

# SIN UPON SIN

Step by step David treads the maze of sin.

STORY BY THE "HIGHWAY AND BYWAY" PREACHER

Scripture Authority: — 2 Samuel 11:6-27.

## SERMONETTE.

Sinful indulgence in an idle hour made David a murderer. Little did he think on that first night of pleasure to what awful depths his sin was to lead him. But the pathway of sin leads downward and ever farther and farther away from God. One wrong step is taken in the desire to gratify some unholy longing and then a dozen more steps are found necessary in the attempt to cover up the traces of the sinful conduct.

The progressiveness of sin is one of its most striking characteristics. No one starts out with the purpose, or even expectation, of becoming a murderer. The boy with his first glass, or his first night out in questionable companionship, does not stop to think what the full fruition of his first misstep may be. The man who takes his first fling at speculation does not see himself an embezzler behind the bars, disgrace and suffering brought upon his innocent wife and children. He begins with the expectation of winning and acquiring riches quickly. Perhaps he does win and is tempted to go in more heavily. He loses, and then borrows that he may speculate further to retrieve his losses. Again he loses. He must have money to pay the loan. He betrays his trust and takes the money he needs from his employer, or from funds entrusted to his care, expecting to pay it back as soon as his luck turns, as he says. And so it goes on, step at a time, until at last he is ruined beyond the hope of recovery. And so it is with any sinful course upon which one may enter.

If it takes 40 lies to cover up the first lie told, so is it with other forms of sin, it takes innumerable wrongs to cover up and hide the first wrong done.

But what folly for the soul to think that it can cover and hide its sin. "Be sure your sin will find you out," is the solemn warning of Scripture.

And again God's Word declares that "he that covereth his sins shall not prosper."

What utter folly then for the human heart to go blindly on in sin, thinking that it can deceive God and man. Some day all the sinful conduct will be revealed in all its awfulness.

The power to resist sin is weakened the farther one goes on in his sinful course. In Proverbs 5:22 the sins are likened unto cords that bind one.

There comes to mind the story of Gulliver in the land of the Lilliputs. The tiny creatures bound the great giant with their frail, filmy threads, which he might have blown away with a breath, but which in the aggregate formed a strong cord which covered him like a web and rendered him powerless to resist the attacks of his little enemies. So is it with sin.

Let us remember, also, that however much we may deceive the world, we cannot deceive God. "My sins are not hid from thee," exclaims the psalmist. Neither more are yours and mine.

## THE STORY.

WITH fierce determination David sealed the letter he had been inscribing on the roll of parchment before him, and turning sharply upon the man standing near, he said:

"Deliver this into the hand of Joab, captain of the hosts of Israel. Delay not."

There was harshness almost of enmity in the voice of the king as he spoke, so much in contrast to the familiar, patronizing manner in which he had greeted him on the day before that Uriah started visibly. He hesitated as he placed the parchment within the folds of his robe, and the king, in evident irritation, said, sharply:

"That is all!" With soldierly dignity and precision Uriah bowed low and strode from the apartment without a word. He had wondered at the strange in-

terest and solicitude which the king had manifested in him since his coming in answer to the summons several days before, and now he wondered even more at the savageness and surliness so plainly manifest toward him. But he was glad to be off and away, and he soon forgot the matter in his eagerness to be back in the thick of the fight against the stronghold of Rabbah.

The king, on the other hand, sat silent and alone, his face distorted and beclouded by the evil passions that flamed within.

"There was no other way," he exclaimed under his breath. "Had he not been so infernally obstinate all would have been well, and now—all will be well, anyway, I hazard."

That had been an awful night for him. No sleep had come to still the rage or quiet the fears which filled his heart. But amidst all the conflicting emotions which surged like the restless sea back and forth within his heart there was the one settled purpose to cover up and hide the sin which had come to blacken and scar his life.

To hide that sin had seemed like a simple and easy thing at first, but as his every plan had been baffled it made him almost mad with impatience and a bitter hatred sprang up against the man whom he had so grievously wronged. At first he had only felt good-natured contempt for him, and it was with rather a feeling of condescension on his part that he had dealt with him at all. But David was too high-minded a man, and had too clear a conception of right and wrong not to be conscious way down deep in his heart that he had committed a grievous sin, and yet there was present the stubborn purpose to justify and palliate his offense. He took refuge behind his kingly prerogatives and power, and found comfort in the thought that the kings of other nations did even worse things than he had done.

And yet, notwithstanding this feeling which he tried to encourage, namely, that the king could do no wrong, he did not want his sin to become known, and determined from the first that it should not. Thus he was led to send for Uriah, and when his plans miscarried, as we have said, it threw him into a rage of fear and anger. The very loyalty and faithfulness which Uriah displayed toward him and the nation served to intensify and aggravate his vexation of spirit, and on that last night, as we have said, no sleep came to relieve the stress of mind and body.

And then had come a new fear to vex him. Could it be that Uriah's refusal to return home was due to the fact that he had some suspicion as to the true state of affairs? All night long the question had rankled in his bosom, and a dark resolve began to form itself within.

Uriah must be put out of the way.

When the thought first flashed across his mind like an evil message from the king of darkness, he trembled as an aspen and turned from it with sickening dread, but each time as he came face to face with the alternative of exposure and disgrace, he entertained more willingly the evil thought, and at last found himself planning how it might be carried out.

At first David thought to pay big money to some base fellow who would secretly fall upon Uriah and take his life, but even in the fear and confusion of his mind he quickly saw the dangers attending such a course. What then was he to do? How could he accomplish his purpose? The seeming impossibilities in the way served to intensify the evil purpose of his heart.

Ah, how often the better impulses came! How repeatedly the inner conscience spoke against doing such evil thing, and each time there came back the challenge from his fear-stricken heart, "but your sin and the exposure which is certain to follow."

And then came the irrevocable decision to take this other step in the course of sin, in order that the first sin might be covered up. And was there no thought or fear that the eye of God saw and knew? Yes, there came the fleeting remembrance and then the cloud of sin in which the heart was enveloped settled down again, and David, steeling his heart against God and the better promptings, plunged on in his evil course.

No. Uriah must die. The decision had been made, the message written and even now Uriah was bearing his death warrant to Joab. Anxious days followed, but David knew that Joab would not fail him.

It was not many days after this that tidings came of a disastrous defeat to the army of Israel. The battle had been pressed to the very walls of the stronghold of Rabbah, and many of the Israelites had fallen. It was sad news to the nation, and there was mourning in many a household, but David, who received the tidings from the lips of Joab's messenger, cared not for this thing, when the messenger added:

"And Uriah, the Hittite, is dead, also."

## RHEUMATISM RECIPE

PREPARE SIMPLE HOME-MADE MIXTURE YOURSELF.

Buy the Ingredients from Any Druggist in Your Town and Shake Them in a Bottle to Mix This.

A well-known authority on Rheumatism gives the readers of a large New York daily paper the following valuable, yet simple and harmless prescription, which any one can easily prepare at home:

Fluid Extract Dandelion, one-half ounce; compound Kargon, one ounce; Compound Syrup Sarsaparilla, three ounces.

Mix by shaking well in a bottle, and take a teaspoonful after each meal and at bedtime.

He states that the ingredients can be obtained from any good prescription pharmacy at small cost, and, being a vegetable extraction, are harmless to take.

This pleasant mixture, if taken regularly for a few days, is said to overcome almost any case of Rheumatism. The pain and swelling, if any, diminishes with each dose, until permanent results are obtained, and without injuring the stomach. While there are many so-called Rheumatism remedies, patent medicines, etc., some of which do give relief, few really give permanent results, and the above will, no doubt, be greatly appreciated by many sufferers here at this time.

Inquiry at the drug stores of even the small towns elicits the information that these drugs are harmless and can be bought separately, or the druggists will mix the prescription if asked to.

### GIVING HIM A CHANCE.

Surely Time for Hubby to Do a Live-ly Sidestep.

Mrs. Wilson's husband was often obliged to go to New York on business, and frequently did not reach his home until the arrival of the midnight train. Mrs. Wilson had been in the habit of sleeping peacefully at these times without fear, but a number of burglaries in the neighborhood during one of her husband's trips to New York had disturbed her calm.

On the night of his return Mr. Wilson was stealing carefully up the front stairs, as was his wont on such occasions, so that his wife would not be wakened, when he heard her voice, high and strained:

"I don't know whether you are my husband or a burglar," came the excited tones, "but I am going to be on the safe side and shoot, so if you are Henry you'd better get out of the way."—Youth's Companion.

### BABY WASTED TO SKELETON.

In Torments with Terrible Sores on Face and Body—Tore at Flesh—Cured by Cuticura.

"My little son, when about a year and a half old began to have sores come out on his face. They began to come on his arms, then on other parts of his body, and then one came on his chest, worse than the others. At the end of about a year and a half of suffering he grew so bad I had to tie his hands in cloths at night to keep him from scratching the sores and tearing the flesh. He got to be a mere skeleton and was hardly able to walk. I sent to the drug store and got a cake of Cuticura Soap and a box of Cuticura Ointment, and at the end of about two months the sores were all well. He has never had any sores of any kind since, and only for the Cuticura Remedies my precious child would have died from these terrible sores. I used only one cake of Soap and about three boxes of Ointment. Mrs. Egbert Sheldon, R. F. D. No. 1, Woodville, Conn., April 22, 1905."

### Wagner as a Curative Agent.

Vernon Lee has told somewhere the story of the marvelous effects of Wagner on a headache. One does, after a time, succumb to what is a kind of hypnotism; the sound seems almost to clear the air, or at least to lull one into a kind of dream in which only the sense of hearing exists.

### Important to Mothers.

Examine carefully every bottle of CASTORIA, a safe and sure remedy for infants and children, and see that it

Bears the Signature of *Chas. H. Fletcher*

is Used For Over 30 Years.

### The Kind You Have Always Bought.

Most Unhealthy Work. According to a German physician, Dr. Horn, miners age so rapidly because of their unhygienic surroundings that they present all the aspects of senile decay at the age of 50, beyond which few are able to ply their vocation.

### A Break in the Ceremony.

Little Tom was two years old and talking before his proud parents took him to be christened. Though limited, his vocabulary included one or two choice words picked up from his father. Of course, he looked like a perfect little cherub on the eventful day, with his wide blue eyes and shining curls and mother had got him up in great shape for the ceremony. At the most impressive point Tom turned to his father and exclaimed in aggravated tones: "Why, damn it, he wet my head!"

### Deafness Cannot Be Cured

by local applications, as they cannot reach the diseased portion of the ear. There is only one way to cure deafness, and that is by constitutional remedies. Deafness is caused by an inflamed condition of the mucous lining of the Eustachian Tube. When this tube is inflamed you have a rumbling sound or imperfect hearing, and when it is entirely closed, Deafness is the result, and unless the inflammation can be taken out and this tube restored to its normal condition, hearing will be destroyed forever; nine cases out of ten are caused by Catarrh, which is nothing but an inflamed condition of the mucous surfaces. We will give One Hundred Dollars for any case of Deafness caused by Catarrh that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure. Send for circulars, free. F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O. Sold by Druggists, 75c. Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

Those ills which fate determines, man must bear.—Theocritus.

### Hides, Pelts and Wool.

To get full value, ship to the old reliable N. W. Hyde & Fur Co., Minneapolis, Minn.

One wise counsel is better than the strength of many.—Euripides.

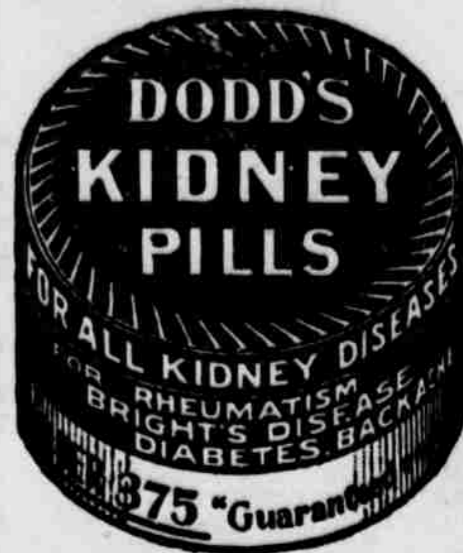
Lewis' Single Binder straight 5c. Many smokers prefer them to 10c cigars. Your dealer or Lewis' Factory, Peoria, Ill.

Sorrow is an evil with many feet.—Posidippus.

He is a wise man who doesn't let his business interfere with his pleasure at all times.

Lewis' Single Binder straight 5c cigars made of rich, mellow tobacco. Your dealer or Lewis' Factory, Peoria, Ill.

To a gentleman every woman is a lady in right of her sex.—Bulwer.



**PARKER'S HAIR BALM**  
Cleanses and beautifies the hair. Promotes a luxuriant growth. Never Falls to Restore Gray Hair to its Youthful Color. Cures scalp diseases & hair falling. 25c and 50c at Druggists.

**VIRGINIA FARMS**  
500 good, rich Virginia farms, mild healthy climate. Large crops. Happy farmers. \$5 per acre and up. Catalogue free. R. T. WATKINS & CO., 291 E. Main St., Richmond, Va.

If afflicted with sore eyes, use **Thompson's Eye Water**

W. N. U., LINCOLN, NO. 42, 1907.

## BACKACHE AND DESPONDENCY

Are both symptoms of organic derangement, and nature's warning to women of a trouble which will sooner or later declare itself.

How often do we hear women say, "It seems as though my back would break." Yet they continue to drag along and suffer with aches in the small of the back, pain low down in the side, dragging sensations, nervousness and no ambition.

They do not realize that the back is the main-spring of woman's organism and quickly indicates by aching a diseased condition of the feminine organs or kidneys, and that aches and pains will continue until the cause is removed.

## Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound

made from native roots and herbs has been for many years the most successful remedy in such cases. No other medicine has such a record of cures of feminine ills.

Miss Lena Nagel, of 117 Morgan St., Buffalo, N. Y., writes:—"I was completely worn out and on the verge of nervous prostration. My back ached all the time. I had dreadful periods of pain, was subject to fits of crying and extreme nervousness, and was always weak and tired. Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound completely cured me."

Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound cures Female Complaints, such as Backache, Falling and Displacements, and all Organic Diseases. Dissolves and expels Tumors at an early stage. It strengthens and tones the Stomach. Cures Headache and Indigestion and invigorates the whole feminine system.

## Mrs. Pinkham's Standing Invitation to Women

Women suffering from any form of female weakness are invited to write Mrs. Pinkham, Lynn, Mass. Her advice is free.



MISS LENA NAGEL

## W. L. DOUGLAS

\$3.00 & \$3.50 SHOES BEST IN THE WORLD

DO SHOES FOR EVERY MEMBER OF THE FAMILY, AT ALL PRICES.

\$25,000 Reward (To any one who can prove W. L. Douglas does not make a pair more Men's \$3 & \$3.50 shoes than any other manufacturer.)

THE REASON W. L. Douglas shoes are worn by more people in all walks of life than any other make, is because of their excellent style, easy-fitting, and superior wearing qualities. The selection of the leathers and other materials for each part of the shoe, and every detail of the making is looked after by the most complete organization of superintendents, foremen and skilled shoemakers, who receive the highest wages paid in the shoe industry, and whose workmanship cannot be excelled. If I could take you into my large factories at Brockton, Mass., and show you how carefully W. L. Douglas shoes are made, you would then understand why they hold their shape, fit better, wear longer and are of greater value than any other make.

My \$4.00 and \$5.00 Gilt Edge Shoes cannot be equalled at any price. CAUTION! The genuine have W. L. Douglas name and price stamped on bottom. Take No Substitute. Ask your dealer for W. L. Douglas shoes. If he cannot supply you, send direct to factory. Shoes sent everywhere by mail. Catalog free. W. L. Douglas, Brockton, Mass.



The Power Behind the Dough!

## KC BAKING POWDER

25 ounces for 25 cents

A real power that raises and sustains the dough with absolute certainty. No failures. A cake made with KC cannot fall.

We insist upon refunding your money if a trial does not convince you.



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Color more goods brighter and faster colors than any other dye. One 10c package colors all fibers. They dye in cold water better than any other dye. You can dye any garment without ripping apart. Write for free booklet—How to Dye, Bleach and Mix Colors. MONROE DRUG CO., Quincy, Illinois