



## Daily Verse and Comment

### 2 Samuel 12:9-14

(9) Why have you despised the word of the LORD to do evil in His sight? You have stricken Uriah the Hittite with the sword and have taken his wife *to be* your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the children of Ammon. (10) Now therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house because you have despised Me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.' (11) Thus says the LORD, 'Behold, I will raise up evil against you out of your own house, and I will take your wives before your eyes and give *them* to your neighbor. And he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun, (12) For you did *it* secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel and before the sun.' ” (13) And 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. (14) Only, because by this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, this child born to you shall surely die."

*A Faithful Version*

Regardless of how successful a person might consider himself in getting away with his adventure into [sin](#), he could learn a few things from David. First, however, we must note [Numbers 32:23](#): "But if you do not do so, then take note, you have sinned against the LORD; and be sure your sin will find you out." Interestingly, the context of this verse is a warning to those who may not be faithful to their words of promise.

Overall, this story is a quick study into cause and effect. First, it teaches that, regardless of one's status, [adultery](#) cannot be committed without damaging relationships anymore than murder can be committed without damaging relationships. It does not matter whether the perpetrator is a prince or pauper. The only variable is the speed with which the effect takes place. We should

never forget the warning given in [Genesis 2:17](#): "In the day you eat of [the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil] you shall surely die." The wages of sin is death ([Romans 6:23](#)) no matter which commandment is broken.

Second, besides death, sin produces two effects that may also manifest slowly:

1. *A damaged relationship with [God](#) . [Isaiah 59:1-2](#)* shows that sin creates division between God and us because of the breach of trust. Sin is a breaking of the terms of the covenant agreed on by both God and us. After committing a sin like adultery, can the individual be trusted any longer? This effect is not easily seen, but God's Word nonetheless reveals it does occur. As this episode shows, with [repentance](#) and God's [merciful](#) forgiveness, the division can be healed.

2. *Evil results in our lives in [this world](#) .* Even with God's forgiveness, this second effect remains and must be borne by the sinner—and tragically, by those sinned against. For example, the evil effects of David's sin brought death—either directly or indirectly—to five people. It directly caused the deaths of Uriah and the newborn son of David and Bathsheba. In addition, it greatly intensified the ultimately deadly competition between Absalom, Amnon, and Adonijah, all of whom died violently. With the dishonorable example of their father before their eyes, it could only teach disrespect, even for those closest to them.

Thus, the throne fell to Solomon. He never had to live through the kind of family life that David's older children did. When he committed similar sins, he could never say that he saw his father do the same things.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

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