

Nov 22nd 2009:Consequences: 2 Sam 12:1-14,24-25

I'm sure most of you would be familiar with the game of consequences:

Prince Charles met Madonna at the beach. He said you look swell. She said give me a kiss. He bought her a meat pie. She slapped his face. And the consequences were that they got married.

An amusing game....but it's also a game that reminds us.....that our words and actions
And those of others.....**result in consequences**.....some of which will affect us for rest of our lives

King David in particular....became aware of the consequences.....of his adultery.....and murder
after God sent Nathan the prophet to see him

As we saw last week.....Nathan used a parable about a sheep....to bring David to that point
.where he confessed openly.....and the Lord forgave him for his sin and took it away

But God did not take away the consequences of his sin

They remained for David to deal with

And first in verses 10-12.....and then in v14

Nathan listed the consequences that would now follow David's failings.....and they are terrible.

- Because of the way he used the sword to gain his own ends
His sons and other members....would use violence against those close to them.....and the rest of his reign would be battered by rebellion....disunity...bloodshed.
- His sons would also take from his example....an attitude towards women that would result in the rape of a sister.....and the public abasement of David's wives and concubines...by his son Absalom
- And the child that Uriah's wife bore to David.....would also die.....Unnamed and unacclaimed in the Scripture.

You may perhaps be feeling that God was rather harsh here

But in fact God was simply outlining the laws of life that affect us all

Laws of sowing and reaping.....Laws that are meant to teach us the perils of wrongdoing.....

...and to encourage us and others.....**to do that** which is right rather than that which is wrong

- **Hosea talking** about the sins of the Nation of Israel says in 8:7

***"They sow the wind
and reap the whirlwind.***

In Job 4:8 one of Job's advisors looks at.....and makes what he saw as an obvious statement:-

**As I have observed, those who plow evil
and those who sow trouble reap it.**

Proverbs 22:8 says:-

**He who sows wickedness reaps trouble,
and the rod of his fury will be destroyed.**

And its not only an Old Testament thing:In Gal 6:7 we read....

Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. ⁸The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature^[a]will reap destruction

And there is an underlying feeling in these passages.....that the writers are glad that this is so
They feel it is right...& the safest thing for society....that the wrongdoer suffers from consequences
...that people do not get away scott free

- **And that same feeling is still in the hearts of people today**

There is this automatic reaction from the majority against the person.....wasn't my fault
when it so obviously was.....

When they refuse to accept the consequences of.....(***The publican should not have.....***)

I believeas Christians....we should be applauding and praying for those Police Commissioners
Who are making a stand against the alcoholic abuse.....and the refusal.....accept the consequences

Getting back to the Bible however....there is....**as we would expect**.....another aspect
.that relates to the consequences of our wrong doing...→**the grace and mercy of God**

- **We still have** to accept responsibility for the consequences.....but God will enable us to change....modify.....**even to** redeem the bad consequences of our sin.....**if** we sincerely
...humbly....and with repentant hearts.....**seek to do so**

In fact God can cause good to come out of what seemed to only promise evil

Take the story of Robert Coulson: **He** was heavily involved in Richard Nixon's Watergate
That political scandal that erupted in Washington in 1972

Nixon's MASTER OF DIRTY TRICKS

After the discovery of his major part.....**he was** spoken to by a friend who had been a Xtian 4yrs
And after a huge struggle.....Robert became a believer

But he still had to endure the consequences of his crime.....and he was sent to prison
But as he offered his life to God.....**God used** the consequences.....**to mold Robert**....into

- There's a verse in Hosea 10:12 that says:-

***Sow for yourselves righteousness,
reap the fruit of unfailing love,
and break up your unplowed ground;
for it is time to seek the LORD,
until he comes
and showers righteousness on you.***

Spoken to a people who were suffering the consequences of doing evil.....**Hosea says:-**
there's another way.....**Look to God**...offer Him your broken life.....and he will make
..even the ugly consequences.....produce a harvest of righteousness

That's exactly what God did in the life of Charles Colson

• **Unfortunately I** don't discover King David doing that.....in the remainder of 2 Sam
For sure he prayed desperately for the baby to live.....**but** as far as his sons were
He never corrected themguided them.....or steered them away from the bad

David...it seemed.....did very little.....to sow righteousness into the sad situations....his sin
Had brought into being

It is that which really highlights God's amazing Grace.....shown in what happens next
For David and Bathsheba went on to become man and wife.....and God blessed them with a son
Whom they named Solomon.....

And then we read in v24 that the Lord loved him.**This child** born of the union.....
And again in v25.....because the Lord loved him
He sent word through Nathan the prophet to name him **Jedidiah**means...loved by the Lord

What a miracle that is.....Despite the sinGod loved the child.....and in Matthew 1:6...

David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife,

the reason God loved that child....was because.....**Solomon** was part of the line.....
from which the Messiah would come.....**The** Beloved Son....given for the sins of the world

And in making this child part of the line....God sends a message to us all that is clear & amazing

That no one is too bad.....too sinful.....too lost.....But all have been included in Christ

**If nothing else...this story of ...teaches us.....That whatever we have done...or do
Whatever consequences of past actions.....we are facing...or still dealing with**

Whatever we have become....or are.....

Jesus died to save us.....and in Him is forgiveness
And a new beginning.....bountiful and free.

**And He will still use us....as we submit ourselves to Him.....
to touch the world in a most beautiful way**

In His Name and to His glory