LESSON 9
May 28, 2023

NOT A PERFECT FAMILY

GOLDEN TEXT

“Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows”. (Galatians 6:7)

USEFUL PRACTICE

Family members will reap what they sow. This is a universal law of God that can be seen in nature itself.

SCRIPTURE READING
2 Samuel 3:2-5; 5:13-16; 12:10-13a

2 Samuel 3

2 Sons were born to David in Hebron: His firstborn was Amnon the son of Ahinoam of Jezreel;

3 his second, Kileab the son of Abigail the widow of Nabal of Carmel; the third, Absalom the son of Maakah daughter of Talmai king of Geshur;

4 the fourth, Adonijah the son of Haggith; the fifth, Shephatiah the son of Abital;

5 and the sixth, Ithream the son of David’s wife Eglah. These were born to David in Hebron.

2 Samuel 5

13 After he left Hebron, David took more concubines and wives in Jerusalem, and more sons and daughters were born to him.

14 These are the names of the children born to him there: Shammua, Shobab, Nathan, Solomon,
15 Ibhar, Elishua, Nepheg, Japhia,
16 Elishama, Eliada and Eliphelet.

2 Samuel 12

10 Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.'

11 "This is what the LORD says: 'Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity on you. Before your very eyes I will take your wives and give them to one who is close to you, and he will sleep with your wives in broad daylight.

12 You did it in secret, but I will do this thing in broad daylight before all Israel.'"

13a Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." […].

LESSON OBJECTIVES

I) To point out David's role as anointed and man of God, as well as the extension of his family;

II) To describe key people who point to dysfunctionality in Davi's family;

III) To reflect on the moral problem in the family.

INTRODUCTION

Despite being a great king and leader in Israel, David was not the same as a father. In this lesson, we will look at the consequences a family can experience when parents do not fulfill the roles God expects of them. The dramatic story of sins in David's family gives us food for thought and has much to teach us. We will see that this family was not functional and that, because of the king's inaction, it witnessed episodes of incest, rebellion and death.

I - KING DAVID AND HIS LARGE FAMILY

1. David, the anointed of God. The book of 1 Samuel shows the decay of

Saul's reign and the process of God's choosing a man after his own heart to take the place of the first king of Israel (1 Sam 16:1). Thus, God sent Samuel to the house of Jesse of Bethlehem, because there he had chosen David, the new king anointed of God. The Bible says that “from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David” (1 Sam. 16:13).

2. David, the man of God. The Spirit of the Lord worked powerfully in David's life. There was no doubt that God had enabled him to fulfill the important mission in Israel's monarchy: to reunite the nation. Throughout the chapters of 2 Samuel, we find that King David succeeded in his purpose. Gradually, the tribes recognized his royal authority (1 Sam 2:4; 5:1-3). Thus, David unified the monarchy and was victorious in all that the Lord was with him to accomplish.

3. David's large family. However, despite the fact that King David was anointed of God and a man after His own heart, he understood that he could have several wives and concubines (1 Sam 18:27; 1 Chr. 3:1-5, 9; 1 Chr. 14:3). Naturally, with all these marriages, David had more than 20 children. Because he had so many sons and daughters, he ended up neglecting them. He only prioritized the matters of Israel's reign as his main activity, his territorial conquests with many wars, and forgot that he had families in several places. His children became problematic in their personal lives.

II - CHILDREN AND RELATIVES IN DAVID'S HOUSE

1. Tamar. She was the daughter of Maakah, who was the daughter of King Talmai, of Geshur, and the mother of Absalom, who was the brother of Tamar (1 Chronicles 3:2), a beautiful woman and a virgin. Her beauty attracted Amnon, her half-brother, David's firstborn son by Ahinoam (1 Chronicles 3:1).

2. Absalom. He was the brother of Tamar, the son of Maakah and the third son of King David. His story is recorded in detail in chapters 13 to 19 of 2 Samuel. His name has to do with peace, but, ironically, his story has nothing to do with it: Absalom murdered Amnon, his half-brother, plotted and rebelled against his father, King David.

3. Amnon. When David had not yet taken the throne of Israel, but was already chosen by God to reign, he married Ahinoam and became the father of Amnon (1 Sam 3:2). As a man, among other born brothers, Amnon proved to be emotionally maladjusted and dominated by carnal passions. It was because of this behavior that he fell madly in love with his half-sister, Tamar. Amnon became sick and distressed over her, and therefore he neither ate nor drank, he was totally dominated by that passion that, at the

same time, was unknown to Tamar (2 Sam 13:2).

4. Jonadab, an evil adviser. Jonadab was a cousin of Amnon and the son of Shimeah, David's brother. According to what the Bible records, he was a shrewd man with evil thoughts in his heart (2 Sam. 13:3). Evil always attracts evil and, therefore, this man induced Amnon to satisfy his passion with a lying plan that involved David and Tamar, the victim of this situation (2 Sam 13:5-11). Jonadab is the kind of friend you should not have around when you have a personal or family problem. He is a clear example of a bad adviser.

III – THE MORAL PROBLEM IN DAVI'S FAMILY

1. The consequences of his lack of self-control. Chapter 11 of 2 Samuel records the adultery of King David. Chapter 12 records the prophet Nathan confronting the king's sin. Even though he recognized his sin of adultery, dissimulation and murder, King David could not avoid the consequences of his sin (2 Sam 11:1-13). Incisive and faithful to the divine message, the prophet Nathan said to the king: “Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity on you. Before your very eyes I will take your wives and give them to one who is close to you, and he will sleep with your wives in broad daylight” (2 Samuel 12:11). Thus, it did not take long for one of the sons to cohabit with his own father's concubines and publicly shame him in Israel (2 Sam 16:21, 22).

2. Incest and death in the family. Another alarming case was the sin of incest by David's eldest son against his own sister Tamar (2 Samuel 13:1). The inevitable consequence of this in the king's family was the hatred fueled by Absalom until he killed his half-brother Amnon, in revenge for the abuse his sister Tamar suffered. The account of Amnon and Tamar is full of shrewdness, subtlety, and lies designed to lure innocent Tamar into an unworthy snare. All very sick and sinful (2 Sam 13:11, 12, 14, 15). After having sex with his half-sister, humiliating her, Amnon fully despised her. What about King David? He learned of the fact; he was angry, but he did nothing against Amnon. In short, one of the tragic consequences of this king's behavior was the family’s tragedy foretold: Absalom killed Amnon (2 Sam 13:27-29). And, later, he dug his early death (2 Sam 18:14), after triggering a rebellion against his own father in order to take his throne. The king wept bitterly over the death of his son Absalom (2 Samuel 18:33).

3. Watchfulness, closeness and example. This story of the moral problem in David's family teaches all parents about the importance of watchfulness, closeness, and example in the family. It is very important that we develop a sober and balanced relationship with our spouses, children, relatives and people close to our family. Unfortunately, we are not free from

running into difficult moral problems in our family. Therefore, parents need to do their part by closely monitoring what happens in their houses, doing it, above all, by leading by example, as those who seek to live for the glory of God at home (1 Cor. 10:31).

CONCLUSION

We have seen that King David's family was dysfunctional, which brought long-term problems to the entire family. Therefore, it is necessary to cultivate the values of the Word in our houses, that parents exercise their roles at home, transmitting these values and closely accompanying their children; that the spouses have a relationship that brings balance and security to the children. Christian family life is the greatest prevention against today's maladjustments.