

Message #20**II Samuel 15:13-37**

Sin pays. The problem is, you won't like what it pays. You may choose to sin. You may choose to confront and confess the sin. But you don't get to choose the consequences for the sin. That's God's business. A theological question is can you sin and confess it without any consequences? I don't think so. In fact, the writer of Hebrew says that if there are no consequences, then one needs to question whether or not one is a true son (Heb. 12:4-11). Consequences are used by God to help train us in the ways of righteousness. I don't specifically know what the consequences will be, but God will see to it that there will be something.

David knew that the negative things that had hit him were consequences due to his own sin. He knew that God had forgiven him, but he also knew that God said there would be consequences for the sin (II Sam. 12:11). David certainly did not know all of the ramifications of those consequences, but there were plenty of them to this point:

- 1) His baby died;
- 2) His daughter was raped.
- 3) One son killed another son.
- 4) One son was trying to remove him from power.
- 5) David is forced to flee Jerusalem.

Now at this point, he still doesn't know how this will play out or end. He doesn't know what God will do. So what we see here is this:

DAVID WAS BROKEN BECAUSE OF HIS SIN, BUT HE CONTINUED TO TRUST IN THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD AND DO WHAT HE COULD TO STAY FAITHFUL AND SURVIVE THE CONSEQUENCES.

When we have failed, the best thing to do is to confront it and confess it and stay faithful to God and let God do what He will do to help us learn the lesson not to do it again.

HISTORICAL FACT #1 – David learns of Absalom's revolt and his recruitment. **15:13**

Now we may remember that Absalom had taken 200 men who didn't know what he was doing (15:11). This messenger may have been one of those 200 men. When a messenger came to David to tell him that the hearts of the men of Israel were with Absalom, this was new news to David, but apparently it was not shocking news.

Absalom has never been known as one interested in submitting to the word of God or will of God. He has basically been a guy who does what he wants and if he doesn't get his way, he will burn down someone's barley field.

But this was the first time David officially heard about any of this. Absalom not only was claiming to be king, but he was recruiting national loyalists from all over Israel.

The phrase “the men of Israel” probably refers to some military forces who would be willing to fight.

David was just learning of all of this for the first time. When there are secret plots against you, sometimes the person, against whom the plots are against, is the last to know.

HISTORICAL FACT #2 – David decides that he should flee from Jerusalem. **15:14-16**

Sometimes the best thing to do when things have turned against you is to leave and get out of there. Sometimes it is not good to just stay in a place and hope things will get better.

When David found out about this, he did not take it lightly. He realized the danger of this and for the first time in his brilliant military career, David’s decision is we must flee the area. This was a very clear and present danger. David saw this as a life or death moment.

There is no evidence that he prayed about this move, but he felt that the best option was to flee Jerusalem as fast as possible. His view was Absalom will come to this city and strike us down if we don’t get out of here.

Now this is a good sign that David is beginning to think strategically and decisively again. This has forced him into having to make decisions. He was not certain how many people were with him or behind him in Jerusalem, so he believed the best thing was to get away for a while.

The servants of David said we will do whatever you want. If you want to stay we will back you; if you want to go we will go with you (**v. 15**). They trusted David and they would support David.

According to **verse 16**, David went out of the city with his servants, but left ten concubines behind at his house.

HISTORICAL FACT #3 – David stops for a while at his last house. **15:17-22**

David headed east out of the city and once David was out of the city, he stopped for a short time at one of his houses.

One obvious reason why he stopped is because he wanted to assess his assets. He wanted to know who was with him and who wasn’t. At this point, he doesn’t even know where he is going.

It must have been somewhat sad for David to stop at a house and look back on the city that once honored you as king. You are now leaving the city as a fugitive and the reason is consequences for sin.

According to **verse 18**, David had the men come before him who were with him. Those who appeared were Cherethites, Pelethites and Gittites that included 600 men who were strong soldiers and good fighters who had come from Gath, a Philistine city.

What we have here are three different groups of men who are not Israelites. These men were in David's military and they were very loyal to David.

The Cherethites came from the south near the Negev. This was a desert region located close to the Philistine and Judah areas (I Sam. 30:14).

Their cities had been attacked by the Amalekites and when David defeated the Amalekites, the Cherethites loved it and loved him (I Sam. 30:14).

We don't know much about the Pelethites, but the Gittites were from Gath, which was a Philistine city that was inland from the Mediterranean.

None of these groups are mentioned in serving Israel's army before David or after David. So we may conclude that God raised them up to help David at the time David needed them. **Even though David is under the chastening hand of God, God is still looking out for David.**

There is a good point to glean from this. There will be people God will use at a specific time to help His own people. They will be used in a specific time and when the time is over, they will no longer be used that way. God will raise up certain people to help his servant. When that servant is gone, the people may not ever be used that way again.

Now these groups of men were not Israelites so they would not get caught up in the dirty politics of Absalom. Most of these were probably mercenary fighters who backed David.

According to **verse 19** there was a man named Ittai who was a Gittite. Now this was a leader of the Philistines, who had accompanied David back to Israel after the death of Saul (II Sam. 2:1-3). Now David said to Ittai that he did not need to wander around with him but that he should return to his own place. He specifically says, "return and remain with the king."

Now David is referring to Absalom as king here and one must ask why? Absalom is not the king, David is the king. Absalom will never become the king.

It may be that David was testing Ittai to see whether or not he felt Absalom was king or he was king. By using this noun, David could determine this. Since he was not an Israelite, David said you and your men can leave and go home.

David said in **verse 20**, you just got here with your men yesterday and it is not fair that you go wandering around with me, so you may go home or do whatever, may mercy be on you.

But **verse 21** says Ittai said to David, we will wander around with you no matter where you go whether it means life or death. We will be your servants.

Notice he does not identify Absalom as the king; he identifies David as his lord and the king (**v. 21**).

What a beautiful picture of the program of God as it relates to Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ was rejected by His own people, so foreigners have believed on Him and defended Him ever since.

According to **verse 22**, David accepted Ittai and his men and their families.

As David and his men were crossing over the Kidron brook heading southeast into the wilderness, all the people who loved David were weeping (**v. 23**).

Here was the great King David wandering around with not even a place he could call home.

HISTORICAL FACT #4 – David’s loyal priests bring the Ark to David. **15:24-29**

The Levitical priests carried the Ark of the Covenant to David. The two priestly leaders, Zadok and Abiathar, authorized this.

Abiathar was a descendant of Aaron. Zadok was accompanied by his son Ahimaaz, and Abiathar was accompanied by his son, Jonathan.

David said take the Ark back to Jerusalem and if God favors me, He will bring me back to Jerusalem. David is now trusting in the Sovereignty of God and the grace of God.

According to **verse 28** David said they were priests who could remain in Jerusalem, and see what happens and bring him news and information.

So **verse 29** says that both Zadok and Abiathar returned the Ark to Jerusalem.

HISTORICAL FACT #5 – David went up the Mount of Olives. **15:30-31**

As David went up the Mt. of Olives, there were six actions that took place:

(Action #1) - David wept as he went. **15:30a** Broken because of his own sin

(Action #2) - David had his head covered. **15:30b** Mourning because of own sin

(Action #3) - David walked barefoot. **15:30c** Humble and shamed by his own sin

(Action #4) - All the people with David covered their heads and wept. **15:30d**
David admits his sin and his sin had affected them.

(Action #5) - David was informed that Ahithophel, his closest advisor, was a conspirator against him. **15:31a**

Ahithophel had been David's chief advisor (I Chron. 27:33). Just when you think you have hit bottom, David learns of another humiliating consequence.

(Action #6) - David prays that God will make Ahithophel's counsel foolishness. **15:31b**

One thing these troubles did is that they drove David to pray.

This Mount of Olives was a sad place for David. It was also a sad place for Jesus Christ the night before He was crucified.

But this same place will be a glorious place for both David and Jesus Christ. This will be the very spot to which Jesus will return and establish the Davidic Throne forever (Zechariah 12:8, 10; 14:4).

HISTORICAL FACT #6 – David's close friend Hushai agrees to become a spy for David.
15:32-37

Hushai the Archite was a very close friend of David (I Chron. 27:33). David knew he could trust him. In fact, when he appeared before David, he had his coat torn and dust on his head.

What David wanted Hushai to do was to return to Jerusalem and tell Absalom that he wanted to be his servant. He could thwart any counsel of Ahithophel and he could work with Zadok and Abiathar the priest, to keep him well informed.

Hushai agreed to this and according to **verse 37**, he came to the city just as Absalom was entering Jerusalem.

What we see here is that God was beginning to work to protect and ultimately elevate David.

God had allowed David to go through some negative consequences, but as we will see there is light at the end of the tunnel.