

SUBJECT: Why does God allow us to feel the consequences and effects of sin?

COMPLEMENT: So that we stay humble and exalt God and lean on him.

BIG IDEA: God allows us to feel the consequences and effects of sin so we know that he's our strength and Savior.

1) INTRO

- Sitcoms
- The problem's sin
- We all feel the effects & consequences of sin
- Subj – Comp
- Paul's Thorn in 2 Cor 12 – not be prideful & look to JC
- BIG IDEA
- Big passage of Scripture
- **Continue on with big passage today continuing on in the tragic part of David's life...it's a tragedy that we're walking through today**

2) 2 SAM 13-14

- We've seen much in the life of David already. Brief recap.
- David's sin of adultery & murder
 - We saw last week the sweet truth that there's forgiveness in Jesus for our sin - immediate forgiveness, Praise the Lord
 - But we also saw the truth that sin has consequences
 - We still feel the effects of our sin for periods of time or throughout our lives in various ways
- This is what's going on in our passage today...David & his family felt that
 - David's forgiven by God for his sins of adultery & murder, but he's still feeling the effects/consequences of sin in his family
 - We see this right away in the story of Amnon & Tamar
- Amnon was his firstborn son and, in his lust, raped his half-sister, Tamar and then burned with hatred toward her
 - Then Tamar was taken into the care of her full brother, Absalom, who was David's third-born son
 - Word of this came to David and it made him angry
 - But, he didn't do anything about it
 - David's absent...apathetic/passive
 - So, Absalom hated Amnon for what he did to Tamar and he waited for an opportunity to retaliate
- Absalom retaliated two years later during sheepshearing time
 - Sheepshearing time was a time of celebration...a time to feast
 - It was a time of great celebration
- Absalom devised an elaborate and persuasive invitation to King David to let Amnon attend
 - And, then Absalom kills Amnon there
 - It was as though Absalom invited his brother to Thanksgiving to murder him
 - Very nasty stuff
 - The consequences and effects of sin continue to be felt by David & his family
- News comes to David that Amnon's dead

- In fact, news comes to David that Absalom murdered all his sons
- But, Jonadab corrects the news and tells David that Absalom has only killed Amnon
- **And, David's sons come and mourn with David over the death of Amnon...all but Absalom who who runs away**
- **David's family continues to feel the effects of sin**
- As we come to chap 14, we see that Joab devises a plan to try to convince King David to allow Absalom to return to Jerusalem
 - Joab's a shrewd man; he's the captain of David's army who killed Abner, Saul's captain...and, by doing so brought guilt upon David and his kingdom
 - So, David curses Joab and his family
- So, Joab sends a woman to David with a fictional story to show David that he's being unreasonable to Absalom by not welcoming him back
 - It's similar to the prophet Nathan coming to David w/ a parable to convict him of his sin w/ Bathsheba
 - Except that was a word from the Lord & this is Joab deceiving David
 - She comes with a story that one of her sons has killed the other son, but that as a widow, he's all the family she has left and so she asks that no one touch her murderous son, her remaining family
 - So, King David vows to protect this son, but then she challenges King David as to why he doesn't allow Absalom, the heir to the throne of Israel, return since he's so gracious to her
 - Slimy, messy, sinful stuff, isn't it?
- But, David's on to her...he knows this is Joab's doing
 - So, she acknowledges that, yes, this is Joab's doing
- And, David gives Joab the okay to get Absalom and bring him back...on one condition – that Absalom not come into his presence
- It's here that we read of Absalom's handsome appearance
 - That there was no one else as handsome as him
 - We see the description of Absalom's hair here
 - That it grew so much that he'd shave his head at the end of every year and the clippings would weigh 5 lbs
- And, eventually – 2 yrs later – David allows Absalom to return to his presence
 - He kisses Absalom, showing that Absalom's now accepted back
- **Upon Absalom's acceptance, he gets right to work**

3) 2 SAM 15

- Absalom's a charmer...a stinker and a charmer
 - He works extra hard to win over the people of Israel
 - He gets up early to sit at the city gate and be sure to speak to the people before the king did
 - He'd listen to their problems, trash the king, wrap his arms around them, kiss them and assure them that if he were in charge, things would be better and people would be cared for
 - He convinces them that he'll be their "yes-man"
- He's a schmoozer who stole the hearts of the people of Israel
 - He uses people as a means to an end
 - How do we view people?
 - Henri Nouwen quote – "It seems easier to be God than to love God, easier to control people than to love people, easier to own life than to love life."

- He's sinfully ambitious
 - Our world says to make something of yourself
- So, after 4 yrs of schmoozing, Absalom travels south to Hebron where David ruled over Judah for 7 yrs before ruling for 33 yrs in Jerusalem as King of Israel
- And, this is where Absalom's rebellion begins
 - Absalom declares himself king there and the familial dysfunction intensifies
 - Absalom's supporters grow in number
 - So, David flees, knowing that he & his supporters would be overrun
 - And, as he flees, David sets up a network of spies in Jerusalem to keep track of what's going on in his kingdom
- **And, in the midst of it all, David acknowledges God's sovereign hand in it all**
- BIG IDEA

4) 2 SAM 16-18

- And, in his flight from Jerusalem, David's cursed by Shimei, of Saul's household
- Abishai, Joab's brother, offers to chop off this "dead dog's" head
 - But, David withholds Abishai from retaliation
 - David confesses that this is God's will...God's sovereignly in charge of everything – even this curse from this man
 - So, David acknowledges God's sovereign hand in it all
 - This is all the Lord's doing
 - David shows his faithfulness to the truth that God's in charge of everything, including this curse
 - BIG IDEA
- **In meantime, Absalom returns to Jerusalem, climbs into the throne, steals it, & makes it clear to everyone that the kingdom's his...that he's now in power.**
- While there, Absalom's advisor hatches a sure-fire plan to kill King David...and only King David
- Hushai, David's spy, worked himself into Absalom's trust and so Absalom asks Hushai what his thoughts are about this plan
- And, Hushai, the spy, appeals to Absalom's arrogance
 - Hushai comes up with a plan that makes Absalom believe that he'd be able to completely overcome and wipe out David and ALL of his men
 - And, Absalom finds this plan to be best
- **So, Hushai warns David...he sends word of what Absalom's plan are now and David and his men make the appropriate adjustments so that they're able to defeat Absalom**
 - David prepares & defeats Absalom
- Which they do in chap 18...they defeat Absalom
- But, in their preparation for battle, David commands his men to treat Absalom gently...they're not to be harsh with him
 - And, everyone hears this command
- But, Joab...again...doesn't follow the King's orders...just like w/ Abner
 - Finding Absalom caught hanging by his hair in a tree, Joab speared Absalom, gathered 10 of his men to help him brutally finish off Absalom
 - And, then dumps Absalom's body into a pit in the woods, before covering him with a big pile of stones

- So, word comes to David that they've victoriously defeated Absalom
 - But, in learning of Absalom's death, David weeps the death of his son, wishing that he himself had died instead
 - So, instead of worshiping God in victory, David mourns Absalom
- **The consequences & effects of sin are nasty**

5) APP

- Like David, we all feel the consequences/effects of sin, don't we?
 - We feel the effects of our own sin – the guilt, the shame, and how it affects our relationships w/ family, friends, coworkers, & others
 - We feel the effects of others' sin
 - We feel the effects of the world around us – temptations, agendas/ideologies
 - We feel the effects of living in this world post-Fall...following the sin of Adam and Eve that brought sin and its effects to us
 - We feel physical hurts/pains
 - Sleep shows us we can't live without sleep (God doesn't sleep)
 - Death came after the Fall in the Garden
 - We feel the effects of Satan & his servants
 - RC Sproul podcast
 - BIG IDEA
- Like Paul's thorn, David's thorn helped him focus
 - Kept him from pride and conceit
 - Kept him from getting fat and happy and lazy
 - Same's true of us too
 - We feel the effects of our sin, but it helps us focus on JC
 - He conquered our sin
- **David kept his heart in check in focusing on God in the midst of this tragic time of crazy family dysfunction...the consequences of sin**

6) CONCL

- And, we see this in Psalm 3
 - David wrote this Psalm in the midst of Absalom's rebellion
 - God's our shield
 - He protects us...the most someone can do to us is take our lives
 - They can't take our Jesus away from us
 - No one can take our eternal future away from us
 - God lifts our heads
 - B/c we're weak and need his strength alone (as we're weak)
 - God gives salvation
 - God's given us Jesus to give us eternal life
 - We can't give ourselves eternal life
 - Dead people can't give dead people life
 - BIG IDEA
- So, when we're aware we're weak/aware of our thorns, it's a good thing
 - Reminds us we're imperfect people clinging to a perfect Savior

- And our perfect Savior's a perfect king
 - David wasn't a perfect king
 - We shouldn't expect that he would've been perfect
 - Death and evil and sin are still felt b/c of David
 - We're promised a perfect, forever king in the Bible
 - But, it's not David; it's Jesus
 - Jesus' kingdom contains no pain, no tears, no effects of sin
- Our perfect Savior's a perfect king...and he's our king when we trust in his work on the cross
 - He's our perfect king who reigns and rules forever
- If you don't yet know Jesus as your Savior & Lord, maybe today's the day to surrender to him
 - Maybe today's the day to say, "I know this life in this world's tough. I know there's pain and death and murder and adultery and dysfunction all around. But, that Jesus overcomes all evil...all of sin and its consequences."
- B/c of JC, one day we won't feel the effects/consequences of sin
 - Our perfect life/best life's in eternity
 - In meantime, sin & it's effects remind us to look to Jesus
 - BIG IDEA
- Brothers & sisters lets continually rely on the HS to help us look to Jesus
 - We don't naturally do that on our own
 - Let's be people of prayer – constantly talking w/ God, crying out to the HS to help us to love God with our heart, mind, soul, and strength
- B/c it can be easy to be discouraged
 - Our sin can lead to horrible consequences sometimes
 - The enemy wants us to feel defeated and never shine for Jesus and hole up and never speak a word about Jesus to a world who needs Jesus
 - Brothers & sisters, our righteous – our right standing – is in Christ; not in ourselves
 - We say to a lost and hurting and dying and sin-stricken, dysfunctional world, "Look to Jesus"

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