

The Duties of The Priest

Part 13

“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.” (1Peter 2:9)

David was a man after God’s own heart; he did what the LORD had commanded him to do. Let us look now to some aspects of King David life and learn from it.

We know that David committed adultery with Bathsheba the wife of Uriah the Hittite, and to cover his sin he plot the death of her husband and then after that he married her. God punished David for that and through Nathan the prophet he pronounced unto him his judgment, ***“¹⁰ Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.”***¹¹ ***“This is what the LORD says: ‘Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity upon you. Before your very eyes I will take your wives and give them to one who is close to you, and he will lie with your wives in broad daylight.”***¹² ***You did it in secret, but I will do this thing in broad daylight before all Israel.”***¹³ ***Then David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the LORD.” (Samuel 12:10-13)*** At once the LORD brought judgment on David’s son who was born from adultery. And that what will be happening to the family where the parents are sinning against God, their sins will affect the next generation and bringing God’s wrath on them.

David truly repented from his sin that he did and the LORD restored him. When we as parents repent from our sins and God accepted us and restored us we need to guard our children of not falling into the same sin.

“¹ In the course of time, Amnon son of David fell in love with Tamar, the beautiful sister of Absalom son of David. ² Amnon became frustrated to the point of illness on account of his sister Tamar, for she was a virgin, and it seemed impossible for him to do anything to her. ³ Now Amnon had a friend named Jonadab son of Shimeah, David’s brother. Jonadab was a very shrewd man. ⁴ He asked Amnon, “Why do you, the king’s son, look so haggard morning after morning? Won’t you tell me?” Amnon said to him, “I’m in love with Tamar, my brother Absalom’s sister.” ⁵ “Go to bed and pretend to be ill,” Jonadab said. “When your father comes to see you, say to him, ‘I would like my sister Tamar to come and give me something to eat. Let her prepare the food in my sight so I may watch her and then eat it from her hand.’” ⁶ So Amnon lay down and pretended to be ill. When the king came to see him, Amnon said to him, “I would like my sister Tamar to come and make some

special bread in my sight, so I may eat from her hand.” (2Samuel 13:1-6) David should be discerning why Amnon is asking for Tamar to come to him and why he wanted special bread from her, and why he wanted to see her and to eat from her hand. But David was unaware of the plan of devil and how evil doers even inside the family teach the children and motivate them to do wrong things. So, ***“⁷ David sent word to Tamar at the palace: “Go to the house of your brother Amnon and prepare some food for him.” (2Samuel 13:7) ⁸ So Tamar went to the house of her brother Amnon, who was lying down. She took some dough, kneaded it, made the bread in his sight and baked it. ⁹ Then she took the pan and served him the bread, but he refused to eat. “Send everyone out of here,” Amnon said. So everyone left him. ¹⁰ Then Amnon said to Tamar, “Bring the food here into my bedroom so I may eat from your hand.” And Tamar took the bread she had prepared and brought it to her brother Amnon in his bedroom. ¹¹ But when she took it to him to eat, he grabbed her and said, “Come to bed with me, my sister.” ¹² “Don’t, my brother!” she said to him. “Don’t force me. Such a thing should not be done in Israel! Don’t do this wicked thing. ¹³ What about me? Where could I get rid of my disgrace? And what about you? You would be like one of the wicked fools in Israel. Please speak to the king; he will not keep me from being married to you.” ¹⁴ But he refused to listen to her, and since he was stronger than she, he raped her. ¹⁵ Then Amnon hated her with intense hatred. In fact, he hated her more than he had loved her. Amnon said to her, “Get up and get out!” ¹⁶ “No!” she said to him. “Sending me away would be a greater wrong than what you have already done to me.” But he refused to listen to her. ¹⁷ He called his personal servant and said, “Get this woman out of here and bolt the door after her.” ¹⁸ So his servant put her out and bolted the door after her. She was wearing a richly ornamented robe, for this was the kind of garment the virgin daughters of the king wore. ¹⁹ Tamar put ashes on her head and tore the ornamented robe she was wearing. She put her hand on her head and went away, weeping aloud as she went. ²⁰ Her brother Absalom said to her, “Has that Amnon, your brother, been with you? Be quiet now, my sister; he is your brother. Don’t take this thing to heart.” And Tamar lived in her brother Absalom’s house, a desolate woman.” (2Samuel 13:8-19)*** We learn from that the following:

1- We should not allow boys and girls mixed together: Boys should go with the boys and girls with the girls. We don’t give permission for a man and woman to be in intimacy, because devil will inject in one or both of them mind to do something bad against God. Even if both man and woman

are innocent and there is nothing wrong between them, if they keep intimacy together devil will use that to introduce his evil agenda.

2- Our previous sins that we repented of should mobilize us to protect our children from doing the same thing: The prophet Nathan prophecy to David that what he did it will happen to his household. But that does not mean that he will be passive in restraining his children from doing wrong because he had done the same in the past. Part of our repentance of what we did in the past is to protect our children today from the same temptation and devil's plans. We need to teach our children and show them the dangers that are around them, and even from our previous life experience we can tell them and warn them not to do what we had done in the past.

3- We need to take a disciplinary action if any of our children sin against the LORD and do the thing that we had instructed them not to do: ⁴²¹ *When King David heard all this, he was furious.* King David becoming furious of what Amnon did is not enough because he needed to take an action and deal with Amnon's sin. Amnon cannot marry the girl because she is his sister from his father, *“Do not have sexual relations with your sister, either your father's daughter or your mother's daughter, whether she was born in the same home or elsewhere. Everyone who does any of these detestable things—such persons must be cut off from their people.”* (Leviticus 18:9,29) David fail to deal with Amnon's sin properly therefore, *“Absalom never said a word to Amnon, either good or bad; he hated Amnon because he had disgraced his sister Tamar.”* (2Samuel 13:22)

4- Our failure to discipline our children and deal properly with their sins will bring more destruction on them and on the family: ⁴²³ *Two years later, when Absalom's sheepshearers were at Baal Hazor near the border of Ephraim, he invited all the king's sons to come there.* ²⁴ *Absalom went to the king and said, “Your servant has had shearers come. Will the king and his officials please join me?”* ²⁵ *“No, my son,” the king replied. “All of us should not go; we would only be a burden to you.” Although Absalom urged him, he still refused to go, but gave him his blessing.* ²⁶ *Then Absalom said, “If not, please let my brother Amnon come with us.” The king asked him, “Why should he go with you?”* ²⁷ *But Absalom urged him, so he sent with him Amnon and the rest of the king's sons.* ²⁸ *Absalom ordered his men, “Listen! When Amnon is in high spirits from drinking wine and I say to you, ‘Strike Amnon down,’ then kill him. Don't be afraid. Have not I given you this order? Be strong and brave.”* ²⁹ *So Absalom's men did to Amnon what Absalom had ordered. Then all the king's sons got up, mounted their mules and fled.”* (2Samuel 13”23-29) One sin that David fail to deal with brought another sin and more destruction over all

his family. David did not take a disciplinary action against Amnon because he love him being his son, but finally he lose him. ⁴³⁷ *Absalom fled and went to Talmai son of Ammihud, the king of Geshur. But King David mourned for his son every day.”* (2Samuel 13:37)

5- Our failure to discipline our children and deal properly with their sins will bring more destruction on them and on the church: David did not do anything with the crime of Absalom; he needed to be executed as God's says, *“Do not accept a ransom for the life of a murderer, who deserves to die. He must surely be put to death.”* (Numbers 35:31) But because he is his son David did not take any action. And finally we know that Absalom gradually was restored to his previous position without being punished. But we know very well that the same Absalom worked it out to deceive the people and take their support to conspire and take the position of his father as a king. With what Absalom did the life of David and the whole kingdom was at the brim of death by the hand of Absalom. God was graceful to David and finally enabled him and the Kingdom to be restored and Absalom and his men were driven away from the leadership in Jerusalem (Read the whole story in 2Samuel Chapters 14-18 in your own bible).

My Dear and Beloved: When we fail to discipline our children and restrain them, not only themselves they will die in their sins, and not only our other children will be harmed and affected by the effect of sin being involved in sin. But as well as the whole family and the whole church will be in turmoil, horror and great danger. Let us consider the thought of the message carefully. Now the future is in our hands in the way we live our lives, in the way we nurture our children and in the way that we discipline and deal with sin. If we do that well then good future will await our children and the church that God had entrusted to us. But if we fail to do that then we are inviting Satan and its schemes and tactics in the lives of our children and in the lives of our families, and the harm will spread to all of them and to the church that God had placed us in. Don't follow your emotion in the way you deal with your children's sins, but love God more than your children and he will give you the wisdom and the strength how to do all of that as you agree to pray.

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the Cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal. Lord I commit my ways into your hand, I am willing to do your will and abide in your ways. LORD give me the strength to do that and take away any emotions or feelings that hindering me from disciplining my children, this is my prayer in Jesus name Amen.*