

We will be finishing up our sermon series on the Life of David this morning with a brief commentary followed by a longer testimony time.

I wanted to comment on King David & the Me Too movement. As most of you no doubt know, many women (and some men) have been very vocal in the past year and a half about their experience with sexual violence. As a result, many powerful men have been ousted and blacklisted from entertainment, media, politics, and even the church. I could not help but think about this as I read the story of David and Bathsheba. Although David experiences consequences from his action, God does not remove him from his position as King. From that perspective, David seems to get off easy, and God seems like perhaps His standards are not as high as ours. How should we understand this?

Let me share two things:

1) God's moral standards are much higher than our culture

Our culture picks and chooses which sins and immoralities to punish, which to shrug off, and which to celebrate. Not so with God. As we find in Matthew 5, God's standards are much higher than ours:

Matthew 5:27-30 - "You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.'²⁸ But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.²⁹ If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.³⁰ And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.

Matthew 5:21-22 - "You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.'²² But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, 'Raca,' is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell.

And just in case there were any doubts:

Matthew 5:48 - Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

We see throughout David's life that God is holy. Uzzah is killed for touching the ark. Saul is rejected as King. David faces terrible consequences. God's standards are higher than ours. His law not only show us what a good work is, but it shows us our need for a Savior.

Romans 3:19-24 - *Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. ²⁰ Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become **conscious of sin.** ²¹ But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. ²² This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.*

God's standards are higher than ours, and no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by observing the law. The law shows us our sin and our need for a Savior. But having said that:

2) God is far more merciful than our culture

Our culture chooses which sins are unforgivable, and then punishes for them with no seeming chance of restoration. Not so with the Lord. Nothing is so heinous that it can not be forgiven, that God can not show mercy.

With David, there are consequences. But when he confesses and repents, there is forgiveness immediately.

1 John 1:9-10 - *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.*

God is at the same time more holy, with higher expectations, and more merciful with a greater capacity to forgive. How can God do that? How can God forgive David? Because David's life ultimately points us to the Son of David, the true King, who met the holy standard for us and through whom we are offered mercy.

2 Corinthians 5:21 - *God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

God can show mercy to even the worst sinners, because on the cross, Jesus took the punishment for our sins.

Whatever you have done, there is forgiveness and mercy to be found in the Lord.