

SYNOPSIS

Off of the heels of a message that gave us a better understanding of the Holy Spirit's work in our lives, we look now at how not to quench Him. This is a pastoral message ultimately about keeping short accounts with the Lord through confession and repentance. Active and ongoing sin hinders the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives - and we strive to be honorable vessels prepared for the good works that God desires that we walk in. To illustrate this we look to King David, at a time in his life where he was distant from God and living in the wake of great disobedience. When the prophet Nathan calls him out on his sin, David is enabled to repent and get back on track with the Lord. While we don't have Nathan, we do have the whole counsel of God's Word that is able to offer us a timely rebuke. Keying in on a few admonitions from Paul in Ephesians 4 and 5, we open ourselves up to blasting any personal barriers of sin that might be hindering our Grace Bombing impact. Don't underestimate the huge potential in this particular message to help your congregation move into the newness of life that God has for them!

BIG IDEA

Confession and repentance allow us to keep short accounts with God and not quench the Holy Spirit's work in our life.

KEY TEXTS

2 Timothy 2:20-21
Ephesians 4:1
Ephesians 4:30
2 Samuel 12:1-7

SLIDE 3

SERMON OUTLINE

INTRODUCTION

A personal story about a time when you put up a wall between yourself and God. You'll need to be appropriately vulnerable here to expose how easy it can be to quench the Spirit's work in your life. If it can happen to a leader, it can happen with anyone!

Paul exhorts us with a very clear command:

SLIDE 1

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Ephesians 4:30

The Holy Spirit has distinct personhood, and can be grieved.

SLIDE 2

He is grieved, and His work can be quenched, if we do not pursue Holiness.

In other words:

Sin creates a barrier that hinders our Grace Bombing impact.

- It's hard to grow in discerning the Holy Spirit as we love our neighbors when we are simultaneously not listening in other areas of our lives.

RECAPPING DAVID'S MEGA NOTORIOUS FAIL AND COVERUP FROM 2 SAMUEL 11

- *Unfold the drama in your own words*
 - David, Bathsheba, Uriah.

In 2 Samuel God called David out with a timely rebuke. You've got to hear how this went down. The parable:

SLIDES 4-5

And the Lord sent Nathan to David. He came to him and said to him, "There were two men in a certain city, the one rich and the other poor. The rich man had very many flocks and herds, but the poor man had nothing but one little ewe lamb, which he had bought. And he brought it up, and it grew up with him and with his children. It used to eat of his morsel and drink from his cup and lie in his arms, and it was like a daughter to him. Now there came a traveler to the rich man, and he was unwilling to take one of his own flock or herd to prepare for the guest who had come to him, but he took the poor man's lamb and prepared it for the man who had come to him." 2 Samuel 12:1-4

- Messed up right – the rich man just ate my pet...

SLIDE 6

David the rich man // Uriah the poor man // Bathsheba the lamb (recall David was a shepherd) // Traveler was David's lust and temptation

David's response:

SLIDE 7

Then David's anger was greatly kindled against the man, and he said to Nathan, "As the Lord lives, the man who has done this deserves to die, and he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity." 2 Samuel 12:5-6

- Seeing sin in others comes easier than seeing it in ourselves

Nathan then inserts the sword:

SLIDE 8

Nathan said to David, "You are the man!" 2 Samuel 12:7a

- He explains that God had blessed him – which he forgot about
- He explains that David despised the Lord
- He explains the consequences that will play out as a result of this

David's response:

SLIDE 9

David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord." And Nathan said to David, "The Lord also has put away your sin; you shall not die." 2 Samuel 12:13

- God's grace and mercy are evident – David deserved death
- David is honest and humble, contrite and repentant

We have Nathan today. God still calls out sin in our life by His word...

SLIDE 10

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

- God's word acts as our Nathan today, offering timely rebukes to set us back on course, and unhindered by sin that can so easily entangle us.

Because we are secure in Christ, Paul urges us to walk in accordance with the intimate relationship we have with God:

SLIDE 11

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called... Ephesians 4:1a

Later to Timothy Paul reminds us:

SLIDE 12

Now in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for honorable use, some for dishonorable. Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work. 2 Timothy 2:20-21

Are there any walls up that need to be taken down?

SLIDE 13

***Dishonesty (secrets) vs. honesty (Ephesians 4:25)
Stealing vs. working harder (Ephesians 4:28)
Corrupting talk vs. graceful talk (Ephesians 4:29)
Harmful (malice) vs. helpful (tenderhearted) (Ephesians 4:31-32)
Sexual immorality vs. sexual purity (Ephesians 5:3)
Coveting vs. contentment (Ephesians 5:5)
Drunk (controlled by substance) vs. filled with God (Ephesians 5:18)***

Question: So when the Bible calls us out (through reading it or someone explaining it) what do we do?

We find help in repentance from Psalm 51, David's psalm that followed his big fall. Perhaps you need this right now, to help you demo a wall that has gone up between you and God.

SLIDE 14

WE OWN IT

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight... Psalm 51:1-4a

- Understand that God is most offended by our sin
- In owning it, we must make a decision of the will to turn from it
- This may require telling the appropriate person who may be involved also

SLIDE 16

GOD TAKES IT

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Psalm 51:7-10

- We confidently entrust our forgiveness to Jesus, who has washed us clean on the cross

SLIDE 18

WE WALK IN JOY

Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you. Psalm 51:12-13

- Set your sights on the joy of walking with God again in unhindered fellowship
- Expect new opportunities for faith adventures and good works to walk in

Closing charge: When we confess and repent of the sin that creates walls between us and God, keeping short accounts, we are opening up our relationship through obedience, becoming more holy, and better able to listen and act upon the Holy Spirit's promptings in our lives.