

Background Characters in the Old Testament L6 4Q 2010

Uriah: Faith of a Foreigner

SABBATH

Read first two paragraphs, “Imagine that you...” thoughts?

What about when motivated by love for God and others, then does situation make a difference?

What about Rahab?

What about God? Does God Himself, His character of love, ever change? Does God’s behavior change depending on circumstance? Examples? Did God thunder at Sinai? Did He cry at Olivet? What made the difference? Was God different?

Did God reign fire down to consume the platoons trying to arrest Elijah? Did Jesus die at cavalry? What made the difference? Was God different?

How do we understand this? Do parents ever thunder at their children? Why?

Should situation matter or should we have rules that apply in all circumstance?

Is it ever appropriate for a man to stand up in the middle of church service and rip a woman’s blouse off exposing her breasts? What if she had a heart attack and he was the paramedic who was going to defibrillate her heart and save her life? Does the situation make a difference?

Is it ever okay to speak vile, lewd and disgusting profanity? What if you were a witness to a crime and under oath in court you were asked to testify to the exact words the perpetrator used? Does the situation make a difference?

Should we always tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?

Maybe you can help me with such a dilemma. You all know what I do there are manmade rules which govern patient confidentiality, I have given my word and promise to my patient to protect their confidentiality...Your pastor comes to see me as a patient because he is struggling with an addiction. The only time I have ever met your pastor is as my patient. I come and do a seminar in your city and during one of the breaks you ask me, "Do you know Pastor _____?" What do I say? Do I say,

"I'm sorry, but because medical ethics, rights of patient confidentiality I am not allowed to answer your question"?

"I have much to tell you but you cannot yet bear it?"

Do I say, "no"? Do I say yes and then you ask where do you know him from?

If I say yes, not only do I harm your pastor, what if you were in marriage counseling with your pastor and he was really helping you, but you now were to discover he was in counseling for an addiction, might that undermine your confidence in him and harm you? And might you get less out of his sermons? And might you be tempted to gossip and tell what you know? And might others get harmed in the church with this news?

What is the Biblical principle in such a situation, is it to tell all the truth or to love your neighbor and protect their reputation?

Speaking of the 9th commandment EGW states:

False speaking in any matter, every attempt or purpose to deceive our neighbor, is here included. An intention to deceive is what constitutes falsehood. By a glance of the eye, a motion of the hand, an expression of the countenance, a falsehood may be told as effectually as by words. All intentional overstatement, every hint or

insinuation calculated to convey an erroneous or exaggerated impression, even the statement of facts in such a manner as to mislead, is falsehood. This precept forbids every effort to injure our neighbor's reputation by misrepresentation or evil surmising, by slander or tale bearing. Even the intentional suppression of truth, by which injury may result to others, is a violation of the ninth commandment. {PP 309.3}

What do you hear? Is it that love does not harm? And therefore, telling the truth “statement of facts” in order to mislead by which someone may be harmed is the issue?

First sentence of last paragraph states, “This week we’ll see a powerful contrast of ethics between those of King David and of the soldier Uriah.” Was this a contrast of ethics or something more basic? How about a contrast of principle, of character, of heart motivation?

Before talk about David and Uriah, let’s examine another question. If two people find themselves doing the very opposite does that mean that one would necessarily be unethical? Could two people with love in their hearts, seeking to do what they thought is best for another, arrive at different decisions? Could they both be ethical but do the opposite?

Could one person, ethically support freedom of conscience and freedom to choose and therefore protect a woman’s right to abortion, while another person ethically seek to protect human life and seek to prevent abortions?

What is ethics?

a set of moral principles : a theory or system of moral values

Do you think David and Uriah had different ethics or different morals or different character development? Do you think David really thought his actions were “right” and “ethical”? If so why did he try to cover it up?

SUNDAY

The lesson talks about David's sin against Uriah, how he had an affair with Uriah's wife, then tried to cover it up culminating in the murder of Uriah.

Read second paragraph, "Some may want..." thoughts?

Was Uriah the first to suffer? Do you think Bathsheba suffered? Do you think she went home feeling shame and guilt? Do you think David suffered, with guilt, fear, dread, anxiety, searing of conscience and warping of reason?

No question Uriah suffered the fate of being murdered – but did Uriah suffer with guilt, dread, anxiety, fear of rejection, fear of loss of salvation, fear of God's displeasure with him? Did David suffer these things? Which is the greatest suffering? Which is more serious from an eternal perspective?

The paragraph describes the chain reaction of how David's sin contributed to rape, murder, rebellion in the nation. Why? Why did David's sin have this impact? What could have prevented it? What weapon has God given us to prevent this type of consequence?

Would David's sin have had this cascade of consequences if the others in his community loved as God loves? Was it David's sin that caused the problems, or David's sin impacting those still governed by selfishness?

What would have happened if those in David's community would have forgiven David? What if they recognized David's actions reveal character defect in David in need of healing? What if they longed for David's salvation? Would that have made a difference?

Locally, how can we prevent sin against us from spreading and causing greater damage?

The two sentences of the last paragraph state, “However, there is one thing that David does not control: sin. Although he seems to control the outward action, sin controls his choices and motivations.” Thoughts?

What is sin?

Our only definition of sin is that given in the Word of God; it is "the transgression of the law;" **it is the outworking of a principle at war with the great law of love which is the foundation of the divine government.** {GC88 492.2}

Is sin a behavior or is sin a principle? And what principle is it? It is the principle of selfishness. Selfishness controlled David's behavior and this resulted in increased fear and insecurity which led to more self-centeredness, and protect self actions.

How do we overcome this?

MONDAY

Read second paragraph, “David decides...” thoughts?

The paragraph states that the greatest dangers are almost always from within – do you agree with this?

James 1:14 confirms this when he tell us our own evil desires lead us into temptation.

Would this be true for Christ – was His greatest danger from within – not within His character, but within the humanity He assumed?

Heb 4:15 states Christ was tempted like us “in every way.” Could He be tempted like us in every way if He did not experience the emotional temptation to save Himself?

What about the abuse of power? Does power corrupt? Did Satan make any such allegations against God?

How do we know Satan's allegations are false?

Read third paragraph from Friday's lesson, "It was the spirit..."

What lesson do we learn? Is it true that rulers of the earth are exempted from laws which apply to their subjects? That they get privileges that their subjects don't get?

This is how Satan accuses God. He claims God is exempted from loving others, that God has rules He applies to His creatures but He Himself is above them. People look at earthly governments and draw false conclusions about God, that He acts as earthly kings act. But more than this, they look at earthly governments, which have tribunals and courts and trials and inflict penalties including the death penalty and conclude God in heaven is also like this. Again a lie of Satan.

Satan had accused God of requiring self-denial of the angels, when he knew nothing of what it meant himself, and when he would not himself make any self-sacrifice for others. This was the accusation that Satan made against God in heaven; and after the evil one was expelled from heaven, he continually charged the Lord with exacting service which he would not render himself. **Christ came to the world to meet these false accusations, and to reveal the Father.** RH Feb 18, 1890

To Daniel was given a vision of fierce beasts, representing the powers of the earth. But the ensign of the Messiah's kingdom is a lamb. While earthly kingdoms rule by the ascendancy of physical power, **Christ is to banish every carnal weapon, every instrument of coercion. His kingdom was to be established to uplift and ennable fallen humanity.** {AG 15.2}

Thoughts?

The lesson points out that David made his decisions based on emotion and passion rather than rational thinking, then asks some questions in the bottom pink section:

Thoughts?

TUESDAY

Who could be an Israelite? Did one have to be a genetic descendent of Israel to be an Israelite? Ruth, Rahab, Caleb, Uriah and others were assimilated into Israel and Ruth and Rahab became progenitors of Christ.

Read bottom pink section – thoughts?

WEDNESDAY

Read first paragraph...

Abram changed to Abraham
Jacob changed to Israel
Daniel changed to Belteshazzar

When we pray in the “name” of Jesus what does that mean?

But to pray in Christ's name means much. It means that we are to accept His character, manifest His spirit, and work His works. The Saviour's promise is given on condition. "If ye love Me," He says, "keep My commandments." He saves men, not in sin, but from sin; and those who love Him will show their love by obedience. {DA 668.2}

Thoughts?

Read fourth paragraph, “The name of...” thoughts? Does having family members in prominent position in the church give one a special standing with the Lord? What about being a pastor, conference president or SS teacher – does that give one special standing before the Lord?

How do we deal with persons who say the “pastor is the Lord’s anointed” and we should respect what he says and teaches? Are all pastors the Lord’s anointed? How can we know?

The slightest insinuations, from whatever source they may come, inviting you to indulge in sin or to allow the least unwarrantable liberty with your persons should be resented as the worst of insults to your dignified womanhood. The kiss upon your cheek, at an improper time and place, should lead you to repel the emissary of Satan with disgust. If it is from one in high places, who is dealing in sacred things, the sin is of tenfold greater magnitude and should lead a God-fearing woman or youth to recoil with horror, not only from the sin he would have you commit, but from the hypocrisy and villainy of one whom the people respect and honor as God's servant. {AH 335.3}

Is it only sexual sin such a statement would apply to? What if a pastor led people into other sin, say, believing lies about God?

The priests did not ask, ‘Where is the LORD?’ Those who deal with the law did not know me; the leaders rebelled against me. The prophets prophesied by Baal, following worthless idols.
(Jeremiah 2:8).

Should we believe because a pastor, priest or SS teacher says so?
When should we believe?

Read last paragraph, “By dying...” Thoughts?

Was Christ’s death necessary only for humans or was it necessary for sinless beings as well?

For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. Col 1:19,20

What does this mean? Do sinless beings in heaven need the cross?

But the plan of redemption had a **yet broader and deeper purpose than the salvation of man.** It was not for this alone that Christ came to the earth; it was not merely that the inhabitants of this little world might regard the law of God as it should be regarded; **but it was to vindicate the character of God before the universe.** To this result of His great sacrifice--its influence upon the intelligences of other worlds, as well as upon man--the Saviour looked forward when just before His crucifixion He said: "Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out. And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all unto Me." John 12:31, 32. The act of Christ in dying for the salvation of man would not only make heaven accessible to men, **but before all the universe it would justify God and His Son in their dealing with the rebellion of Satan.** It would establish the perpetuity of the law of God and would reveal the nature and the results of sin. {PP 68.2}

To the angels and the unfallen worlds the cry, "It is finished," had a deep significance. It was for them as well as for us that the great work of redemption had been accomplished. They with us share the fruits of Christ's victory.

Not until the death of Christ was the character of Satan clearly revealed to the angels or to the unfallen worlds. The archapostate had so clothed himself with deception that even holy beings had not understood his principles. They had not clearly seen the nature of his rebellion. {DA 758}

Do we believe this is true? Did the angels in heaven need a legal penalty paid for them? But the cross was still necessary and reconciles them to God?

Okay – what about mediation – do the angels in heaven need Christ as mediator?

"While we rejoice that there are worlds which have never fallen, these worlds render praise, and honor, and glory to

Jesus Christ for the plan of redemption to save the fallen sons of Adam, as well as to confirm themselves in their position and character of purity. The arm that raised the human family from the ruin which Satan had brought upon the race through his temptations, is the arm which has preserved the inhabitants of other worlds from sin. Every world throughout immensity engages the care and support of the Father and the Son; and this care is constantly exercised for fallen humanity. Christ is **mediating** in behalf of man, and the order of unseen worlds also is preserved by his **mediatorial** work. Are not these themes of sufficient magnitude and importance to engage our thoughts, and call forth our gratitude and adoration to God?" {RH, January 11, 1881 par. 4}

THURDAY

In speaking about Bathsheba the lesson states, "However, even though she appears to be passive in the entire account, she too will pay a high price." Do you like this expression? What does it sound like? How might you have expressed it?

Is sin about "paying prices"? Would it have been better to say, "Even though she appears passive she will be significantly injured by these events"?

Read last paragraph, "Read Psalms 51..." thoughts

FRIDAY

Read and discuss all questions.