

The Sins Of The King

“O Lord hear my voice. Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy. If you, O LORD, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand? But with you there are forgiveness; therefore you are feared.” (Psalm 130:2-3)

In life, we are busy in our work, families, projects and ambitions. We plan to do things in order and most of the time we want to do it without any mistake. We are afraid to fall into faults. We try our best to avoid error but we are human, weak and lean. We want to do well but sin and shortcomings ultimately rise up. We aim to preserve white pages but black, dark and dirty dots prevail. Nothing is good in us, O God. No one is righteous and can stand before God. No one can boast by his work in front of God. Blessed is the honesty of those who say, *“As a woman with child and about to give birth writhes and cries out in her pain, so were we in your presence, O LORD. We were with child, we writhed in pain, but we gave birth to wind. We have not brought salvation to the earth; we have not given birth to people of the world.” (Isaiah 26:17-18)*

Most people heard about king David. The king who is anointed and chosen by God to lead and rule over His people. He was the man of God, his life and acts were recorded in many pages of the Bible. He wrote many of the psalms, and many prophecies were spoken through his mouth. Although we did not live with this man we come to know many marvelous details of his life from the Bible. But today, we will not tackle his achievements instead, his shortcomings, mistakes or sins; not to scandal David but:

1. To show that no human is without sin.
2. To show us how consciously or unconsciously sin and offend God.
3. To show that God so loves us and forgives our sins if we go to Him with repentful heart.
4. To help us to avoid falling into the same sins.

A) David and Bathsheba: *“One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful, and David sent someone to find about her. The man said, “Isn’t this Bathsheba the daughter of Eliam and wife of Uriah the Hittite?” Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her. (She had purified herself from her uncleanness) Then she went back home. (2Samuel 11:2-4)*

1. Lust leads to adultery: The background of this story is more important than the adultery sin itself. The king’s army was in a battle, while the king was at the rear side, enjoying life, sleeping in quiet place with normal life events. One of his soldiers in that battle is Uriah whose wife is Bathsheba whom David met and slept with. This man Uriah, was fighting for the sake of the kingdom and for the sake of the king. But what did the king do? He slept with the wife of that man. This is one point. In another aspect, regarding women, king David had his own wives in addition to his concubines, but still his eyes and heart was enticed and had fallen into sin.

2. Adultery leads to murder: (One sin leads to another): *“The woman conceived and sent word to David saying, “I am pregnant.” So David sent his word to Joab: “Send me Uriah the Hittite.” And Joab sent him to David.” (2Samuel 11:5-6)* Now king David doesn’t know what to do! How can he cover what he did? Evil came to mind, so he sent for Uriah, the husband of that woman. “Then David said to Uriah, *“Go down to your house and wash your feet.” So Uriah left the palace, and a gift from the king was sent after him. “But Uriah slept at the entrance of the palace with all his master’s servants and did not go down to his house.” (2Samuel 11:8-9)* What the king did is malice. He wanted the man to sleep with his wife to cover his adultery and to hide the possible pregnancy from his act. But Uriah refused to go in spite of the king’s insistence. David asked him why and, *“Uriah said to David,*

“The ark and Israel and Judah are staying in tents and my master and Joab and my Lord’s men are camped in the open fields. How could I go to my house to eat and drink and lie with my wife? As surely as you live, I will not do such a thing!” (2Samuel 11:11) Uriah’s action made the situation more hard for David, but still he did not repent from his sin. Infact, he went further, and decided to kill Uriah in a dirty manner. He sent him back to the battlefield with a letter to his army commander, Joab. *“In it he wrote, “Put Uriah in the front line where the fighting is fiercest. Then withdraw him, so he will be struck down and die.” (2Samuel 11:15)* So Uriah died in the battle, and his wife mourned for him. In due course, David married Bathsheba not out of faithfulness, but to cover his sin, for she was pregnant. *“After time of mourning was over, David had brought to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing David had done displeased the LORD (2Samuel 11:27)*

3. David despised God: David’s desire to cover his own sin made him forget that God is watching his actions and is despised. He wanted to be smart, but *“The eyes of the Lord are everywhere, keeping watch on the wicked and the good.” (Proverbs 15:3)*

B) David numbers the fighting men: *“Satan rose up against the people of God and incited David to take a census. So David said to Joab and the commanders of the troops, “Go and count the men from Beersheba to Dan. Then report back to me so that I may know how many there are.” (1Chronicles 21:1-2)*

1. David doubted the grace and the true presence of the Lord: He was counting his men as if he is the one who brought them and acknowledging God being the owner and the one who put him as a king over them. *“But Joab replied, “May the Lord multiply his troops a hundred times over. My Lord the king, are they not all my Lord’s subjects? Why does my Lord want to do this? Why should he bring guilt on his people? (1Chronicle 21:3)* David’s action of counting the men was considered as a defect in his faith in God. He doubted the true presence of God as the real King to His people. He wanted to shoulder everything without leaving anything for God to carry for him. He forgot the word of God that says, *“Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you.” (1Peter 5:7)* He was feeling insecure, and that led him count his men, but this attitude was considered as guilt. David was blind in this aspect that even he did not take heed from Joab’s advice or explanation as we read above.

2. The sin of David caused others to sin: Let us read what happened: *“But Joab did not include Levi and Benjamin in the numbering, because the king’s command was repulsive to him. This command was also evil in the sight of God: so he punished them.” (1Chronicle 21:6-7)* David’s decision became a stumbling block for others causing them to sin.

All the above are David’s sins that stirred God’s anger, and the Lord judged him. But in both situations David did one thing good; he confessed his sin to God. And he repented from his acts in front of God. In the first sin David declared, *“I have sinned against the Lord.” (2Samuel 12:13)* and in the second sin David said: *“I am in deep distress. Let me fall into the hands of the Lord, for His mercy is very great; but do not let me fall into the hands of men.” (1Chronicle 21:13)* and both the times the Lord forgives him.

My dear and beloved: We are not better than David the king. All of us may have done the same or something worse. But what counts is our confession of our sins, accepting the fact that we did the wrong thing and we are sinners. Let us take the attitude of repentance and come to the presence of God. We should not follow the example of David in committing sins, but absolutely right it is if we follow his example of repentance and coming back again into the arms of God. As it is written: *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us from our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”* God bless you as you agree to pray.

My Prayer: *Lord Jesus thank you for your blood and your forgiveness to my sins. Lord I repent from all the following shortcomings _____ . I commit myself to live for you and walk according to your ways. This is my prayer in Jesus name Amen.*