

My Lament for Razi Zacharias

RAVI Z. HAD A GREAT FALL

Ravi Z. sat on a high wall, in a great hall for

All to see and hear.

Then,

Ravi Z. had a great fall from that high wall

And now some scoff and cheer

while others hear and fear.

But all the good men of the

RZIM team

Could not put Ravi Z back together again.

When the prophet Nathan confronted and rebuked King David, after David's "encounter" [rape?] of Bathsheba and thereafter attempted cover up via arranging for the murder of her husband, Uriah, a devoted soldier of David's, Nathan sets forth God's case against David by listing several *failures* and *willful neglects* of David.

The following is a summary of God's multi-count indictment against David as declared through His prophet Nathan [II Samuel 12: 1-15]. I call these the "five 'R's' of sexual purity.

1. **RECOGNIZE:**

That we as men are always "armed and dangerous". Our testosterone is like uranium. It is "enriched" when we reach puberty and can thereafter either be "contained" as in a nuclear reactor for constructive purposes (i.e. marriage and procreation) or enriched for destructive purposes (e.g. as in a bomb) via immorality. Our sex drive is *mindless*, and must be guided for useful purposes. David's failure to recognize that he was armed and dangerous to himself and others (women in particular) was one of his first mistakes. *Avoid* destructive "enrichment" of your God-given "uranium" [i.e. avoid unrighteous sexual stimulation/arousal]. *Be aggressive in protecting yourself from sin* ["if your eye offends you pluck it out, if your right hand, cut it off"-Matt 5:29-30].

2. **REJECT:**

faulty thinking. David's foolish and faulty thinking was likely that (1) "no one will know or care". He forgot that God sees everything and intensely cares about what we say, think, and do. (Proverbs 5:21, "for the ways of a man are *before the eyes of the Lord*, and He watches *all* of his paths". "And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but *all things are open and laid bare* to the eyes

of Him with whom *we have to do*-Heb 4:14). Like David, perhaps Ravi fell prey to a common theme among some men: (2) sexual exploits = manhood (the reality is, such behavior evidences psychological/emotional immaturity and adolescent behavior); and he may have succumbed to thinking that (3) predatory behavior is acceptable or should be (see Prov 7:22-such behavior is “acceptable” in non-reasoning animals); perhaps David thought that, as King, he was not limited in his right to enjoy any pleasure that struck his fancy, including sex with a beautiful woman not his wife (she was a mere “subject” of his kingdom). This evidences his (4) pride, self-sufficiency, and autonomy (“I am king and I answer to no one”). Was Ravi so naïve, that, having built and led a powerful apologetic organization, he would now think that he could do as he pleased with women? That no one would see or care, not even God?

3. REMEMBER:

David, when confronted by Nathan, is reminded that all that he has is from God. He was a nobody shepherd boy, and God selected him to be king over Israel and gave him everything he could ever need (II Samuel 12:7-9, Deut. 8: 11-20, I Cor 4:7, 8:6, 15: 9-10) ***All we are and have is from the Father.*** David *forgot to remind himself and keep in his mind* all that his God had done for him. Perhaps he began to believe the lie: “all of this I achieved by my own work, and brains” (read the story of king Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 4:24-34). Ravi came from a rather humble beginning in India to become a highly recognizable apologetic evangelist and leader. Did he forget his humble beginnings and Who it was that brought him to that high public position?

4. REVERE:

God and His word. This is another and likely the *most tragic failure* of David (see II Samuel 12:7-9, Prov 14:2). He failed to walk in humble reverence before God and fell (“Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before stumbling”-Proverbs 16:18). God declares that David “**despised**” both Him and His word/commandment [II Samuel 12:9]. It is rather shocking to think that the “man after God’s own heart” and inspired writer of many of the Psalms is the same person who would then “despise” God and His holy Word. David had apparently become numb and calloused in his walk with God and his actions with Bathsheba evidenced an attitude of *actual contempt toward God.*

One of the descriptions that Paul gives the gentiles in Romans chapter one is that they “did not see fit to *acknowledge God any longer*” and that they “did not honor Him as God” [Romans 1: 21, 28]. Solomon says that the *fear/reverence* of the Lord is the *beginning* of both *knowledge and wisdom* [Proverbs 1:7, and 9:10]. The true beginning of knowledge and wisdom is not philosophical or apologetic knowledge but rather, personal *knowledge of the Holy One* [and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding-Proverbs 9:10]. There is no question that Ravi had substantial knowledge in the areas of philosophical and apologetic matters but what was the *depth of his personal knowledge of the Holy One?*

5. RUN:

FROM: fornication (and any other form of immorality, impurity, or uncleanness-see Eph 5: 2-5); avoid seductive stimulation (porn, seductive movies, beaches, massage parlors, etc). Run the race with *focus and self-discipline* (Heb 12:1-2, I Cor 9:24-27; II Cor 7:1, 10:5 [taking every thought captive]; and walk in the Spirit (Gal 5:16). The writer to the letter to the Hebrews says that Moses kept seeing “Him who is unseen” i.e. Moses kept his mental eye focused on God, and in the race of life in which we run we must keep our focus on the Lord Jesus, looking ahead to Him [Hebrews 12:1-3]

TO: the throne of grace to receive mercy and enabling power to resist the temptation (see Heb 4:15-16).

After the apostle Peter pronounced a death sentence on Ananias and his wife Saphira for their *financial deceit before God*, “*great fear came over the whole church*” [Acts 5:5,11]. Only God Himself fully knew the heart of Ravi Zacharias, but can we as a church, at least for those who desire to become and *remain* serious and devoted followers of the Lord, *become moved with a renewed and profoundly deep fear and reverence for the Lord to whom each of us ‘has to do’ [i.e. is accountable]?*

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