David's Four Lambs

2 Samuel 12:1-7

INTRODUCTION:

A. **Romans 15:4** – "For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope."
   1. "Those things written before" (here referring to the Old Testament) were written and preserved for future generations.
   2. Our scriptural knowledge affects our attitude toward the present and the future.
   3. The more we know about what God has done in years past, the greater will be our confidence in what he will do in the days ahead.
   4. We should read our Bible diligently to increase our trust that God's will is best for us.

B. David – One of the greatest of the 2,930 Bible characters.
   1. David (1040-970 B.C.)was anointed king on three separate occasions over an approximate period of some 20 years.
      a. 1st time – Bethlehem – 1 Samuel 16:1-13 . . . Samuel anointed him.
      b. 2nd time – Hebron – 2 Samuel 2:1-7. . . . The men of Judah anointed him. Would reign over Judah for 7j years from Hebron while Ishbosheth served as king over Israel for 2 years followed by 5j years of civil war. Saul's youngest son . . . Legitimate heir. . . Began reign at age 40.
      c. 3rd time – Hebron. 2 Samuel 5:43-5. . . . "All the elders of Israel" anointed him. Would reign over al twelve tribes as King of Israel for the next 33 years. NOTE: Combine the 2nd and 3rd anointings and David reigned of a total of some 40 years.
   2. At Antioch in Pisidia, Paul said, ". . . I have found Daivd, the son of Jesse, ' a man after My own heart, who will do all my will." **Acts 13:22**

C. **2 Samuel 12:1-7** – "Then the LORD sent Nathan to David. And he came to him, and said to him: "There were two men in one city, one rich and the other poor.

2 The rich man had exceedingly many flocks and herds.

3 But the poor man 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.

4 And a traveler came to the rich man, who refused to take from his own flock and from his own herd to prepare one for the wayfaring man who had come to him; but he took the poor man's lamb and prepared it for the man who had come to him."

5 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!

6 And he shall restore fourfold for the lamb, **because he did this thing and because he had no pity**."

7 Then Nathan said to David, "**You are the man**!

B. The words of Nathan the Prophet, yea, the words from God, struck David to the core of his heart.
   1. His penitent prayer is recorded in Psalm 51.
   2. As a result of his confession, "I have sinned," and his plea for mercy, God lifted a portion of David's angry decree.
      a. **Verse 5** – "As the LORD lives, the man who has done this shall surely die!"
      b. **Verses 9-10** – "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. Now therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house . . ."
      c. **Verse 13** – "So David said to Nathan, 'I have sinned against the LORD." And Nathan said to David, 'The LORD also has put away your sin; **you shall not die**.'"
         David would not die as a result of his sin . . . But his verdict and formula, "**He shall restore fourfold for the lamb**," was still binding . . . The formula, four lambs for one was still in place.
      d. Let us examine how David paid four for the one he had taken . . . The four lambs that were his that would become the price he pronounced.

LAMB #1 . . . THE BABY BORN TO BATHSHEBA AND DAVID DIED.

A. The pronouncement: **verse 14** – "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."
B. The fulfillment: **verse 18** – "Then on the seventh day it came to pass that the child died"
C. Lamb number one . . . David gave up his first son born to Bathsheba . . . One down with three to go.

LAMB #2 . . . DAVID'S OLDEST SON, AMNON.

A. After Amnon, another of David's sons, had violated his sister Tamar, Absalom, her full bloodied brother, purposed to kill Amnon.
   1. Two years would pass before Absalom would accomplish his purpose.
   2. At the sheep shearing time, Absalom gave a festive party for the other sons of David, including Amnon
   3. For Amnon, it would be his "last supper," for while the festivities were underway, we read in **2 Samuel 13:28-29** – "Now Absalom had commanded his servants, saying, 'Watch now, when Amnon's heart is merry with wine, and when I say to you, 'Strike Amnon!' then kill him. Do not be afraid. Have I not commanded you? Be courageous and valiant . . ."
      29 So the servants of Absalom did to Amnon as Absalom had commanded.
   4. Amnon is now dead.
B. Absalom had two years in which to:
   1. Become more forgiving.

2. Become more bitter and vengeful. He chose the latter.

C. The second lamb of David has been offered . . . Two down with two to go.

LAMB #3 . . . DAVID'S THIRD SON, ABSALOM.

A. As a result of Amnon's murder, Absalom fled from his father and after being permitted to return to Jerusalem, eventually led a conspiracy against him.
   1. Absalom's rebellion would end tragically.
   2. David sent his forces under the direction of Joab, to put down the rebellion and restore order.
   3. David gave emphatic instructions that Absalom be "dealt with gently" and no harm come to him.
   4. David's forces gained a great victory over the insurgents led by Absalom.
   5. In fleeing, Absalom was caught by his hair in a tree. Upon that being reported to Joab. ". . . Joab took three spears in his hand and thrust them through Absalom's heart, while he was still alive in the midst of the terebinth tree." **2 Samuel 18:14**
   6. **2 Samuel 18:33** – "Then the king was deeply moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept. And as he went, he said thus: 'O my son Absalom — my son, my son Absalom — if only I had died in your place! O Absalom my son, my son!'"

B. David would later ask when the runners arrived, "Is the young man Absalom safe?" No David, Absalom was lamb number three. The third lamb of David has been paid . . . three down with one to go. Who will it be?

LAMB #4 . . . DAVID'S FOURTH SON, ADONIJAH (ABSALOM'S YOUNGER BROTHER).

A. David lay gravely ill in Jerusalem.
   1. Seeing his father at the point of death, Adonijah, took advantage of the situation and was in the process of having himself proclaimed king over Israel in his father's place.
   2. Bathsheba, realizing the extreme gravity of the situation, went to David and requested him to name her son Solomon as king, which David did.
   3. Soon thereafter, David died . . . But there was one last lamb yet to die.
   4. Once established on the throne of Israel, Solomon ordered the death of his brother Adonijah. **1 Kings 2:25** records the death of David's fourth lamb. "So King Solomon sent by the hand of Benaiah (Bee-nigh-uh) the son of Jehoiada; and he struck him down, and he died."

B. Lamb # 4 . . . Adonijah was dead. Four down and none to go. The guilty party had paid four for one in the death he had caused.

CONCLUSION:

A. ". . . **He shall restore fourfold for the lamb, because (1) he did this thing and (2) because he had no pity**." **2 Samuel 12:6**
   1. Broke three of the Ten Commandments
      a. **10th** – You shall not covet your neighbor's wife. Exodus 20:17

b. **7th** – You shall not commit adultery. Exodus 20:14
c. **6th** – You shall not murder. Exodus 20:13 This (6th) to cover up having broken the other two (6th & 7th), especially the 7th.

2. Resorted to deception in the cover-up.
3. The Bible says, ". . . He had no pity."

B. **Lessons from David's sin with Bathsheba**.

1. External falls begin with internal deterioration.
   a. The heart and mind must be guarded at all times.
   b. **James 4:7** – "Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you."
2. No one is exempt from the possibility of falling.
   a. People fall into sin of their own choice.
   b. The fall is a result of a process.
   c. **1 Corinthians 10:13** – "No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it."
3. A person's sin extends far beyond himself.
   a. It affects his family . . . friends . . . and often the stranger whom he has never met.
   b. David further compounded the tragic consequences of his sin by his pious act in imposing judgment, not realizing the he was, in fact, passing judgment upon himself and his family.
   c. Wise indeed is that person who heeds the warning of our Lord as recorded in **Matthew 7:1-2** - "Judge not, that you be not judged. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you." Was that not, in fact, what happened to David?
4. Sin has its consequences. Someone once said, "Results are what we expect, but consequences are what we get."
5. Sin will . . . . . .
   1. Take you farther than you wanted to go.
   2. Keep you longer than you wanted to stay.
   3. Cost you more than you were willing to pay.
6. Sin stains and destroys . . . God has a plan for cleansing and restoring.
   a. Faith destroys the love of sin. 1 John 5:4
   b. Repentance destroys the practice of sin. 2 Corinthians 7:9-10
   c. Baptism destroys the state of sin. Romans 6:3; Ephesians 1:7
7. Sin must be paid for. There are only two ways to pay:
   a. You can pay for it yourself in Hell . . . Disobedience, doing nothing toward the gospel, will do that.
   b. Christ will pay with His own blood . . . Obedience to the Gospel will provide that payment.

F. **God's Plan for Man's Salvation**