

PUTTING AWAY YOUR BITTERNESS!

Matthew 18:15-35

INTRODUCTION: King David, much like us tried to “fig leaf approach” to cover his sins. Genesis 3:1-7. The “fig leaf approach” says we will just cover over our sin and it won’t matter. You do know that approach never works don’t you?

I. JUST A LITTLE DIVERSION!

King David was bored and it led him to just a little diversion: 2 Samuel 11:1-5. Yes, David had sinned but he had a “fig leaf approach” that he thought could not fail. Proverbs 28:13-14. King David hardened his heart and tried to cover his sin. 2 Samuel 11:6-13: remember covering your sin is never a simple math problem. David’s next problem is that because the first “fig leaf approach” did not work he grabbed for a second “fig leaf.” 2 Samuel 11:14-17. Remember when you try the “fig leaf approach” your sin will always take you further than you want to go—slowly but wholly taking control! Numbers 32:23: What we do in secret will always come out in the open! We think we have covered our tracks but God tells us: Galatians 6:7-8; 2 Samuel 11:26-12:1-14. Oh friends, what a price to pay for just a little diversion. Beware of life’s little diversion. There are not enough fig leaves in the world to cover over even one of them!

II. AN ENEMY CREATED!

One thing we often forget in our little diversions is that our sin affects more people than we can possibly imagine. 2 Samuel 11:2-3: not only did David’s sin affect Bathsheba and Uriah, it affected all of the families on both sides of Bathsheba and Uriah. Both Uriah and his father were one of David’s top thirty soldiers: 2 Samuel 23:34 with 2 Samuel 11:3. We never learn how Eliam, Bathsheba’s father responded to what David did to his little girl but Bathsheba also had a grandfather that dearly loved her. Ahithophel was King David’s chief advisor and the wisest man in David’s kingdom. True to his Word God used one of David’s own sons to fulfill His prophecy: 2 Samuel 16:20-23; 2 Samuel 12:11-12. Ahithophel gave another piece of advice to Absalom: 2 Samuel 17:1-4. Ahithophel hated David for what he had done to his granddaughter Bathsheba and to her wife. 2 Samuel 17:23.

III. BITTERNESS LEADS TO DEATH!

Did Ahithophel have good reason to be bitter toward David? David had taken away a grandfather’s heart with his sin. David had destroyed the beauty and purity of his little granddaughter. Yes, we can honestly say “Ahithophel had good reason to be bitter toward David! But if we are not careful we will miss the moral of the story! Matthew 5:21-22: If you don’t properly deal with your anger and you become bitter with the person who has wronged you; you are heading for trouble. For eleven years Ahithophel had been bitter toward David. James 1:13-15.

IV. KILL THE ROOT OF BITTERNESS BEFORE IT KILLS YOU!

How can you keep from becoming a bitter person? Hebrews 12:14-15. Our Lord in His grace has shown us how to properly handle our anger so it does not turn into bitterness: Matthew 18:21-22; Matthew 18:35; Matthew 18:34. Ahithophel because he would not repent died in bitterness. David who should have died for his sins repented and lived again for God's glory: Ephesians 4:26-27; Luke 23:34. Don't let a root of bitterness grow in your heart it will poison your life: Matthew 6:14-15; Romans 12:19-21