

What Was Great About David's Great Sin?

2 Samuel 24:1-17

- A. **2 Samuel 24:10** – “And David's heart condemned him after he had numbered the people. So David said to the LORD, ‘I have sinned greatly in what I have done; but now, I pray, O LORD, take away the iniquity of Your servant, for I have done very foolishly.’”
- B. You may have thought that David's great sin was when he committed adultery with Bathsheba and then murdered her husband Uriah. That was indeed a great sin that changed the remaining year of David's life.
1. When Nathan confronted him on that occasion, David said: “I have sinned against the Lord . . .” **2 Samuel 12:13**
 2. After numbering the people, he confessed: “. . . I have sinned **greatly** in what I have done . . .” **2 Samuel 24:10**
 3. As a result of the sin with Bathsheba, Uriah the Hittite died. And later the baby conceived in their act of adultery died.
 4. As a result of the sin of numbering the people, 70,000 Israelites died.
 5. David's great sin was that of numbering the children of Israel.
- C. What lessons can be learned from this chapter in David's life?

BIGGER IS NOT ALWAYS BETTER

- A. David's pride was lifted up . . . He wanted to know how big his kingdom was. How big was David's kingdom?
1. It was as big as God willed it to be.
 2. It was as big as God wanted it do be.
 3. It was as big as God needed it to be.
- B. **Proverbs 16:18** – “Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.”
- C. More is not always better . . . Bigger is not always better

BIGGER IS NOT ALWAYS BEST

- A. It is true that under David's leadership Israel had defeated all of the kings that surrounded their borders.
1. In the first ten chapters of 2 Samuel some eleven great military victories are recorded.
 2. Now Israel is at ease in Zion.
 3. David was putting his trust in chariots . . . Not in God.
 4. When in his youth he came against mighty Goliath in the name of the God of Israel . . . Now he had 1,300,000 soldiers at his command.
 5. However, when things got “better,” the people of Israel became indifferent in their worship.

LITTLE IS BIG

- A. David should have known better than to have numbered the children of Israel without taking up an offering. What do I mean by that? **Exodus 30:12** – “When you take the census of the children of Israel for their number, then every man shall give a ransom for himself to the LORD, when you number them, that there may be no plague among them when you number them.”
- B. **2 Samuel 24:13-15** – “So Gad came to David and told him; and he said to him, “Shall seven years of famine come to you in your land? Or shall you flee three months before your enemies, while they pursue you? Or shall there be three days' plague in your land? Now consider and see what answer I should take back to Him who sent me.”
- And David said to Gad, “I am in great distress. Please let us fall into the hand of the LORD, for His mercies are great; but do not let me fall into the hand of man.”
- So the LORD sent a plague upon Israel from the morning till the appointed time. From Dan to Beersheba seventy thousand men of the people died.”
- C. Perhaps a half shekel of silver did not seem like much to King David . . . But the silver pictured redemption money . . . Our redemption through the blood of Christ is a **BIG DEAL!**

FREEDOM IS NOT FREE . . . IT COMES WITH A PRICE

- A. Some “churches” and congregations are caught up in the ‘numbers game.’
1. Many have compromised their Biblical beliefs and morals for the sake of increasing their numbers.
 - a. **Illustration:** 94% of people in south Florida do not attend worship services. One denomination began an internet church where you could be a member but did not have to attend any formal gatherings.
 - b. **Illustration:** In Daytona Beach . . . Christian church . . . Drive in theatre service . . . Describe how it was done.
 - c. Congregations of the Lord’s church have changed their signs so as not to be identified as a ‘Church of Christ’ in hope of attracting more people.
 - d. A beer truck with loud music dancing and a raffle can draw a crowd.

ONLY WHAT GOD COUNTS REALLY COUNTS

- A. It took Joab nine months to count the number of people . . . In three days God killed over seventy thousand.
- B. Think about the day of judgment . . . So much of what we thought would “count” with God will become nothing more than wood, hay, and stubble. The Bible reveals that which is important to God . . . And that is what should be important to us.

- C. David became more concerned about numbers, more so than in reminding the people that they were ransomed at a price.
- D. Too many religious people and congregations have a form of godliness without the power of God in them! In **2 Timothy 3:6**, Paul wrote about people “having a form of godliness but denying its power . . .”

CONCLUSION:

- A. We have observed five lessons from 2 Samuel 24:1-17
 1. Bigger is not always better.
 2. Better is not always best.
 3. Little is big.
 4. Freedom is not free . . . Freedom comes at a price.
 5. Only what God counts . . . Really counts.
- B. How wealthy are you? Don't answer by looking around . . . Answer by looking up.
- C. **God's Plan for Man's Salvation**