have eaten a meal without His direction. Now you've gone and committed adultery and murder and don't even know what you've done. There is a glaze over your heart, David, and it makes your heart harder and harder to penetrate. It is called sin. And sin separates, David. It separates you from the voice of God.

Sin Perpetuates

Another thing, David. Sin not only separates, it perpetuates itself. Sin is the perfect expression of the domino theory. To cover up adultery, you lied. To cover up the lie, you deceived. To cover up your deceit, you murdered. To cover up your murder, you justified what you had done. What began as an innocent flirtation

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now stands as one of the most heartbreaking crimes in history. Had anyone asked you when you sent for Bathsheba, how you felt about murder, you would have given a self-righteous sermon on the evils of killing innocent people. A few days later, you were doing it. You say, Dear God, what happened? God answers "Sin happened." A casual glance, at first. Then, a leering look. Then, a moment of lust. Then, a choice to take what was not yours. Then, a choice to protect your name so long as no one got hurt. Then, a choice to protect your name even if someone got hurt. Then, a choice to protect your name even if someone got killed. Then, a choice to protect your name even if many got killed. You are a murderer, David. And it all began with a second look you knew better than to take. But sin perpetuates itself, David. Every day it takes a little more to keep the lie alive.

Sin Alienates

Not only that, David, but sin alienates, too. It alienates God's man from the feelings of others. It thus allows him to do things that destroy others as mercilessly and ruthlessly as a hardened criminal. Sin ultimately makes people expendable. They become tools for our pleasure. They become gems for our treasure. They become necessary evils to accomplish our purposes. So we take the Bathshebas of this world, with no thought of her feelings, with no thought of Uriah's feelings, with no thought of God's feelings. The longer we sin, the less sensitive we become to those we are affecting, until we can murder, David... yes, murder, and not even feel a twinge of guilt.

Sin Dominates

Finally, David, sin dominates. It progresses until it controls your thoughts and all sense of logic is gone. All you think about is the next conquest. All you think about is the next accomplishments. All you think about is the next time you can think or see or do what drives you now and controls your life. Once it was God. Then a tiny speck clouded your vision just a bit. A tiny speck never hurts, you surmised, most of my life is still dominated by God. But sin is a disease. It spreads. And it spreads. Until ultimately it dominates and controls its victims until they no longer can see God at all.

Don't you see, David, that's what happened. Sin separated you from God's power and God's perspective. Sin perpetuated itself until a tiny sin led to a bigger sin that made it only natural

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to commit the greatest sin of all. Then sin alienated you, David. Once people and their needs and their feelings were primary to you. But sin took away that tender spirit and replaced it with a spirit of self-survival and self-satisfaction. And finally, David, sin dominated. You no longer listened to reason. No longer were you objective or sensible. Now the whole of your life was under control of your desire to avoid the consequences of what you had done.

That's what's happened to you, David. And the question we are asking is, "What are you going to do now?" The answer is "apparently nothing, unless God intervenes and awakens you from your deadened, desensitized slumber."

DEAR GOD: WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO NOW?

So we turn and ask: Dear God, what are YOU going to do now? And we don't have to wait long for the answer Lord, you ARE watching all this, aren't you?

Answer:

But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord.
(II Samuel 11:27b NKJV)

Then Lord, now what?

Then the Lord sent Nathan to David. (II Samuel 12:1a NKJV)

The next time we gather around the pages of II Samuel we will see what it took to bring our king back from among the spiritually dead. God has His ways. And we will see, praise God, that underneath that covering of sin, David's heart still beat for God.

But for now, lest we wander from this passage too quickly let's remind ourselves in closing what has happened to David. David has fallen, and nearly fatally, from the ranks of God's greats. Were it not for the incredible mercy of God, David would now be condemned to die as an example to God's people, and not only his earthly reign, but his earthly life would be over. For a moment's pleasure, God's man bartered away his future and jeopardized the reputation of God throughout the then-known world. It was only a tiny compromise at the outset. It may have begun years before, when his fascination with women and his desire to possess them, led to his first marriages, when his unwillingness to be God's man with God's one woman led him to violate the portrait of marriage and imply spiritually in the process, that there is more than one god who can satisfy the needs of man's soul.

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Maybe it was a careless or unnecessary habit. Maybe it was the photographs of his mind that went out of control when no one else was around. There is no need to speculate. We do not know. What we do know is that David's adultery and David's murder began long before this tragic scene that ended in Uriah's death. It began when the first compromise was made.

Now please don't tune me out. This is not a popular song to sing these days. We live in a generation in which many Christians are caught up in principles and projects and what they can do for God, a generation in which many preachers are caught up in promises and promotions and what God can do for us.

What I believe we are beginning to lose (and Satan loves it) is a sensitive consciousness of sin. What seems to no longer be central in our preaching is the Cross. What seems to be no longer vital in our programs is repentance. What seems to be no longer tender in our hearts is that driving force that each day we live desires to have less and less that would offend the heart of God, that would reject as unacceptable little sins that once were not offensive at all. In an effort to combat an era of legalism, where man became holy by not doing this or that, we have developed a gospel that treats talking about sin as the greatest sin of all.

Just listen to today's Christian music. Just read today's Christian books. In many cases, we've stopped speaking of the ugliness of sin and of what it does to the heart of God.

But it must not be so in our lives. The great revivals of history and consequently the Great Awakening in history have all come as God's people prayed for a new awareness of sin, a new vision of the Cross, and consequently, a new sense of awe at the mercy of our God.

It can begin with us. We can go home and get down on our knees and begin to deal honestly, openly, and continuously with the sins we know are either gradually easing their way into our lives or the sins which have never really been dealt with properly since Christ became real to us. Had David done that, the Spirit of God could have joyfully omitted II Samuel, chapter 11 from the Word of God.

Even today Satan has pen and ink in hand, wanting desperately to write a II Samuel 11 about you and about me. He is but waiting for that small area of compromise to work its way to the surface of our lives until it breaks out in a deadly disease of sin that destroys

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us, others, and the name of our God.

Like today's word processors, God has a "delete" feature in the stories of His children's lives. It is a key called "repentance". It involves such an awareness of sin and such a need to turn around at whatever the cost, that those who experience it will find themselves running the other way rather than risking offending their God. Though it may be a bit humiliating, it may well allow a gracious God to write a whole different chapter at the end of our lives.

You say, "*Dear God: What happened to David?*"

God answers: "*Sin took its toll.*"

You say, "Dear God: Why did you write about it?" God answers: "So my children would read it and take heed." And so I need never have to answer the question, "Dear God, what happened to Mary? Dear God, what happened to Joe? Dear God, what happened to Rev. Jones? Dear God, what happened to the Smith family? Dear God, what happened to Russell?" Now we know what happened to David. By God's grace, may it not happen to us.

Now we know what happened to David.
We know why from greatness he fell.
He left himself room for a tiny sin
That came straight from the gates of hell.

Soon one sin led to another,
Before long, Uriah was dead.
He didn't turn to the Lord and repent
And so innocent blood was shed.

And God has recorded it clearly,
So that all of us can but see,
That what finally happened to David
Could happen to you or to me.

So, Beloved, let's listen to David
As he whispers from Scripture again,
"The key to it all is so basic..."
You must not toy with sin!

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