

DAVID

When I was writing the story about Mikal I came to a conclusion that **she must have not repented truly** since she did not have a child till the end of her life, which was God's punishment for her disgraceful behaviour towards her husband. Why do I think so? I think so because we know that even those who have sinned with a most cruel kind of sin, are forgiven by God when they truly repent and want to radically change their wrong life habits. Let's read:

„Come now, let's settle this," says the LORD. "Though your sins are like scarlet, I will make them as white as snow. Though they are red like crimson, I will make them as white as wool. If you will only obey me, you will have plenty to eat. But if you turn away and refuse to listen, you will be devoured by the sword of your enemies. I, the LORD, have spoken!" Isa. 1:18-20 NLT

And although the sinner often has to submit to the unpleasant consequences of his sin, God can bless him later. This was the case with David, who plotted the murder of his best soldier whose wife he wanted to have for himself. Before David had any intercourse with Bathsheba, he had inquired about her and **knew** that she was Uriah's wife and therefore a married woman!

„Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her. (Now she was purifying herself from her monthly uncleanness.) Then she went back home. The woman conceived and sent word to David, saying, 'I am pregnant.'" 2 Sam 11:4-5 NIV

When David found out about it, he tried to cover up the matter somehow and sent for Uriah to come back from the battlefield. David asked him many questions about the army and the battle. Then he ordered him to go to his house and wash his feet. David sent him a gift from the king's table. Of course, David's intention was to make Uriah lay with his wife, then Uriah would be credited as the father of the child that David had conceived in Bathsheba. But Uriah is not called David's best friend for nothing, he was one of his best soldiers, his most faithful servant, and that night he did not go to his house. And when David found out about this, he asked him why:

„And Uriah said unto David, The ark, and Israel, and Judah, abide in tents; and my lord Joab, and the servants of my lord, are encamped in the open fields; shall I then go into mine house, to eat and to drink, and to lie with my wife? as thou livest, and as thy soul liveth, I will not do this thing." 2Sam 11:11 KJV

But David did not give up!

*„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**." 2 Sam 11:12-13 NKJV*

And only now was a terrible and evil plan to murder his best soldier born in David's mind ...

„In the morning it happened that David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it by the hand of Uriah. And he wrote in the letter, saying, 'Set Uriah in the forefront of the hottest battle, and retreat from him, that he may be struck down and die.'" 2 Sam 11:14-15 NKJV

Can you imagine the character of a man who through the hands of his victim sends a letter telling his servants how they are supposed to kill Uriah and does it in order to have his wife for himself and to

cover up his deliberate adultery? Moreover, David feels no remorse even when a messenger informs him of Uriah's death.

„Then David said to the messenger, ‘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.” 2Sam11:25 NKJV

And even though all

„...the thing that David had done displeased the LORD.” 2Sam11:27 NKJV

Yet, it was God who knew David's heart and who he was.

„Then the LORD sent Nathan to David.” 2Sam12:1 NKJV

Nathan told David a parable **about a rich man** who took the only lamb from a poor man who

„(...) had nothing, except one little ewe lamb which he had bought and nourished; and it grew up together with him and with his children. It ate of his own food and drank from his own cup and lay in his bosom; and it was like a daughter to him.” 2 Sam12:3 NKJV

and the rich man prepared a meal out of it.

*„So David's anger was greatly aroused against the man, and he said to Nathan, ‘As the LORD lives, the man who has done this shall surely die! And he shall restore fourfold for the lamb, because he did this thing and because he had no pity.’ Then Nathan said to David, **‘You are the man!’** Thus says the LORD God of Israel: ‘I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. I gave you your master's house and your master's wives into your keeping, and gave you the house of Israel and Judah. And if that had been too little, I also would have given you much more! Why have you despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in His sight? **You have killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword; you have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the people of Ammon.**’ 2Sam 12:5-9 NKJV*

Now God is punishing David.

„Now therefore, the sword 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 adversity against you from 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 this sun. For you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel, before the sun.’ 1 Sam 12:10-13 NKJV

When David hears these words he instantly comes to his senses and truly repents and only now does he see his deed in the true light:

„So David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the LORD.” 2Sam12:13 NKJV.

It must have been a real and profound repentance because:

“And Nathan said to David, “The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die.” 2Sam12:13 NKJV

But unfortunately the consequences and the punishment fell on David. God the Father recognized that what David did, despite his repentance, cannot be simply forgiven without any consequences.

„However, because by this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also who is born to you shall surely die. Then Nathan departed to his house. And the LORD struck the child that Uriah’s wife bore to David, and it became ill. David therefore pleaded with God for the child, and David fasted and went in and lay all night on the ground. So the elders of his house arose and went to him, to raise him up from the ground. But he would not, nor did he eat food with them. Then on the seventh day it came to pass that the child died. And the servants of David were afraid to tell him that the child was dead. For they said, “Indeed, while the child was alive, we spoke to him, and he would not heed our voice. How can we tell him that the child is dead? He may do some harm!” 2Sam12:14-18 NKJV

During the 7 days when the punishment was being completed David had plenty of time to rethink his character and reconcile with God, and only then his life would return to normal.

„When David saw that his servants were whispering, David perceived that the child was dead. Therefore David said to his servants, “Is the child dead?” And they said, “He is dead.” So David arose from the ground, washed and anointed himself, and changed his clothes; and he went into the house of the LORD and worshiped. Then he went to his own house; and when he requested, they set food before him, and he ate. Then his servants said to him, “What is this that you have done? You fasted and wept for the child while he was alive, but when the child died, you arose and ate food.” And he said, “While the child was alive, I fasted and wept; for I said, ‘Who can tell whether the LORD will be gracious to me, that the child may live?’ But now he is dead; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.” 2Sam 12:19-23 NKJV

And then God blessed David, although the consequences of what he did were always felt in his life:

„Then David comforted Bathsheba his wife, and went in to her and lay with her. So she bore a son, and he called his name Solomon. Now the LORD loved him” 2 Sam 12:24 NKJV

What caused David to sin? This is what we read in the Spirit of Prophecy:

„It was the spirit of self-confidence and self-exaltation that prepared the way for David’s fall. Flattery and the subtle allurements of power and luxury were not without effect upon him. Intercourse with surrounding nations also exerted an influence for evil. According to the customs prevailing among Eastern rulers, crimes not to be tolerated in subjects were uncondemned in the king; the monarch was not under obligation to exercise the same self-restraint as the subject. All this tended to lessen David’s sense of the exceeding sinfulness of sin. And instead of relying in humility upon the power of Jehovah, he began to trust to his own wisdom and might. As soon as Satan can separate the soul from God, the only Source of strength, he will seek to arouse the unholy desires of man’s carnal nature. The work of the enemy is not abrupt; it is not, at the outset, sudden and startling; it is a secret undermining of the strongholds of principle. It begins in apparently small things—the neglect to be true to God and to rely upon Him wholly, the disposition to follow the customs and practices of the world.” {Ellen G. White, Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 717.2}

Moreover, it was just the time when the king left his army before the end of the war and returned home to Jerusalem.

„David was surrounded by the fruits of victory and the honors of his wise and able rule. It was now, while he was at ease and unguarded, that the tempter seized the opportunity to occupy his mind. The fact that God had taken David into so close connection with Himself and had manifested so great favor toward him, should have been to him the strongest of incentives to preserve his character unblemished.

But when in ease and self-security he let go his hold upon God, David yielded to Satan and brought upon his soul the stain of guilt. He, the Heaven-appointed leader of the nation, chosen by God to execute His law, himself trampled upon its precepts. He who should have been a terror to evildoers, by his own act strengthened their hands. {Ellen G. White, Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 718.1}

Before this disgraceful act David was perceived as God's humble servant.

„Amid the perils of his earlier life David in conscious integrity could trust his case with God. The Lord's hand had guided him safely past the unnumbered snares that had been laid for his feet. {Ellen G. White, Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 718.2}

It was written about him:

“So David reigned over all Israel; and David administered judgment and justice to all his people.” 2 Sam 8:15 NKJV

„But now, guilty and unrepentant, he did not ask help and guidance from Heaven, but sought to extricate himself from the dangers in which sin had involved him. Bathsheba, whose fatal beauty had proved a snare to the king, was the wife of Uriah the Hittite, one of David's bravest and most faithful officers. None could foresee what would be the result should the crime become known. The law of God pronounced the adulterer guilty of death, and the proud-spirited soldier, so shamefully wronged, might avenge himself by taking the life of the king or by exciting the nation to revolt. {Ellen G. White, Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 718.2}

Previously

„His integrity had won the confidence and fealty of the nation. But as he departed from God and yielded himself to the wicked one, he became for the time the agent of Satan; yet he still held the position and authority that God had given him, and because of this, claimed obedience that would imperil the soul of him who should yield it. And Joab, whose allegiance had been given to the king rather than to God, transgressed God's law because the king commanded it. {Ellen G. White, Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 719.2}

In this place and time in which we are living now, it is worth remembering that we are to obey authority always and only:

„in harmony with the divine law. When he [David] commanded that which was contrary to God's law, it became sin to obey. “The powers that be are ordained of God” (Rom. 13:1), but we are not to obey them contrary to God's law.” {Ellen G. White, Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 719.3}

As I wrote above, God knew David's heart and in His mercy he did not leave him:

„to be lured to utter ruin by the deceitful rewards of sin.” {Ellen G. White, Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 720.3}

„Many have murmured at what they called God's injustice in sparing David, whose guilt was so great, after having rejected Saul for what appear to them to be far less flagrant sins. But David humbled himself and confessed his sin, while Saul despised reproof and hardened his heart in impenitence.” {Ellen G. White, Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 726.3}

But

„There was a great change in David himself. He was broken in spirit by the consciousness of his sin and its far-reaching results. He felt humbled in the eyes of his subjects. His influence was weakened. Hitherto his prosperity had been attributed to his conscientious obedience to the commandments of the Lord. But now his subjects, having a knowledge of his sin, would be led to sin more freely. His authority in his own household, his claim to respect and obedience from his sons, was weakened. A sense of his guilt kept him silent when he should have condemned sin; it made his arm feeble to execute justice in his house. His evil example exerted its influence upon his sons, and God would not interpose to prevent the result. He would permit things to take their natural course, and thus David was severely chastised. {Ellen G. White, Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 723.3}

But God knew:

*„David’s repentance was sincere and deep. There was no effort to palliate his crime. No desire to escape the judgments threatened, inspired his prayer. But he saw the enormity of his transgression against God; he saw the defilement of his soul; **he loathed his sin**. It was not for pardon only that he prayed, but for purity of heart. David did not in despair give over the struggle. In the promises of God to repentant sinners he saw the evidence of his pardon and acceptance. {Ellen G. White, Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 725.2}*

Though David had fallen, the Lord lifted him up. He was now more fully in harmony with God and in sympathy with his fellow men than before he fell. In the joy of his release he sang: {Ellen G. White, Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 726.1}

“I acknowledged my sin unto Thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord; And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin... Thou art my hiding place; Thou shalt preserve me from trouble; Thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance.”Ps.32:5-7 {Ellen G. White, Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 726.2}

David's example confirms that the size and extent of sin are irrelevant to the possibility of experiencing a repentance that God will acknowledge and lift the sinner from his fall. The extent of the consequences also varies depending on the will and wisdom of God the Father. Hence, I allowed myself to think that Mikal had never experienced real repentance, since God had not opened her womb until her death.

Remaining in the blessed hope that the true repentance will be a part of our lives.

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