

DENIAL

VBC

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2 Samuel 11 & 12

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"Denial...Who's in Denial?"

Purpose Statement: Every person should confront denial in their life because of four principles...

INTRO

"Letting Go of the Cobra..." (San Diego Zoo)

- 7 Deadly Sins...Any Sin...like a snake...deadly...powerful...
- Some so difficult/painful, powerful...ignore them, pretend not there, they'll go away...denial...
- Denial...8th deadly sin...companion to other sins...adds another layer to our problems...
- Man: Denial - almost destroyed his life, destroyed lives of family, almost destroyed his Kingdom...
- Israel's greatest King... Gave us most of the Psalms... Covenant (his descendants would always rule Israel, culminating in Jesus) "Man after God's own heart (1 Sam 13:14)
- 2 Samuel 11:1-2
 - Flat roofs, customary to cool off in late afternoon, palace on Mt. Zion looked down on city
- 2 Samuel 11:2b-5b
 - What if David would have looked away? But instead sent for her...and she came...
- Leviticus 20:10...penalty was death for him and her...

- 2 Samuel 11:6-15
 - Summons her husband, Uriah, to come home and sleep with her – cover up adultery
 - Uriah man of integrity, loyalty, and character - thwarts David's plan by his righteousness
 - David so desperate...tries to get him drunk...Uriah still doesn't go home...
 - David sends him back to the front, carrying his own death sentence - dies in battle

- 2 Samuel 11:26-27
 - Mourning--7 days...moved in after a week...lived lie for months...fooling no one...
 - If it could happen to David...happen to you and I...what can we learn from him?

PRINCIPLE #1: DENIAL...DOESN'T PROTECT US...IT BLINDS US...

- Illustration: Reach the Beach (storm)

- Storm clouds in David's life...denial blinded...to issues in his life...(vs. 11:1)
- Why was he in Jerusalem? With time on his hands? (sloth)
- 50, slowing down, feeling his age...mid-life crisis...
- Two kinds of denial--(active) refusing face known issue (passive)--to busy, preoccupied to look...
- David - too busy, too preoccupied to know his own heart?
- Both types of denial blind us to the problems that remain...

PRINCIPLE #2: DENIAL... LIKE ANY SIN...ALWAYS PROGRESSES...

- Illustration: Devils Lake, N.D.
 - 7 yrs: Quadrupled to 200 miles; climbed 24 ft, 450 homes, 80,000 acres, million trees...
 - Slowly, inch by inch, year after year--slowly widening/deepening...

- Sin grows/deepens/spreads...see this again in Scripture (James 1:17)...never stays the same...
- Snake always grows and gets bigger and bigger...
- If we ignore, pretend not there, avoid...bigger our problems get...
- David's journey: sloth, lust, adultery, drunkenness, lies, betrayal, murder...

PRINCIPLE #3: DENIAL... CARRIES A HUGE PRICE TAG...

- We end up paying for it in the end...the snake gets away...and bites us... awful consequences...
- 2 Samuel 12:11-12; 14
 - Nathan comes, confronts David...predicts dire consequences
 - David - infant son died; Amnon (son) rapes sister Tamar; Absalom (son) murders Amnon; Then he stages a coup; David barely escapes with his life; slept with David's wives/humiliated him; Absalom ultimately dies in the coup; Adonijah (son) is killed by Solomon for trying to take the throne... David's reign/kingdom/legacy never was the same...
- Bummer of a story...but thankfully doesn't end there...

PRINCIPLE #4 DENIAL... LOSES IT'S POWER...WHEN CONFRONTED WITH GRACE AND TRUTH...

- 2 Samuel 12:13 - Look at David's heart - no defensiveness/excuses...takes responsibility...
- One of toughest things to do...confront our sin...stop denying, ignoring, excusing....call what it is
- Is there something in your life you've been running from? Avoiding?

CLOSING

- Has God shown you something in this series? Are you dealing with it?
- God is in the business...of stepping on snakes...and freeing us from our sin...(Gen 3:15)
- For God to free you...You have to be willing to do your part..."that's a snake"...give it to Him...
- "As long as the lying, false self is the one relating to God, others, and ourselves, then grace and truth cannot heal us. The false self tries to heal us by its own methods; it always finds false solutions, and the real self that God created to grow into his likeness stays hidden and unexposed to grace and truth. It is only in a combination of grace and truth that the real Jesus is present. It is only when the real Jesus is present that we can begin to grow in the likeness of the Creator. And we really can be healed..." Henry Cloud, *Changes That Heal*
- God's grace and His power are what can give you the courage to face your issues, call them what they are, and then to change...to emerge on the other side to be the person He created you to be...