

Study 6



Warm Up

1. Greeting / Refreshments / Get Acquainted
2. Prayer & Praise List / Group Fund
3. Testimony Sharing



Overview of Today's Study

Text: 2 Samuel 3:2-5

Lesson Title: *Sowing & Reaping ~ Cause & Effect*

Lesson Main Idea: A close connection with God does not mean believers can overlook the details when obeying God. If we choose to disobey or ignore Biblical instruction, we will have to live through the consequences of those choices even after fellowship with God is restored. Thankfully, for the Christian, God's mercy, grace, and abiding presence provide what's needed to endure the aftermath of our poor choices.

🔑 Today's Key Question 🔑

How can Christians identify and protect themselves from dangerous trends in their lives?



Connecting the Study

Last time we studied how David in a very fair and just way distributed the spoils of war after the battle with the Amalekites (1 Samuel 30). This test of his diplomatic skills proved to be God's final preparation of David before he would take his God-anointed position as the next King of Israel.

In previous studies we have commented on the Christian's tendency to rush into things without an appropriate amount of prayer to precede our actions. David's very practiced, very disciplined, close connection with God naturally resulted in him seeking God for direction on when to take Israel's throne since Saul had died (1 Samuel 31).

David was around 17 years old when he faced Goliath and quickly rose in popularity with the military and others. For the next 13 years David fled Saul's paranoid pursuits. Finally, at age 30 (2 Sam. 5:4), the time had come. And David did not charge into Jerusalem and just take over, he sought advice from God on the timing of the whole matter (2 Sam. 2:1).

And even though God had anointed David as King, David still had to do the "work" of taking the position. The LORD instructed David to begin his reign in Hebron in the south. Not everyone in the northern Kingdom of Israel (where Jerusalem is located) was on the same page as God (2 Samuel 2-4).

David reigned in Hebron in Judah for 7 and a half years before ascending the throne in Jerusalem in Israel. His total reign was 40 years and 6 months; 7 and a half years in Hebron and 33 in Jerusalem (2 Sam. 5:3-5).

2 Samuel 5 is a pivotal chapter in David's history. Jerusalem is conquered and he is made rightful King over all of Israel; peace is established with Tyre; and the Philistines are conquered. David has been at war and working politics and diplomacy for 20 years and everyone's been conquered. What's left? For the first time in his life David is not on the move. David was able to let down his guard. However, this "lowering of his defenses" would begin a series of events that would haunt the remainder of his life.



Bible Study

2 Samuel 3:2-5, 14; 5:13

A. What do these verses tell us? (What happened? What was taught?)

3:2-5, 14 And unto David were sons born in Hebron: and his firstborn was Amnon, of **Ahinoam** the Jezreelitess; 3 And his second, Chileab, of **Abigail** the wife of Nabal the Carmelite; and the third, Absalom the son of **Maacah** the daughter of Talmi king of Geshur; 4 And the fourth, Adonijah the son of **Haggith**; and the fifth, Shephatiah the son of **Abital**; 5 And the sixth, Ithream, by **Eglah** David's wife. These were born to David in Hebron. 14 And David sent messengers to Ish-bosheth Saul's son, saying, Deliver me my wife **Michal**, which I espoused to me for an hundred foreskins of the Philistines.

5:13 And David took him more **concubines** and **wives** out of Jerusalem, after he was come from Hebron: and there were yet sons and daughters born to David. **In addition to the 7 wives who are stated by name, once David arrived in Jerusalem, he took more wives and concubines for himself. This was obviously a defined trend in his life; a pattern or habit.**

Is there anything wrong with this particular habit? Listen to God's instruction regarding Israel's King from **Deut. 17:15-17**

15 Thou shalt in any wise set him king over thee, whom the LORD thy God shall choose: one from among thy brethren shalt thou set king over thee: thou mayest not set a stranger over thee, which is not thy brother. 16 But he shall not multiply horses to himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt, to the end that he should multiply horses: forasmuch as the LORD hath said unto you, Ye shall henceforth return no more that way. 17 Neither shall he multiply wives to himself, that his heart turn not away: neither shall he greatly multiply to himself silver and gold. **God left specific instructions on what NOT to do but David did not heed this particular detail of the law.**

Studying the Life of David

David's life shows that close connection with God can carry us through the most painful times in our lives.

Many of the sons born to David by his many wives grew up to become huge problems for David. David's promiscuous tendencies would result in his son's rape of his half sister (13:11-14), the vengeful murder of that son by his brother (13:22-29), even David's position as king and his very life would be threatened (15:14).

B. What do these verses mean? (What was one or more principles/lessons the writer or God was trying to communicate?)

1. Times of conflict in life **can** and **should** result in a closer **connection** to God. (David's 13 years on the run in the wilderness)
2. When the **battles** ease up, believers must **raise** their level of **alertness** to protect a close connection with God. (David during peace time)
3. Even the most **mature** believer can permit **dangerous trends** into his or her life. (David married multiple wives and had many concubines)
4. Unchecked, high risk trends will **always** have consequences that will have to be **lived through**. (David's sons who were disconnected from God)
5. If we will choose Him, God is **quick** to offer forgiveness, grace, and mercy to help us **endure** the aftermath of our **sinful choices**. (David repented)

C. How should these verses impact my life? (marriage, family, work, ministry, social life, friendships)

Application Question

How can Christians identify and protect themselves from dangerous trends in their lives?

1. Psalm 139:23-24 – Daily surrender my life to God and ask Him to show me anything He considers dangerous in my life.

Studying the Life of David

David's life shows that close connection with God can carry us through the most painful times in our lives.

2. Watch out for an attitude of entitlement or justifying the behavior like, "I deserve such and such," or "I've worked hard over here so I can have this or that."
3. Watch out for thoughts like, "It's only _____, there's no harm in that."
4. When weighing my actions against God's standards, try to think ahead to the overall impact and cost that is involved. I am rarely the only one I am hurting when I choose sin.



Group Discussion Questions

(Try to facilitate the group's discussion and not do most of the talking during this time.)

Group Questions

What are some areas that could be considered high risk tendencies for a believer who wants to stay close to God?

Who is at fault when a son or a daughter choose to rebel against God or live life without inviting God into their decisions?

Does gross sin happen suddenly? Why or why not?