

July 21, 2019
La Jolla Christian Fellowship
Shame Of Thrones : The Story Of David And Bathsheba
Episode 6: Truth & Consequences
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2 Samuel 12:11-25

This is what the LORD says: ‘Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity on you. Before your very eyes I will take your wives and give them to one who is close to you, and he will sleep with your wives in broad daylight. ¹²You did it in secret, but I will do this thing in broad daylight before all Israel.’” ¹³Then David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the LORD.”

Nathan replied, “The LORD has taken away your sin. You are not going to die. ¹⁴But because by doing this you have shown utter contempt for the LORD, the son born to you will die.”

¹⁵After Nathan had gone home, the LORD struck the child that Uriah’s wife had borne to David, and he became ill. ¹⁶David pleaded with God for the child. He fasted and spent the nights lying in sackcloth on the ground. ¹⁷The elders of his household stood beside him to get him up from the ground, but he refused, and he would not eat any food with them. ¹⁸On the seventh day the child died. David’s attendants were afraid to tell him that the child was dead, for they thought, “While the child was still living, he wouldn’t listen to us when we spoke to him. How can we now tell him the child is dead? **He may do something desperate.**” ¹⁹David noticed that his attendants were whispering among themselves, and he realized the child was dead. “Is the child dead?” he asked. “Yes,” they replied, “he is dead.” ²⁰**Then David got up from the ground. After he had washed, put on lotions and changed his clothes, he went into the house of the LORD and worshiped.** Then he went to his own house, and at his request they served him food, and he ate. ²¹His attendants asked him, “Why are you acting this way? While the child was alive, you fasted and wept, but now that the child is dead, you get up and eat!” ²²He answered, “While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept. I thought, ‘Who knows? The LORD may be gracious to me and let the child live.’” ²³But now that he is dead, why should I go on fasting? Can I bring him back again? I will go to him, but he will not return to me.” ²⁴**Then David comforted his wife Bathsheba, and he went to her and made love to her. She gave birth to a son, and they named him Solomon. The LORD loved him;** ²⁵**and because the LORD loved him, he sent word through Nathan the prophet to name him Jedidiah.**

Immediate Forgiveness: The LORD also has put away your sin: God’s forgiveness was *immediate*. God did not demand a time of probation. You shall not die meant that David would be spared the penalty for adultery commanded under the Law of Moses.

The consequences of sin— God has saved us from eternal consequence but often allows us to face the temporal consequences of our actions that we might grow in maturity.

Questioning the text: Why would God allow the death of the innocent child as a consequence?

- **God is not in bondage to the temporal.**
 - **Romans 8:18** I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.
 - **Psalm 116:15** Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his faithful servants.

How to do right when you have done wrong—

1. **Truly Repent:** Don't leave margin for a plan B.
2. **Face The Music:** Take personal responsibility for your actions.
3. **Worship The Lord:** Worship is the place where fear of consequence is dissolved.
4. **Move On:** Let the present define the past rather than the past define the present.

1. Truly Repent:

- **Vs. 16** David pleaded with God for the child. He fasted and spent the nights lying in sackcloth on the ground.

2. Face The Music: Take personal responsibility for your actions and accept the consequences.

- **Vs. 22-23** He answered, "While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept. I thought, 'Who knows? The LORD may be gracious to me and let the child live.' ²²But now that he is dead, why should I go on fasting? Can I bring him back again? I will go to him, but he will not return to me."

3. Worship The Lord: Worship is the place where fear of consequence is dissolved.

- **Hebrews 12:28-29** Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, ²⁹for our "God is a consuming fire."

4. Move On: Let the present define the past rather than the past define the present.

- **Vs. 22-23** He answered, "While the child was still alive..."

Preview: Son Of Anarchy Series Begins September 29th— A study in personal character

"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.'"

Food For The Journey: Use these questions to go deeper in one of our community groups or for personal reflection.

1. If you were in God's place, how would you have handled this situation?
2. Sin has consequences. We often feel that consequences should be erased when we are forgiven. What do you feel the connection between consequence and forgiveness should be?
3. David worshipped after having faced a harsh consequence. How would bringing worship into the sin and consequence matrix change your trajectory after a personal fall?
4. Taking personal responsibility for a mistake is difficult. Why do you think it might be important in regard to moving forward?
5. Leaving the past behind is hard. What are some ways that we cannot let the past define our future when it comes to old wounds and mistakes?