

The Hidden Cost of Sin

II Samuel 12: 1-14

We've all heard the phrase, "all that glitters is not gold." Many today are chasing the glitter of sin. They are attracted to its appeal to the flesh, with no regard for what sin costs. Satan has sold this world a bill of goods (beginning in Eden), that looks appealing to the flesh, but he never reveals the fine print.

Many have done business with the devil, dealing in sin, totally unaware of the hidden cost that is always associated with it. This passage reveals such a man. This is one of the most tragic accounts in the Bible. It clearly defines the high cost of sin. It is believed that this conversation with Nathan took place at least a year after David's sin. He had spent a year in turmoil of soul, trying to cover his sin, but it eventually caught up with him.

If David, a man after God's own heart, can succumb to sin and pay a heavy price, surely you and I can find ourselves there as well. The question is, are we willing to pay the price? Is the pleasure of a moment of sin worth the payment it requires? Today I'd like to share with you the truths concerning: [The Hidden Cost of Sin](#).

I. The Certainty of Sin – We must understand that no sin is innocent. It always carries implications. There is always an effect from the cause. You may feel that sin has no effect, but there is always a price to pay! Notice:

A. Sin Always Destroys (1-4) – Here Nathan shares a parable with David, (Illus.) You see David had all that a man could desire. He was the king appointed of God. The Lord had blessed his kingdom beyond measure.

- There was also another family that was greatly blessed. Uriah was a servant of the king. He had a wife whom he loved dearly. Prior to David's sin two worlds were filled with happiness and contentment. But after his sin, both worlds were filled with pain and suffering. David had lost his fellowship with God and the joy of living. Bathsheba had lost her husband and the hopes for her future.

- Sin always causes destruction. It has destroyed many homes, lives, and even cultures. Before you submit to sin, consider the destruction that will result from it. Once the damage is done, things are never the same. Is the sin you desire worth destroying life as you know it?

B. Sin Always Deceives (5-6) – Remember it has been a year since David sinned against Bathsheba. In that time his heart has hardened. He has spent many days trying to cover his sin. David's response to Nathan is amazing. He is angered at the man who committed such an atrocity. "This man shall surely die and restore fourfold for his transgression."

- All the while, David never stopped to consider his sin or think that he was the man of whom Nathan spoke. Sin always creates deception. The longer we ignore it and continue to engage in it, the blinder we become to it!
- Satan would have you believe that everything is fine. Be your own man, make yourself happy; you only go around once; live it up! [II Cor.4:4 – In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.](#) It isn't long until you've bought into his lie. You no longer view your sin as doing wrong.
- Satan may deceive, and we may refuse to see our actions as sinful, but the fact remains: sin is sin. That will never change, no matter how much we try to convince ourselves otherwise!

C. Sin is Always Discovered (7-9) – God sent Nathan to confront David with his sin. He may have thought that he had been successful in covering it up, but God had been aware all the time. [Num.32:23b – be sure your sin will find you out.](#)

- We may think that our actions are concealed, that no one knows our inward secrets, but nothing escapes the all seeing eye of God. You may hide it from your spouse, your parents, your children, or from me and the church, but you can't hide anything from God. He knows the very desires of our hearts. God knows every sin we've ever committed! You may be able to hide it longer than David did, but eventually your sin will find you out; it will be exposed. Sin will always be discovered!

D. Sin Always Defiles (12, 14a) – David had committed his sin in secret, but God would punish him openly. The people of Israel would soon hear of the sin of the king. A man of great honor and respect would have to deal with the reproach that sin brings.

- You can spend a lifetime building a reputation and in a moment of weakness tear down a lifetime of work. This is a difficult burden to carry. I've known Christians who've fallen that never got over the fact that they defiled their testimony. They live with the reality of the high price of sin every day.
- Tragically David didn't just defile himself; he brought reproach to God, [14a](#). Christian we must be careful how we live. Our lives aren't just about us; we represent the Lord of glory. When a child of God falls, it brings reproach on the body of Christ! Satan will keep that in front of people for years to come. You won't be remembered for the good you've done, but for the mistake you made. Sin always defiles!

I. The Certainty of Sin

II. The Consequences of Sin – David found forgiveness for his sin, but the consequences of that sin followed him to the grave. He lived with the choice he made the rest of his life. (Share the statement dad made.) So what are the consequences of sin? Let's consider:

A. The Effect of Sin (10) – Because of his sin David never enjoyed peace again. He was a man of war the rest of his life. He was allowed to keep his throne, but he was denied building the Temple. He missed out on some great blessings because of sin.

- You may find forgiveness from a moment of infidelity, but the effects of a destroyed marriage and broken home will remain. You can be forgiven from addictions, but the physical damage likely will remain. A murderer can be forgiven, but he'll still have to carry out his prison time. There are many today who regret their sin, but they are still dealing with its consequences daily! Is that moment of sin worth the high cost and lasting effects? I really doubt it, think before you act!

B. The Extent of Sin (11) – David's sin didn't just affect him; it affected his home and kingdom. There were others who suffered because of David's sin. He boldly stated that the man should restore fourfold and that is exactly what David did. The child of Bathsheba died, Absalom killed Amnon who defiled Tamar, Joab killed Absalom, and Solomon ordered his brother Adonijah killed after the death of David. The consequences of David's sin extended far beyond his personal life and even continued after his death.

- We don't live in a bubble! Our sin doesn't just affect us. It will have lasting implications on those around us, many times even after we are gone. Consider the extent of sin before you choose to engage in it!

C. The End of Sin (14b) – The child died because of David's sin. As I've already shared, he lost four sons because of his sin. This is a sobering truth, sin brings death. It did for Adam; it did for David, and it will for all men. [Jam.1:15 – Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.](#) [Rom.6:23 – For the wages of sin is death.](#) Sin will always end in death if it isn't dealt with.

- If you choose to live a life of sin, it will cost far more than you want to pay. I believe many Christians have filled an early grave due to sin. For those who deny Christ, sin results in eternal death in hell. I want to share with you a ray of hope. Lastly we see:

III. The Cure for Sin – I'm sure you would agree that sin is devastating, but there is hope; there is a cure for sin. Granted the consequences will remain, but you can find forgiveness. Forgiveness involves:

A. Sincere Repentance (13a) – David realized that he had done wrong. He knew that he needed forgiveness. David repented and God spared his life.

- If you are living in sin, apart from God, you must repent. There is no other way to deal with sin. It won't get any better on its own and it won't just go away. You must get it before God and ask Him to forgive you. [Pro.28:13 – He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.](#) If you desire to be freed from the burden of sin, repent!

B. Spiritual Restoration (13b) – God put away David's sin, literally covered it. David had no power to remove the sin, but God did.

- That is exactly what He did for me. I was guilty of sin, bound for hell, and Jesus covered my sin in His precious blood. Salvation through the blood of Christ is the cure for sin. You don't have to continue living in sin. There is hope in Jesus today! [1 Jn.1:9 – If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.](#)

Sin always carries a heavy price. You may not realize the cost yet, but eventually you'll have to make a payment. Sin cost far more than you want to pay.

Why not come today, right now, and let God cover your sin in the precious blood of Jesus. You don't have to continue living a life of misery. Jesus has already paid the price for you if you'll only come to Him.