

EVIL THOUGHTS WILL CAUSE EVIL DESIRES; EVIL DESIRES WILL LEAD TO WICKED DEEDS; KEEP MIND PURE IS WARNING OF EVANGELIST

The text—"David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the Lord," Second Samuel, 12th chapter, 13th verse.

"Nathan and David" was Billy Sunday's topic for Thursday night. He said:

That is a part of one of the saddest statements found upon the pages of the Old Testament. I always read it with two conflicting emotions. One is a feeling of assurance and satisfaction, in the fact that the Bible was inspired by God, for if a man or a company of men uninspired of God had written or compiled the Bible, you never would have been told the story of man's sin, and shame and shortcomings particularly if that man had been prominent and a king.

But when God inspires a man to write it He puts it all in black and white, the good and the bad. God leaves none of it out. He does not do that because He is anxious to parade before the world the shortcomings of human nature and our proneness to sin, but God tells you and me what men and women did in other ages of the world's history and He tells us that they repented and He forgave them their sins and that holds out hope for you and me, for what God did for one, He will do for all and what God did thousands of years ago for the penitent sinner He will do for the penitent sinner today.

So God has made a record of it in order that we might take courage by knowing that God would forgive our sins if we did what they did, confess our sins.

If a man had been writing the Bible, he never would have told us that Noah got drunk when he came out of the ark. He never would have told us that David committed adultery with Bathsheba, and that Solomon had 400 more wives than old "Brag" Young, and made him look like a piker; or Peter denying the oaths and curses; of Ananias and Sapphira holding back part of the price, and of Judas betraying. But when God inspires He puts it all in.

It is a sad thing to tie your hopes to some man or woman and be disappointed.

Many Women is Disappointed.

There is many a wife amidst the perfume of the orange blossoms and in the wedding ceremony has slighted her fidelity to that man and has turned and broken vows; or he pledged his fidelity to her and promised to be true as long as the sky and the waves were blue, and then turned from those vows and broke them as if they were made of spider webs.

There is many a mother, she has brought forth her children in pain and suffering, she has builded high her hopes that when she was aged and decrepit that young man by his strong right arm might go out and earn the bread to keep her from want. But he has turned and he has proven himself an iconoclast to her prayers and her hopes. And there is many a girl that her mother brought forth in pain and tears and suffering; she has builded high her hopes. She has gone down the line of the wine room with a Godless gang and she knows the way she is living, the places she goes. It won't be long until the mute effects of dissipation can no longer be hidden.

The mother will be compelled to withdraw from society and creep up the back alley, my friends, and never lift her eyes to look people in the face, not for anything to tie your hopes to some man or woman. If they prove a traitor or iconoclast to your prayers and to your tears.

Think of a man that could write a psalm like the 23rd psalm. Henry Ward Beecher called that the nightingale psalm, for he said it seems the sweetest song in night time of bereavement, and of affliction, and of suffering and that kindred psalms of David seem to lift me so close to heaven that I imagine I can hear the garment of the Son of God as he swept by me in faith. The man that the Bible tells me was a man of God's own heart.

"Oh," said an old blantant, blustering, whiskey-soaked infidel to me out in Iowa one time. "Bill, if David was a man after God's own heart, I am frank to tell you that I haven't very much respect for the choice of God."

David's Sin Was Hateful.

I said to him, "David was not a man after God's heart, simply because he sinned; but David was a man after God's heart because when he sinned he was decent and man enough to tell God that he had sinned, and if you want to become a man after God's heart get down on your knees and tell God you are an old hell-bound sinner and you are so close to the pit that you can smell the sulphur fumes as they vomit from the funnel, and God will snatch you from the brink, and then you will become a man after God's heart. If you are man enough to tell God that you are an old sinner and that you want to square with him. And that is why David was a man after God's heart, not because he sinned, but when he sinned he was man enough to tell God he was a sinner and so you will become a man after God's heart when you do that."

Now it was a great sin for David. I think it was a worse sin for David than it might have been for any other man in the world. God looks at a man's surroundings. He takes into account your opportunities and if you have opportunities, and you have one tonight, that would condemn you. It is your business to know what God wants you to do. God takes into account the chances men have. There is a church bell ringing, there is a church near you, some of you haven't ducked the door.

There is your opportunity, but you won't improve it. Don't blame God. God has given you a mind of intelligence. He has revealed His word to us in His book, the Bible, and He has given the revelation within the capacity of our minds to understand it, and God holds us upon it.

If God had revealed and told us to do something that He could not do, and told us to do it, and damned us when we could not, that would not be reasonable. But when God tells me to do so through His book, He will damn me if I don't do it.

So the Lord gives every man in this world a chance. He is gifted by light, and the more light you have,

eth in his heart, so he is." If a man sows evil thoughts then he will have an evil desire. If he has an evil desire, then he will put the desire into evil acts, for the acts will be the fruitage of his desires. When he sows evil acts he sows evil habits and keeps doing it.

The fellow that is a drunkard had to take the first drink. The man that never takes the first can't possibly sow the seed of the habit of drunkenness. Then, when you sow an evil habit in these days with opportunities and privileges that God gives you to know about your soul's salvation, what you have to do is to be saved, and not to take advantage of the opportunity. Yet you needn't go outside of this city to find the heathen. You needn't leave the tabernacle.

A heathen is any man that doesn't believe in God. His skin doesn't need to be black. He doesn't need to have a queue hanging down his back like a Chinaman. Anybody is a heathen that doesn't believe in God, whether from China or Africa, whether his skin is white or black. The same old heathen, although you are a president of a bank. You are a heathen if you don't believe in God. It makes no difference whether you live under the Stars and Stripes or in the jungles of Africa, if you don't believe in God you are a heathen.

Souil is graded by light. The more light you have, the greater the soul.

Now, it might be just as bad for me to lose my temper as it would be for you to get drunk. I was not born with an appetite for drink, but I was born with a disposition to lose a little piece of my temper once in a while, and gosh, I haven't gotten over it yet. I can clear for action like a battleship when it comes to a show-down.

So you who put your thumbs in the armpits of your vest and swell up like a poisoned pup, and thank God you are not like other people, you may be worse in the sight of God than the very one you condemn, for you may have had a greater chance than he had, more light. I said guilt is graded well as outward act.

Jesus said, "Woe unto thee, Bethsaida and Capernaum, for it is mighty works done in thee had been done in Tyre and Sidon they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. It shall be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for you." Why? They never heard Him.

Chance is Given

People Here.

Jesus said, "You people of Capernaum and Bethsaida have looked in my face and heard My voice, and see Me raise the dead. You have seen Me speak and unstopped the ears of the deaf. You have heard Me speak and the eyes of the blind have been opened. You have heard Me speak and devils have gone out of men. Sirs, for you are worse sinners than the people of Sodom and Gomorrah for you have got more light than they have. So it will be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrah than it will be for you."

Why? Because they had more light than Sodom and Gomorrah. They sinned against their light. You are sinning against your light. You have got more light than the people of Tyre and Sidon. You have got more light than the people of Capernaum. So the people of this city are worse sinners than they were in the days of Jesus Christ for you have got more light. There you stand condemned before God.

Here is one of the sweetest pictures of the love of God to man that has gone astray that I can find, so I bring it to you for my text. If you would ask me how best to overcome temptation and I could only answer in a sentence, I would say, "Keep busy for God. Satan finds some mischief still, for idle hands to do, and idle hands tempt the devil."

Tattooed on the arm of a French convict were the words, "I never did a day's work in my life."

The fellow that stands around with his hands in his breeches pocket up to his elbows, it won't be long until he tries to get into the other fellow's pockets. Idleness is the foe of youth. It is the curse of mankind. Oh, "no trade" is the passport, and the password by which 80 per cent of our criminals enter the reformatories and the penitentiaries of the land.

Street loafers grow up to be gunmen, with no object and aim in life. Oh, an idle brain is the devil's workshop. Keep busy for God, my friends and then you will never land in perdition.

David's Idleness Causes Trouble.

David was living in the midst of ease and luxury and do you know in one little corner of his kingdom he had a little case of insubordination, an incipient sort of a rebellion, and instead of going down there to put down the insurrection he delegated that to Joab. David stayed at home and he was talking of walking on the rooftops in the cool of the evening. They built the houses close together in those days and they didn't have ground spread out all over creation and they did not build the roof in Gothic but flat like we do a tin roof, and so they used to walk on the roof. That's where they got the roof garden idea. And we glad the dome of overcometh the world."

The first dome that was gilded with gold was Solomon's temple. There is where we got the idea. We think we are great. Old Solomon did that way back yonder. See?

So David was walking on the house tops in the cool of the evening and he saw a woman famed for her symmetry of form and beauty of face, Bathsheba. And there came to David a shot of sin.

Thought Comes First.

No man or woman ever sinned that didn't first think the sin. No man ever reached out his hand to steal that the thief in him didn't steal first. No man ever used his lips to lie that he didn't lie in his mind and his heart first. No man ever reached forth his hand to shed the blood of his fellow-man that he didn't shed the blood in his thoughts first, because he that is angry is a murderer. No man ever stooped to commit sin of any kind that didn't first commit the sin in his heart.

"Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him."

You say, "Is a man responsible for his thoughts?"

He certainly is. Why, you say, a dear, good man like Mr. Talmadge said. You can't prevent the birds from flying over your head, but you can prevent them from lodging in your hair. But a greater man than Mr. Talmadge said, "As a man think-

eth that is a figure that God uses. I know now, I can't see what is behind my back. That is what God says becomes of your sins. I will cast them behind my back. God is no respecter of persons."

"I will cast your sins behind my back."

Over near the Friendly Islands in

the Pacific coast, they have lowered the chain six and one-half miles and haven't found the bottom yet. There is a valley six and a half miles deep, a mountain peak higher than Mt. Everett of the Himalayas was, which is 29,000 feet, or five miles. God says:

"I will cast them into the deepest depth of the sea."

Two miles of water roll over the Titanic. Out there it is six and one-half miles.

Oh, you can't see when there is six and one-half miles rolling over. That is what becomes of my sins. God says:

"I cast them behind my back. I cast them into the deepest depths of the sea. I will remember your transgressions against you no more forever."

God Forgives If Man Repents.

God passes an act of forgetfulness and oblivion.

There is any man this side of hell that I absolutely despise with every drop of my blood, every molecule, and brain nerve; if there is any man this side of hell that I absolutely despise with every drop of blood in my body, it is the dirty, low down degenerate of hell, who throws into your face and reminds you or somebody else of something you used to do or something you did once, when you are not doing that thing now. Such dirty dogs of hell can't bear to be decent themselves and they don't want anybody else to be decent, so they want to drag every body down to their level.

God says:

"I don't give a rap now what you have done."

I don't give a rap what you have done. God doesn't.

When a man takes his stand for Christ, God never holds the past against him. Never, never, never, never! He forgets it. He casts it out as with a cloud. He casts it into the deepest depths of the sea; casts it behind his back. That is what becomes of it. So don't try and cover it up; you can't do that. Don't try and make yourself better. Just surrender without one plea, and God's forgiveness is yours.

God offers it to everybody. God is no respecter of persons.

I have got a proposition to put up to every sinner on earth. It is your freedom. Do you want it? All I can do is to say it is here for you.

Sin's Ardent Foe



BILLY SUNDAY

VISIT IN CINCINNATI

Bob Matthews, Homer Rodeheaver and Mrs. William Asher, all of the Sunday party, will spend Monday in Cincinnati, giving a concert for some of their old Cincinnati friends, whom they learned to know while the party was there. If Mr. Sunday goes up to Winona Lake this Sunday evening, return Tuesday noon (instead of 2:30) and takes along Albert Petersen, custodian of the tabernacle, Miss Kinney will be the only member of the Sunday party left in town.

MOTHER FINDS

(Continued from preceding page)

about the speedy bunch, he found out that his old mother had the old time religion. That is the first thing he learned and who na boy knows that, or a girl, take it from me, they are safe, because they will get some of that their mothers got.

Emerson said, "Men are what their mothers make them" and if the mothers today were all true, then you could trust your boy to go away from home to school and not come back a little dried up, weakened, good-for-nothing, book-worm of infidelity, because he was influenced by some good-for-nothing, God-forsaken, hell born person.

That is one trouble today with a great many of our institutions of learning. They have a lot of God forsaken professors that will not recognize the faith of our boys and girls when they go there. I tell you the students are all right. It is the faculty that are all wrong.

Preached in Many Colleges.

I have preached in institutions of learning from one end of the land to the other. The only one I have ever kept out of was Princeton. I went down there and preached in the President's church and six hundred of the clean fellows walked down and said, "I take Jesus Christ for my God."

I preached at the University of Pennsylvania three times and six hundred of those men did the same thing. I went up to Dartmouth, one of the most democratic institutions in America, and when I was in Boston I went up there and I went up and preached to everybody in the gymnasium in the afternoon and in Webster Hall in the evening. I went over to Cornell. Spoke twice and it was estimated that twenty-five hundred took their stand, and Cornell was the finest looking bunch you ever laid your eyes on. The student body is all right. God bless them. There is no power on earth that can lift to heaven and above.

Oh! The beautiful hands that never

the Pacific coast, they have lowered the chain six and one-half miles and haven't found the bottom yet. There is a valley six and a half miles deep, a mountain peak higher than Mt. Everett of the Himalayas was, which is 29,000 feet, or five miles. God says:

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